

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

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

May 1, 2024

Committee Members Present: P. Ratto (Chair), J. Gee, R. Medina

Committee Members Absent: None

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

8.c.1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Peter Ratto called the meeting to order at 3:49 pm.

8.c.2. Approval of Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting of April 3, 2024

Motion/Second: Medina/Esser

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

8.c.3. State and Federal Legislative Update

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided the presentation on Senate Bill (SB) 1031, primarily focused on what the legislative changes had been since the bill was first introduced. She also explained the return to source formula, and how much San Mateo County could receive. Director Ray Mueller asked about the return to source at 95 percent. Ms. Epstein said she was told 99 percent, so she said she will research and clarify that number.

Committee Member Jeff Gee left the meeting at 4:13 pm.

Regarding the consolidation language that is contained in the bill, Chair Marina Fraser said she would not consider consolidation without a study. Ms. Epstein explained that the study would only occur if a revenue measure is passed.

Public Comment:

Allison Chang, San Carlos, said she supported well-funded public services, including public transit, and was in support of SB 1031.

Geoff Smith said he was a lifelong transit user and expressed his support of the bill to make transit more seamless.

Marlon Jonathan Herrera Sanchez said he did not support the bill and did not want the County to lose control of its transportation funding.

Roland said he supported the London model of transit agency coordination. He said that the District should consider going back to the three prior regional measures and return the revenues back to the respective counties.

Adina Levin said it was valuable to have the various transit agencies in the County working together to support one another.

Anthony Montes, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, said it was important to invest in our public transportation systems.

Ken Kershner, Menlo Park, said the research on ridership shows it is clearly a function of convenience, short headways, and tight connections, and said SB 1031 would provide critical funding to improve more frequent service.

Aidan Jones, San Francisco, said he relies on public transit to access the northern Peninsula and beyond. He said if SB 1031 does not pass, Bay Area transit riders may experience service cuts, less reliable service, and poor connections.

Chair Fraser expressed appreciation for the public comments and noted that the Board received over 100 letters and over half of them came from residents of San Francisco.

Ms. Epstein provided a summary of federal and state legislation. On the federal side, she noted that staff had submitted earmarks for the Bus Stop Improvement Plan and that Chair Fraser; April Chan, General Manager/CEO; and staff had met with the Congressional delegation offices to advocate for that project.

At the state level, she said they are currently projecting a \$38 billion budget deficit. She noted that there was a new package signed by the Governor, but that no impact is predicted for transit funding.

8.c.4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 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.