

**Summary Minutes  
Operations & Scheduling Committee  
Wednesday, June 7, 8:00 am**

**Directors:** Robert Storer, Renata Sos, Dave Hudson

**Staff:** Bill Churchill, Ruby Horta, Scott Mitchell, Melody Reeb, Rashida Kamara, Chan Saechao, Marcel Longmire, Pranjal Dixit, Rosa Noya, Laura Corona

**Public:** None

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Director Storer.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda.

**2. Public Communication**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes of May 3, 2023**

The Committee approved the minutes.

**4. Fall Bid Update**

Mr. Dixit informed the Committee that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, transit service was reduced. However, ridership has since recovered, with weekend ridership recovering the most although the operator shortage remains a challenge for expanding service. He informed that the Fall bid, which will be implemented on August 6th, will include several service adjustments to align with BART's new schedule, ridership demand, and traffic conditions.

Mr. Churchill added that the current level of service is 13-15% below pre-pandemic levels. He said that staff will explore increasing service levels as the number of operators stabilizes. He also explained the funding arrangement for the Go San Ramon Program and the continued coordination with the City of San Ramon. This was in response to Director Hudson's question about ongoing development in the city.

**5. Transit Signal Priority Update**

Mr. Saechao informed the Committee that the Transit Signal Priority (TSP) project was awarded to Global Traffic Technologies (GTT) in April 2022. A pilot testing was conducted and no issues were found. However, the project has been delayed due to an ongoing chip shortage for the controller. Mr. Churchill further explained that the current TSP project would only result in traffic signal changes if the bus is running late.

**6. Electric Bus Update**

Mr. Longmire informed the Committee that the availability of electric buses increased to 83% in 2022, while the availability of diesel buses remained 100%. He highlighted several challenges with electric buses, including battery reliability, longer lead times for electronic components, the cost of battery replacement once out of warranty, and challenges with charger support. These challenges led to higher operating costs for electric buses.

Mr. Churchill added that electric buses can be difficult to charge during heat waves, when the electrical grid is under pressure. He also noted that transit fleets play an important role in emergency transportation during natural disasters, such as wildfires. Mr. Mitchell suggested that it would be better to wait to purchase more electric buses until the technology has matured and maintenance costs have decreased.

## **7. Monthly Reports**

Mr. Dixit reported that fixed route ridership in April grew 29% year-over-year which was equivalent to 83% of pre-pandemic levels. He added that the average weekend ridership even surpassed pre-pandemic levels and that productivity was also on par with pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, missed trips decreased but were still above the threshold of 0.25%.

Mr. Churchill responded to Director Hudson's question about the service to new housing in San Ramon by stating that the local routes in the San Ramon – Danville area are outperforming the express routes which highlighted the change in travel pattern of riders. He added that staff will closely monitor the demand once the housing goes up and plan service accordingly.

Ms. Kamara told the Committee that paratransit service carried over 2,000 more passengers in April than at the beginning of the fiscal year. She explained that the unique nature of pickup windows for passengers can lead to significant variability in on-time performance. She highlighted Transdev's efforts to address staff turnover in dispatch and customer service. She also noted that complaints increased, but most of them were about timeliness. She also mentioned that commendations increased as well.

## **8. Committee Comments**

None

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

Go San Ramon update.

## **10. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for July 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am at Supervisor Andersen Office located at 309 Diablo Rd, Danville, CA

## **11. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning