

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

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

Members Present: M. Church, J. Deal, R. Guilbault, S. Harris, J. Hartnett,
Z. Kersteen-Tucker (Chair), A. Lloyd, K. Matsumoto, A. Tissier

Staff Present: J. Cassman, G. Harrington, C. Harvey, R. Haskin, R. Lake, M. Lee, M. Martinez,
N. McKenna, D. Miller, M. Scanlon, M. Simon

Chair Zoe Kersteen-Tucker called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING
FIXED-ROUTE SERVICE REDUCTIONS AND CHANGES, APPROVAL OF FIXED-
ROUTE SERVICE CHANGES AND REDUCTIONS, FARE INCREASE AND
ELIMINATION OF 15 PERCENT MONTHLY PASS DISCOUNT WHEN PURCHASED
WITH MUNI STICKER**

Deputy CEO Chuck Harvey made a presentation that included the following:

- The District is facing a \$28.4 million operating deficit for Fiscal Year 2010. These recommendations only address a portion of the SamTrans fiscal deficit.
- Revenue reductions include the elimination of the State Transit Assistance (STA) for the next four years, declining sales tax revenue, lower interest income and declining ridership.
- Community outreach included newspaper ads, news releases and communications to cities, four community meetings, the August CAC meeting and a Board public hearing.
- At the public hearing staff presented service reduction scenarios of 7.5, 10 and 15 percent.
- Staff heard the concerns of many for whom SamTrans is their only means of mobility and that the loss of SamTrans service would leave them with no transit or transportation alternatives.
- Based on public testimony staff reassessed service reduction proposals, guided by the SamTrans Strategic Plan and the District's adopted guiding principles.
- The revised proposal provides a net savings of \$6.3 million annually or approximately 7.5 percent of the rubber tire bus service cost. The cuts would be implemented in December, which means about a half-year's savings of \$3.1 million will be realized in FY2010.
- This proposal impacts less than three percent of the District's average weekday riders.
- The proposal preserves essential services to low-income, transit-dependent, youth, senior and disabled riders. The new proposal retains late-night service on Route 297, makes no changes to the length of the service day on Routes 292, 390, 391 and 17, which is a critical service on the Coastside and 295, which is essential for service to schools and medical facilities west of El Camino Real.
- The new proposal is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- The majority of the routes selected for elimination are within transportation corridors with other alternatives.

- The proposed service reductions include:
 - Reduce Route KX to hourly service and eliminate the Page Mill-Palo Alto segment;
 - Reduce Route 280 to hourly service ;
 - Change Route 14 to a single loop in the off-peak;
 - Reduce Route 141 to hourly service, but retain peak trips during school periods;
 - Reduce Routes 390 and 391 to a 40-minute frequency on the weekends;
 - Eliminate local Route 342 and San Francisco express Routes, MX, NX, PX/RX, DX and FX.
- To compensate for the loss of the FX service in Foster City, a new shuttle will be added to take passengers to the Millbrae Intermodal Station. The shuttle would be a local fare.
- Adult, youth and eligible discount fares will be raised on February 1, 2010 and paratransit and agency fares will be increased in two phases on July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011.
- On July 1, 2010 the paratransit fares will increase 50-cents and on July 1, 2011 the fares will increase an additional 25-cents.
- Staff is recommending that we work with the agencies to try to establish a flat fare rate. Staff is committed to continuing their discussions while the new tariff rates are in effect.
- There are no changes to the paratransit bus service in the proposal.
- Adopted fixed-route service reductions and changes will be effective December 20, 2009.

Public Comment

Maria Duran thanked the Board for listening as the Coastside really needs Route 17 for children to get to school and adults to get to work.

Maria Ramirez thanked the Board for listening to everyone by leaving the bus where it is so they can get to work on time.

Maria Elvia Plancarte said on behalf of the community and Half Moon Bay thank you for providing the buses because they are very important for getting to work. Thank you for all the help you have given us.

Rosa Barajas thanked everyone and would like to join her colleagues in saying thank you for listening and leaving our bus the way it is. She said she takes Routes 17, 294 and 292.

Director Rose Guilbault, addressing the audience in Spanish, thanked everyone from the Coastside who attended today's meeting.

City Councilwoman Naomi Patridge, Half Moon Bay, said she hopes the Board supports staff recommendations and leaves Route 17 unchanged.

City Councilwoman Linda Koelling, Foster City, thanked staff for thinking outside the box. She said Route FX provides a direct line from Foster City to San Francisco, but the shuttle offers people the opportunity to look at other transit options. She hopes in the near future the express buses can be restored.

