

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

**Minutes of Strategic Planning, Development,
and Sustainability Committee Meeting / Committee of the Whole**

February 7, 2024

Committee Members Present: D. Canepa (Chair), R. Medina, J. Powell

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present Constituting Committee of the Whole: M. Chuang, B. Esser, M. Fraser, J. Gee, 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.c.1. Call to Order

Committee Chair David Canepa called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

8.c.2. Approval of Minutes of the Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee Meeting of January 10, 2024

Motion/Second: Medina/Ratto

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

8.c.3. SamTrans 2023 Sustainability Report

Bo Baney, Planning Administrator, provided the presentation.

Director Brooks Esser asked for a guesstimate on how much the Central office's energy use would be reduced after moving to the new headquarters. Mr. Baney said he would check with Brian Fitzpatrick, Director, Real Estate and Development, for follow-up.

Director Marie Chuang asked if cleaner diesel would be added later. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, said they have converted into renewable diesel, which produces fewer emissions. He said this should produce a significant reduction in emissions. He said they continue to use renewable diesel for the rest of their fleet. Director Chuang asked for clarification about cleaner diesel. Mr. Olmeda said when using renewable diesel as fuel, the engines have a better after-treatment of what comes out as exhaust, and hence improved tailpipe emissions.

Regarding water usage, Vice Chair Jeff Gee asked if the issue of water leaks had been solved. Mr. Baney said they were working on it and said they are investigating the infrastructure. April Chan, General Manager/CEO, said they would be implementing an environmental management system to help identify and fix problems much earlier. Vice Chair Gee said this falls under the banner of corporate responsibility (CR), which includes governance and other metrics. He suggested the District consider CR as a strategy.

Chair Marina Fraser asked if there were any incentives to get feedback from employees. Mr. Baney said they had an event in November for America Recycles Day, where they had a significant turnout.

8.c.4. 1-Year Reimagine SamTrans and 6-Months Ride Plus Evaluation

Jonathan Steketee, Manager, Operations Planning, provided the initial part of the presentation on the first year of the Reimagine SamTrans implementation. Chris Duddy, Principal Planner, presented slides on the methodology used for the evaluation. Mr. Steketee said they would come back with another evaluation in a year.

Vice Chair Gee asked how dependent is Phase 4 implementation on the number of operators. Mr. Steketee said they would not be able to implement Phase 4 without sufficient operators. Mr. Olmeda said they have initiated a number of strategies to attract and train operators, which gives management the confidence that they are able to meet those numbers.

Director Peter Ratto said the District's rider recovery rate is higher than many transit agencies in the country.

Director Ray Mueller said he had spent the last three weeks using only public transit. He said the buses were clean and the operators were polite. He said Route 117 was full, including riders with walkers and strollers. He said his only concern was the number of loiterers at Sequoia Station in Redwood City.

Ms. Chan commended the entire Planning, Operations, Training, Human Resources, and Communications for putting the best service out there. She said they are striving to go beyond recovery and attract new riders. She the District is looking at various points in the system where there are problems with loitering, etcetera. She said they are looking to improve the experience by partnering with cities and other organizations.

Mr. Steketee and Mr. Duddy presented slides on the Ride Plus service.

Director Esser noted that it would be interesting to see the impact of charging for Ride Plus on those riders who have become dependent on the service since its inception. Mr. Steketee said they have included active users in their statistics, where they are able to track people taking multiple trips.

Chair Fraser asked if they are tracking users that call in or use the web-based service, which Mr. Steketee confirmed and noted that the majority of users use the smartphone app. Chair Fraser suggested expanding the time of the service to capture evening users. Mr. Steketee said the City of Half Moon Bay was applying for a grant to expand the time of the service.

Director Chuang asked if the wait time was from the time the call goes in until the shuttle arrives. Mr. Steketee said yes, and for people who book in advance, there is no wait. He said

the service was designed with the app in mind. He said the web-based option is useful for others to book on behalf of users and the call-in option is for people without a smartphone.

Director Josh Powell requested comparisons between Ride Plus and fixed route service in the same service area. He requested metrics on new users versus existing users. He asked how pooled trips worked. Mr. Steketee said they have multiple stops.

Vice Chair Gee asked for the cost of providing Ride Plus for the first six months. Ms. Chan said the three-year contract was \$9 million. Vice Chair Gee said it was important to have cost metrics when seeking partnership with cities.

Director Chuang said that along with building more housing, there will be more pressure for cities to get vehicles off the streets. She said there was room for discussion with the cities to support the use of microtransit to fill the transportation gap for people such as seniors and those with disabilities.

8.c.5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

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