

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CALIFORNIA**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MEETING MINUTES**

October 27, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT (Via Teleconference): M. Adler, S. Appenrodt, J. Baker (Chair), I. Chan, B. Gomez, A. Juarez, S. Johnston (Vice Chair), N. Lacsamana, M. Lewis, A. Madrid, M. Park, B. Randall

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: T. Dubost, C. Wegener, A. Linehan, T. Ferrante, W. Alvarez, E. Silvas, J. Castellanos, J. Steketee, J. Brook

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair John Baker called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm and requested that Nancy Lacsamana lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

CAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

Motion/Second: Lacsamana/Madrid

Ayes: Adler, Appenrodt, Baker, Chan, Gomez, Juarez, Johnston, Lacsamana, Lewis, Madrid, Park, Randall

Noes: None

Absent: None

5. APPROVAL OF 2022 CAC MEETING CALENDAR

Motion/Second: Madrid/Juarez

Ayes: Adler, Appenrodt, Baker, Chan, Gomez, Juarez, Johnston, Lacsamana, Lewis, Madrid, Park, Randall

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. PRESENTATION: REIMAGINE SAMTRANS RECOMMENDED SERVICE CHANGES/PREFERRED NETWORK

Christy Wegener, Director of Planning, provided the presentation on Alternative #2.

Bob Gomez asked about the latest status on University Avenue and 101 overpass but said she would get back to him.

Ms. Lacsamana said it appeared that a lot of routes had been pulled in Redwood Shores due to low ridership. She asked how SamTrans would get the word out about the route changes and said she supported having express bus service from Redwood Shores. Ms. Wegener said having more express buses would be dependent on workers' return to the office as opposed to working from home. She said the new San Bruno to East Palo Alto route would go through Redwood Shores. She acknowledged that they would be doing a major marketing campaign to promote the new route changes.

Meredith Park asked how SamTrans is working to diversify ridership. She suggested forming partnerships with other community services such as Stanford's Marguerite shuttle. Ms. Wegener said increasing the frequency was the best way to attract student riders.

Alex Madrid asked if the ECR (El Camino Real) route would be eliminated. Ms. Wegener said it would continue and explained the options for deviations. Mr. Madrid suggested having larger and clearer route signage at the bus stops.

Vice Chair Scott Johnston asked about the changes to routes going to and from SFO (San Francisco International Airport). Ms. Wegener said they were proposing to extend Route 292 from SFO to Millbrae BART. She said they would be meeting with airport officials to discuss further.

Michelle Lewis requested that Route 292 to continue to stop at 7th Street.

Allie Juarez asked why Route 398 was eliminated. Ms. Wegener said some of the current service is duplicative or has low ridership.

Iris Chan asked if they would resume hourly weekday service on Route 295 before adding weekend service. Ms. Wegener said that they are continuing to look at the available resources between now and August 2022. Ms. Chan asked how they would reach out to the Hispanic community. Ms. Wegener said that in the past, the District has partnered with community organizations such as Nuestra Casa and Daly City Partnership. Jonathan Stekete, Manager, Bus Operations, said they also have recordings of past virtual community meetings on the SamTrans video website in multiple languages, including Spanish.

Mr. Madrid asked if internet access was required to participate in virtual community meetings. Amy Linehan, Public Affairs Specialist, said that a call-in option is available. Mr. Stekete also noted that closed captioning is available during the meetings.

Chair Baker expressed his support for the planning and operations staff.

Public Comment:

Rona Gundrum said she had sent a letter by the Redwood Shores Community Association. She said the biggest reason for low ridership is that the bus only runs in one direction and suggested the flex system as an alternative.

Drew said he wanted a better understanding of the FCX (Foster City Express) on the return trips since it ends up being a "freebie." He said the FCX serves the east side of San Mateo in addition to Foster City and suggested renaming the route for marketing purposes. Ms. Wegener said they also use the express buses for different routes once they reach San Francisco.

7. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Baker said he took his first evening bus ride since the beginning of the pandemic.

8. SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE

Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Transit Services, reviewed the highlights of the staff report in the absence of Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation.

9. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS

Ms. Park commented that the Way2Go program has been very difficult to deploy.

Ms. Lacsamana said she would like to receive more information on the Way2Go program. She noted that she had recently traveled to Chicago and used the CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) system and that she had recently resumed commuting to work in San Francisco.

Ms. Chan asked if SamTrans ever participated in transportation conferences. Ms. Dubost noted that staff and Board members have attended various conferences, such as APTA (American Public Transportation Association). Mr. Steketee also noted attendance at the Blue Ribbon Task Force meetings for Bay Area transportation agencies.

Mr. Madrid asked if Redi-Wheels ridership was increasing. Ms. Dubost noted that it was approaching 50 percent of pre-pandemic numbers.

10. SAMTRANS BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Chair Baker provided a summary of the October 7 Board meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING

Chair Baker said that the final meeting for the year will be held Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom teleconference (additional location, if any, to be determined).

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.