City Manager Michael Dolder, Half Moon Bay, said he hopes the Board supports staff recommendations on keeping Route 17.

Laura Larenger, Redwood Shores, said she is glad Route 292 is being saved, but concerned about the increase in the disabled pass. She asked if the price of the bus pass could be kept at \$22 per month. Ms. Larenger asked if the frequency of Route 292 was changing.

Mr. Harvey said the frequency on Route 292 would not change with the new proposal.

Director Guilbault asked if people are able to get a lifeline aid on the eligible discount pass.

Jesse Melendrez, Half Moon Bay, representing the Nurserymen's Exchange, said people on the Coastside rely on the lifeline of Route 17 to go to work, the store and doctors appointments. There is a real need for this route and thanked staff for recommending keeping Route 17.

Ellen Alberstat, Redwood Shores, said she rides Route NX and has a service animal. She said it would be very difficult to transfer to two or three buses. She said there should one bus in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Patricia Penning, Menlo Park, thanked the Board for keeping Route 295. She said this is the only bus west of El Camino Real and it needs to be preserved. Ms. Penning said children should be trained in the Menlo Park school district on how to ride the bus.

Halle Hewitt, Menlo Park, thanked the Board for keeping Route 295 and keeping the same route, hours and frequency.

David Taylor, San Mateo, said everyone is listening, a lot of people are still being left behind and everyone needs to get to work. He said getting rid of routes is not the answer, but maybe cut service hours of routes.

Nancy Keegan, program director for San Carlos Adult Day Care Services, said without the paratransit service participants would not be allowed to participate in the program. She thanked the Board for delaying the increase in fares for the agency-sponsored paratransit trips. Ms. Keegan said the PCC is committed to working with SamTrans and Redi-Wheels staff to find ways to increase efficiencies and find additional cost saving measures.

Barbara Kalt, director of Peninsula Volunteers Rosener House Adult Day programs, thanked the Board for listening to the concerns of those who use paratransit service. She said this is a bad year to increase Redi-Wheels fares. Ms. Kalt said this is a vital service that SamTrans provides.

Tom Dennison, Pacifica, thanked the Board for keeping Route 17. He is disappointed that Route DX will be eliminated. Mr. Dennison said Route CX ridership will decline because it is cheaper to drive to BART then pay for a bus fare. At the Half Moon Bay community meeting three people recommended a tier-level base fare. Mr. Dennison said the express routes should have tier-level pricing: the further you travel the more you pay.

Kira Liesso, Terra Nova High School, said the school has open enrollment and students come from as far away as Brisbane and San Francisco. On behalf the students and faculty she thanked the Board for keeping Route 14 and presented the Board with a large thank you card signed by students and faculty.

Gabrielle Karampelas, Community Gatepath, thanked SamTrans for the partnership over the years. She said people with disabilities have already received cuts in their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments this year. Ms. Karampelas asked if there is an opportunity to work together on the \$10 fare increase. She said if people can not afford the increase they will start using RediWheels.

Charise McHugh, Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce, said it is extremely important that Route 17 be maintained and glad staff is recommending the Board keep this route.

April Vargas, Montara, thanked staff for doing a great job and asked the Board to follow staff's recommendation for keeping Route 17. She said it is a positive sign how important this route is by the number of people who attended from the Coastsiders.

Mr. Harvey said Route CX is a local route and has a local fare. He said staff could go back and look at the cost of the eligible discount monthly pass to see if a deeper discount could be offered.

Director Karyl Matsumoto asked what agency-sponsored trips are. Mr. Harvey said there about seven or eight community-based service agencies SamTrans works with to coordinate bus trips and fare collection, including Rosener House, Adult Day Care in San Carlos and Coastsiders.

Director Mark Church asked if staff is recommending all the fare increases be adopted today. Mr. Harvey said yes, otherwise another public hearing would have to be held.

Director Shirley Harris asked about the advertising on the buses and is something different done on the Coastsiders. Mr. Harvey said the District has a contract with CBS Outdoor for exterior advertising on the buses. He said the problem with the Coastsiders is there aren't enough visual hits to the public.

Director Church asked about the express service to San Francisco and one of the speakers' suggestion of one trip in the morning and one in the afternoon. Mr. Harvey said staff could continue to operate express service, but the problem is for every trip that is kept it will be subsidized at a rate of \$4 to \$5 for every dollar of a fare that is collected. He said if trips are retained the service cost savings in the staff proposal will not be achieved.

