

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

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

**April 3, 2024**

Committee Members Present: J. Gee, R. Medina (left at 4:51 pm)

Committee Members Absent: P. Ratto (Chair)

Other Board Members Present Constituting Committee of the Whole: D. Canepa, M. Chuang, B. Esser, M. Fraser, R. Mueller, J. Powell

Other Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: A. Chan, D. Olmeda, J. Epstein, S. van Hoften, J. Cassman, J. Brook, D. Seamans

**9.d.1. Call to Order**

Committee Member Jeff Gee called the meeting to order at 4:27 pm.

**9.d.2. Approval of Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting of March 6, 2024**

Motion/Second: Medina/Mueller

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

Noes: None

Absent: Ratto

**9.d.3. State and Federal Legislative Update**

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, discussed Senate Bill (SB) 1031, a consolidation bill that seeks to control all the transit agencies in the nine-county Bay Area.

Director Ray Mueller asked what in the bill is salvageable. Ms. Epstein said they are working with MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) regarding consolidation that should be acceptable. She said the amendment would save transit agencies from a fiscal cliff. Director Mueller said he felt they would oppose the bill unless certain amendments are made.

Public Comment:

Adina Levin said it is important to have funding to keep regional services running. She said having an “oppose unless” position may make it more difficult to work with legislators in a good-faith position.

Gina Papan said that transit operators need to have funding for the next several years. She said with the bill, there is no guarantee that distribution to all the jurisdictions would be equitable.

Director Josh Powell said 90 percent of SamTrans riders are local riders and are unlikely to receive support from non-local legislators. He said he opposed the bill.

Director Rico Medina said he favored oppose unless amended.

Director David Canepa said that since this is a nine-county bill, his greatest concern was return to source. He said he supported the bill with appropriate amendments. He said other agencies are not run very well and that all operators should be held accountable.

*Director Rico Medina left the meeting at 4:51 pm.*

Chair Marina Fraser said she was opposed to the bill since it was not fair to San Mateo County.

Director Marie Chuang said there would be little money coming to SamTrans with the bill. She supported amending the bill.

Director Brooks Esser proposed a different type of consolidation – perhaps from an IT function as opposed to operational functions.

Director Josh Powell said he favored exploring how to work better with the other transit agencies in the region.

Ms. Chan said SB 125 is being led by the state’s transportation secretary.

Public Comment:

Geoff S. said he did not believe anyone’s current service would get worse as a result of a consolidation.

Director Mueller said the Board’s position on the bill should be oppose unless amended.

Committee Member Gee said that it is important to work with the bill authors on the amendment. He said SamTrans should provide a strongly worded statement to MTC. He said it was not fair to hold up funding for well-run agencies

The Board voted to have staff prepare a strongly worded letter going to MTC and/or legislators to oppose SB 1031 unless amended.

Motion/Second: Fraser/Mueller

Ayes: Chuang, Esser, Fraser, Gee, Mueller, Powell

Noes: None

Abstentions: Canepa

Absent: Medina, Ratto

Michaela Wright Petrik, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation.

On the federal side, she said Congress had wrapped up the 2024 appropriation process. She said President Biden released his proposed budget on March 11. At the state level, she said the House is hearing bills under the April 26 deadline. She said the state released a “shrink the shortfall” budget in early March.

#### **9.d.4. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 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).