

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

**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Minutes**

July 31, 2024

Members Present (In Person): M. Adler, S. Appenrodt, J. Baker (Vice Chair), D. Finch, A. Madrid (Chair), M. Mautner, N. Opfell, D. Seibert

Members Present (Via Teleconference): S. Johnston, B. Mangiafico

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: A. Rivas, P. Gilster, J. Brook

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Alex Madrid called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Announcement of New CAC Member Natasha Opfell

Ms. Opfell introduced herself and summarized her background.

3. Roll Call

CAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll and noted that a quorum was present.

4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 29, 2024

Motion/Second: Appenrodt/Mautner

Ayes: Adler, Appenrodt, Baker, Finch, Johnston, Madrid, Mangiafico, Mautner, Seibert

Abstentions: Opfell

Absent: None

6. Presentation: US 101 / SR 92 Mobility Hub and Smart Corridor Plan

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), provided the presentation.

Max Mautner asked statewide what are the most successful components of a mobility hub. Mr. Gilster noted there are successful mobility hubs at BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) stations where riders can transfer to shuttles and buses and have access to bike lockers. Mr. Mautner agreed that the project area was not the very walkable or safe. He suggested a future

actionable item of having a multi-use path along Borel Creek. He also suggested having some sort of protection from noise pollution, trash collection, green cover, and a public bathroom for riders waiting for express buses and for operators.

Scott Johnston asked if there would be a schedule change for Caltrain once electrification happens and what pedestrian/bicycle routes would make using that station more convenient. Mr. Gilster said he would need to confirm the train frequency and that they are working on a design for the best options to access the station.

Ms. Opfell said she supported having clean, safe bathrooms and access to regional amenities such as the Bay Trail. Mr. Gilster said the far eastern side of the project falls within MTC's (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) Bay Trail gap closure study and that there is the potential for funding a connection.

Ben Mangiafico said it was scary to have a freeway ramp over the waiting area and said he was in favor of having green cover. He expressed his support of having bike lanes that are physically separated from car traffic.

Public Comment:

Chris Florkowski said residents want to focus not just on transit users, but human needs. She said the residential proximity is an advantage and that the project should consider adding amenities such as a cafe.

Dylan Finch asked about traffic when the buses arrive, and Mr. Gilster said there would be dedicated bus lanes. Mr. Finch said he was against having two vehicle lanes and the 12-foot lane width, but was in favor of the protected bike lanes. He asked if there were current plans to have a bus going across the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge. Mr. Gilster said there is potential for AC (Alameda County) Transit to reactivate their route across the bridge. Mr. Finch seconded improving the available amenities and said he would like the bus schedule to align with the Caltrain schedule to minimize waits. He suggested having a Jersey barrier in case the guardrail is breached.

Vice Chair John Baker noted that wayfinding is difficult in the area. Chelsea Schultz, Manager, Strategic Planning, said the Strategic Plan that is currently under development will take the preferred vision from the community into consideration, which includes the potential for SamTrans to use part of the site.

Mr. Mautner asked if there was a level of partnership with existing users of the Park and Ride such as private employer shuttles to improve amenities at the site. Mr. Gilster said Genentech and Google had partnerships with the site, adding that private corporations could contribute but Caltrans does not require it.

Mr. Finch suggested charging for parking at the site for those not riding a SamTrans bus.

Chair Madrid asked about provisions for those with mobility needs. Mr. Gilster said the goal would be to use universal design principles. Chair Madrid asked about signage for paratransit transfers/connections, which Mr. Gilster said would be incorporated into the design.

7. Report of the Chair

Chair Madrid said he had no report.

8. SamTrans Staff Update

Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, noted ridership increased 7.3 percent across all modes and that ridership was at 94.5 percent of pre-pandemic levels. She said that on-time performance had improved and that there were only three DNOs (Did Not Operate) for the month. She said they met their service goal with one service call per 25,000 miles. Ms. Rivas said they were implementing *Reimagine SamTrans* on Sunday, August 4, and announced the employees of the month.

9. CAC Member Comments/Requests

Mr. Finch said he noted that Route EPX had switched back to diesel buses from battery electric. Ms. Rivas said they are still getting used to the new technology and that there was a recent battery incident with one of the buses. She said that as a result, it was decided to not use certain buses until that issue was cleared up, which has since been resolved.

Mr. Mautner asked if it is allowed to bring battery-powered mobility devices on buses, such as electric scooters. Ms. Rivas confirmed that they are currently not allowed on buses.

Vice Chair Baker noted that the WiFi had not been functional on buses for several weeks. Mr. Mautner suggested forgetting the network on the device and then attempting to rejoin. Vice Chair Baker noted that SamTrans received the Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement award from APTA (American Public Transportation Association), the top award for outstanding transit systems in the United States.

Ms. Opfell said that the Route 120 buses have to make a treacherous left turn because of parked cars. She urged reconsideration of the policy prohibiting battery-operated devices such as electric scooters because many riders are dependent on them for commuting the first and last mile. She also said caregivers should be able to bring strollers on the bus. Ms. Rivas clarified that SamTrans policy does allow strollers but caregivers must remove the child first and fold the stroller while riding.

10. SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Vice Chair Baker said he was unable to attend the July 10 Board meeting and did not have a report.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Vice Chair Baker said that the next meeting will be held Wednesday August 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm via Zoom teleconference and in person at the San Mateo County Transit District, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 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 CAC Secretary's office by phone at 650-508-6223 or by email to cacsecretary@samtrans.com.