

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

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. Baker (Vice-Chair), A. Chow, T. Collette, P. Hitchcock, W. Kingsford-Smith (Chair), P. Loranger, D. Milton, K. Nobles, P. Ratto, D. Wilcox

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** K. Chu, K. Feldstein, M. Hall

**SAMTRANS STAFF PRESENT:** M. Knuckles, S. Kohlmannslehner, N. McKenna, C. Patton, E. Proctor

Peter Loranger thanked the CAC for adjourning the January meeting in memory of his wife's mother.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Committee (Collette/Ratto) approved the minutes of January 7, 2009.

**PRESENTATION ON PANDEMIC FLU PLANNING**

Director of Bus Transportation Chester Patton introduced Safety Officer Sharon Kohlmannslehner who gave a presentation on the pandemic flu and emergency preparedness concepts.

Ms. Kohlmannslehner made the following key points:

- The flu comes every year and this is the middle of flu season.
- The Avian flu affects birds.
- The pandemic flu refers to an influenza which is not the common flu, people don't have immunities for it and it is spread worldwide.
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is concerned about the H5N1 virus, which is the avian flu and people feel is the one most likely to mutate.
- The health department is concerned when this strain jumps from human to human. The reason for the concern is people have no immunity to it, there is a high mortality rate and will spread like a common flu.
- This pandemic is the flip side of an earthquake, where there is infrastructure, but no people.
- Staff will be holding a tabletop exercise later this month. The District has a draft plan and it is going through internal review. This exercise will provide the department heads a chance to think about how different jobs will be done with fewer employees. There will

be employees too sick to work or employees staying home to take care of loved ones who are too sick.

- In the event of a pandemic, staff will be following the directive of the county health officer in terms of social distancing and what business should and can stay open.

Chair Kingsford-Smith asked if the District is in partnership with the county.

Ms. Kohlmannslehner said the county started the planning process and the District was one of the partners who came in along with private industry. This exercise is going to be strictly internal.

Tom Collette asked if the avian flu could go from bird to human. Ms. Kohlmannslehner said it has been documented it has gone from bird to human, but the CDC has not yet declared it capable of going from human to human with casual, work or social contact.

John Baker asked if there are early plans if there is a contagious disease. Ms. Kohlmannslehner said staff would take advice from the county health officer.

Mr. Baker asked if there will be an education campaign. Ms. Kohlmannslehner the health department would probably have a huge campaign, but it is all projection at this point.

Mr. Baker asked about transporting people on buses and the health of the bus operators.

Mr. Patton said staff is in the every early stages of looking at this, but could look at Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the operators, but this is all in the formation stage and a long way from having any plans in place. It will be based on the severity of the situation and the recommendation from the county health department.

Peter Loranger asked if people will have no immunity with this pandemic.

Ms. Kohlmannslehner said because it doesn't go human to human and is going bird to human there is not a lot of exposure and little to no immunity and why the mortality rate would be so high.

A member of the public asked where information can be received. Ms. Kohlmannslehner said information can be found on the county health department's website.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

No report.

## **SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE**

Public Information Specialist Mary Knuckles reported the following:

- A notice to proceed for the new bus shelters at Sequoia Station in Redwood City will be issued this month and it will be 4-6 months before they are installed.
- The information board at the Palo Alto Caltrain station is a Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) board so no old flyers could be removed.
- Average weekday bus ridership for December is up 4 percent.
- In December the marketing department did an "I'm Pumped for Transit" promotion which was very successful with 570 people who pledged to ride during the promotion and SamTrans web had over 7,300 hits on the promotion page.

Mr. Patton said SamTrans continues to see a ridership growth. Miles between road calls remains high and missed schedules is back down in the normal range of four for December.

Mr. Wilcox asked about the performance numbers for Redi-Wheels. Mr. Patton said this is not a paratransit forum, but can bring this number back next month if Mr. Wilcox could provide exactly what he was interested in. Mr. Wilcox questioned the 98 percent on-time performance for Redi-Coast. Mr. Patton said this number is accurate. Redi-Coast is a smaller operation, with about 100 trips a day so it is much easier to operate the service on-time.

Mr. Collette asked how much the District makes off fares. Mr. Patton said there is roughly an 18 percent farebox ratio.

Andy Chow said parking fees went up at BART stations and does this affect the Colma Park and Ride. Ms. Knuckles will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

Assistant District Secretary Nancy McKenna announced the upcoming recruitment for five seats. The recruitment opens on February 9 and closes on March 6. There are three members whose terms are expiring, Kristina Chu, Ken Feldstein and David Wilcox and two vacancies.

#### **CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS**

John Baker asked about the SamTrans web and if a comment could be added on the first column noting the minutes are unapproved.

Pam Hitchcock said someone left something on a bus and the driver picked it up and brought it to Central. The woman was told she could come down before 5 p.m. and pick the item. She left work early and when she arrived at Central no one had the key. The woman was told only one person has the key and they leave at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Knuckles will check on this and find what the procedure is.

Ms. Hitchcock said people are upset about the rerouting of Route MX in San Bruno. The rerouting is adding 10-15 minutes to travel time. There was no information on the web or and the old schedules were still on the bus.

Mr. Patton said this route is operated by MV Transportation and the operators had a difficult merging maneuver to make from Highways 380 to 101. The drivers asked for additional consideration for rerouting for a safer trip onto the freeway. Mr. Patton said he cannot say why it was not communicated better.

Mr. Baker asked why Routes 130 and 132 in South San Francisco were rerouted. Mr. Patton said West Orange Avenue in South San Francisco was turned into a one-way street by the city's engineering department on a 90-day trial basis.

Chair Kingsford-Smith said in this morning's paper there was an article about the federal stimulus package and it noted SamTrans and Caltrain applied for money. The article stated SamTrans asked for \$65 million for the purchase of 173 buses. Chair Kingsford-Smith thought the buses were a done deal and does SamTrans need another \$65 million or was it programmed in when the bid went out.

Mr. Patton said he believes the money was programmed into the purchase, but will check.

Chair Kingsford-Smith asked if Route 295 will be running on President's Day. Mr. Patton said SamTrans runs on a regular schedule on President's Day.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### **a. SamTrans Board – Wayne Kingsford-Smith**

Chair Kingsford-Smith reported on the January SamTrans Board meeting:

- The Oath of Office was administered to Mark Church, Rose Gulbault and Shirley Harris.
- A presentation was given on the fixed-route service.
- Year-to-date fuel price is \$2.52 per gallon.
- Zoe Kersteen-Tucker was elected chair and Rose Guilbault vice chair.
- Karyl Matsumoto was reappointed to the Transportation Authority Board.

### **b. SamTrans Accessibility Advisory Committee – Tom Collette – no meeting in January.**

Next meeting is February 19.

### **c. Caltrain Accessibility Advisory Committee – Peter Loranger – no meeting.**

### **d. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board – David Wilcox – there was no meeting in January.**

### **e. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Citizens Advisory Committee – Andy Chow**

- Did not attend January meeting.

### **f. Senior Mobility Action Plan – Ken Feldstein – none.**

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held March 4, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., 1250 San Carlos Avenue, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, San Carlos, California 94070.

**ADJOURNED:** 7:15 p.m.