

**San Mateo County Transit District (District)
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California**

**Minutes of Legislative Committee /
Committee of the Whole**

January 10, 2024

Committee Members Present: R. Mueller (Chair), R. Medina

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present Constituting Committee of the Whole: D. Canepa, B. Esser, M. Fraser, J. Gee, J. Powell, P. Ratto

Other Board Members Absent: M. Chuang

Staff Present: A. Chan, K. Jordan Steiner, S. van Hoften, J. Cassman, J. Brook, D. Seamans

8.a.1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Ray Mueller called the meeting to order at 2:16 pm.

8.a.2. Approval of Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting of December 6, 2023

Motion/Second: Ratto/Powell

Ayes: Canepa, Esser, Fraser, Gee, Medina, Mueller, Powell, Ratto

Noes: None

Absent: Chuang

Public Comment:

Commenting on Item 6, Report of the General Manager/CEO, Adina Levin thanked Director Josh Powell for his service as 2023 Chair and congratulated Casey Fromson on her new role with Caltrain. She noted the importance of communicating to the public how transit is serving the community and improvements to SamTrans so they see the value.

8.a.3. State and Federal Legislative Update

Casey Fromson thanked the Board; April Chan, General Manager/CEO, and the Executive Team; and the Communications team for all their support during her tenure as Chief Communications Officer.

Ms. Chan noted Jessica Epstein's recent promotion to Director, Government and Community Affairs. Ms. Epstein introduced Eve O'Toole, Joe O'Brien, and Lauri Hettinger, Holland & Knight LLP, who are the lead lobbyists for SamTrans in Washington, DC. Ms. O'Toole noted the current Congressional impasse regarding supplemental assistance for Ukraine and Israel, pending

appropriations, and the likelihood of a continuing resolution. Mr. O'Brien provided the presentation on the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations and federal legislative updates, which included the transportation hub bill. Ms. Hettinger noted personnel changes in the House and Senate.

Public Comment:

Adina Levin said she wanted to encourage SamTrans and the lobbyists to watch for a bill being put forth by Congressman Johnson from Georgia that would support federal operating funding for public transportation.

Ms. Epstein said on the state side, the Governor had released his 2024-2025 budget, with a projected deficit of \$291.5 billion. She said they do not anticipate any impact on transportation when the Governor makes budget cuts. She noted personnel changes in the Assembly and Senate. She noted that the bill from Senator Aisha Wahab that proposed consolidating Bay Area transit agencies was pulled but may come back as a study bill.

She said they expected the enabling legislation for the 2026 transportation ballot measure to go to the legislature in the relatively near term, and to be relatively high level.

8.a.4. Adoption of 2024 Legislative Program

Ms. Epstein noted that based on an issue raised by a member of the TA (Transportation Authority) Citizens Advisory Committee, they have emphasized safety as one of the key priorities. She said a change was made to the draft program that was presented at the December 6 Board meeting whereby the objective to "improve quality transportation choices" was amended to read "improve safe and quality transportation choices."

Motion/Second: Ratto/Esser

Ayes: Canepa, Esser, Fraser, Gee, Medina, Mueller, Powell, Ratto

Noes: None

Absent: Chuang

8.a.5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at <https://www.samtrans.com/about-samtrans/video-board-directors-cac-and-measure-w-coc>. Questions may be referred to the District Secretary's office by phone at 650-508-6242 or by email to board@samtrans.com.