

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

**Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting /  
Committee of the Whole**

**February 7, 2024**

Committee Members Present: M. Chuang (Chair), D. Canepa, J. Powell

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present Constituting Committee of the Whole: B. Esser, M. Fraser, J. Gee, R. Medina, R. Mueller, P. Ratto

Other Board Members Absent: None

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

**8.b.1. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Marie Chuang called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm.

**8.b.2. Approval of Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of January 10, 2024**

Motion/Second: Ratto/Esser

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**8.b.3. Authorize an Amendment to Include Drive Motor Retrofits for the 17 Buses Purchased Under Contract No. 21-S-M-050 with New Flyer of America, Inc., and Increase the Contract Value by \$1,570,802 for a Not-to-exceed Amount of \$23,405,148**

Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, provided a background and summary of the staff report.

Vice Chair Jeff Gee asked why the District wants to continue purchasing BEBs (battery electric buses) that cost a half million dollars more per bus than using hydrogen fuel cell buses. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, said the cost of fuel cell buses is similarly high. He added that fuel cell buses will have the same electric motors but they will have the drive motor retrofits done before they are to be delivered. Vice Chair Gee asked if the buses have the same torque. Mr. Olmeda said both systems will have the same technology and allows operational flexibility for years to come.

Committee Chair Chuang asked about the new buses being more able to climb hills. Mr. Olmeda said prior technologies had no problem climbing the hills. He said once the new technology was available, they were able to test it and confirm the vehicles will be able to climb

hills. He said the higher-torque motor does have increased fuel consumption. Committee Chair Chuang asked if the retrofit would affect the warranty, and Mr. Olmeda said it would not.

Motion/Second: Ratto/Medina

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

#### **8.b.4. Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook**

Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director, Treasury, introduced Monique Spyke, Managing Director, PFM Asset Management, who provided the presentation.

Director Brooks Esser said the over-performance of 25 basis points versus a fee of five basis points is commendable.

Committee Member David Canepa asked if there are areas where the team has identified potential opportunities to improve the portfolio. Ms. Spyke said there was a disparity of perception of performance of the economy and actual economic performance. She said they are exploring the real estate and banking sectors.

Director Gee asked if there is the opportunity to get into shorter-term investments with a higher yield. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said the District has already done so, but as the economy changes, and the yield curve flattens, they will turn over more of their liquid assets over to the professionals.

Motion/Second: Esser/Ratto

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

#### **8.b.5. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 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](mailto:board@samtrans.com).