Mr. Harvey said this proposal acknowledges that express riders are being impacted, but many do have other options.

Director Adrienne Tissier said the cost of the disabled passes should be reviewed. She said it is always difficult when change occurs. Director Tissier thanked all those who spoke and said she believes staff made sure people had alternatives on routes that were eliminated. She said the timing is perfect to consider the school children taking a safe route and training them on how to ride the bus. Director Tissier supports staff recommendations because it was thoroughly done and it will be difficult to get through the deficit without doing anything. She said people need to take steps and start advocating at the state level to have the lawmakers stop taking money away from transit. The reason these service cuts are being done is because of the cuts from the state.

Director Jim Hartnett thanked fellow Board members who went out in the community and listened to what people wanted and the staff for being so sensitive to the communities needs. He said this is one of his saddest days for SamTrans because of the cuts that need to be done, but is one of his proudest days. Director Hartnett said the Board has listened to the neediest, not just the loudest. Every cut made affects people and every fare raised is less money in people's pockets. Director Harnett said this is only the beginning and staff could have justified the 15 percent service cuts. He said there is a structural deficit that will not be corrected by state and federal funds.

Director Matsumoto said the state has cut STA funds by several billion dollars and what the Board is trying to do is least invasive.

General Manager/CEO Michael Scanlon said this is a sad and painful day and no one wants to make any of these recommendations. The whole nation is hurting and recently Transportation for America issued a report that 90 percent of the transit agencies in the United States are either raising fares or cutting service. Mr. Scanlon said in calendar year 2008 there were 10.7 billion trips taken on public transportation and that is the most taken since 1956. It is very critical that a way to fund these services is found.

Director Church thanked the community for providing their input as it helped in shaping staff recommendations. He thanked staff for the proposal that has an impact on so many people.

A motion (Lloyd/Church) was approved unanimously to recommend adopting a negative declaration regarding fixed-route service reductions and changes, approving fixed-route service changes and reductions, a fare increase and eliminating a 15 percent monthly pass discount when purchased with Muni sticker; and that staff will work on pricing the eligible discount fare.

Adjourned to Committee Meetings at 3:13 p.m.

Board Reconvened at 3:49 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board unanimously approved the consent calendar (Lloyd/Hartnett).

- a. Approval of Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of August 12, 2009
- b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenses for July 2009

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Grace, San Lorenzo, shared his third place gold medal his team won for softball at the Special Olympics

REPORT OF CHAIR

Chair Zoe Kersteen-Tucker thanked the Board for their time, effort and thoughtfulness on the work they do. She thanked staff for their sensitivity to the public and their time during the community meetings and listening to the public. Chair Kersteen-Tucker echoes Director Hartnett's comments of this being a sad, but also a frustrating day. She takes comfort and energy from the outpouring of the community. Chair Kersteen-Tucker said it is time to harness the community again and as Board members be more vocal and start advocating at the state level for funding.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Mr. Scanlon:

- Thanked the Board for their time and efforts on the service reductions. Staff will come back with ideas on how to be more active in advocacy efforts locally.
- Recognized Norman Tutana with a 20-year safe worker award.
- Recognized Bus Operator Christobal Ibarra with a 20-year safe driver award.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

(Accessibility, Senior Services, and Community Issues)

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

- a. Accessibility Update
- b. Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC) Update
- c. Citizens Advisory Committee Liaison Report
- d. Performance Report – End-of-the-Year Performance Report
- e. Multimodal Ridership Report – July 2009

FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Authorize Execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Funds for the SamTrans Shuttle Bus Program for \$570,000
- b. Authorize the use of a competitive negotiation procurement process to procure an Interactive Voice Response System

The motion (Hartnett/Guilbault) to approve the resolutions was approved unanimously by roll call.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

- a. Verbal Update on State Legislative Program
- b. Verbal Update on Federal Legislative Program

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

In reading file.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Tissier said this Saturday, September 12, is Disaster Preparedness Day in South San Francisco.

GENERAL COUNSEL PROPOSAL

Legal Counsel David Miller said negotiations are ongoing with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) for the District's Customer Service Center. A Teamsters local has been recognized to represent SamTrans bus transportation supervisors and there was an initial meeting. Mr. Miller said there was an election just held and the Teamsters have been recognized as the unit to represent the District's bus contract inspectors of MV Transportation.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – October 14, 2009, at 2 p.m., San Mateo County Transit District, Administrative Building, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Adjourned: 4:07 p.m.