



**San Mateo County
Paratransit Coordinating Council**

PAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

May 12th, 2020

1:30pm

(in conjunction with the full PCC meeting)

San Mateo County Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC)

P.O. Box 1035

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Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting will be conducted as a teleconference meeting pursuant to the provisions of the Governor’s Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

The public may not attend this meeting in person

PCC members, staff and the public may participate remotely via web-ex or phone.

Join the meeting remotely here:
[TBD](#)

Meeting number (access code): _____TBD_____

Meeting password: Redi-Wheels

Tuesday, May 12, 2020
11:25 am Pacific Time (US & Canada) - 1 hr.

Or join by phone
1-888-636-3807 Call-in toll-free number
or
1-212-372-3762 Call-in number

Phone Access Code: _____TBD_____

PCC POLICY-ADVOCACY-LEGISLATIVE (PAL) COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

May 12th, 2020

APPROVAL OF APRIL PAL MINUTES *

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

SB1376 Update

LOCAL ADVOCACY ISSUES—OPEN DISCUSSION

POLICY ISSUES

COVID-19 Impacts

OTHER BUSINESS

The next PAL meeting will be on June 9th at 11:30am.

* ACTION ITEM

**San Mateo County PCC
Policy-Advocacy-Legislative (PAL) Committee**

Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Mike Levinson, Chair	Ben McMullan, CID
Dinae Cruise, Vice Chair	Scott McMullin, COA
Tina Dubost, SamTrans	Sammi Riley, Consumer
Sandra Lang, Community Member	(7/8 = quorum)

Guests:

Richard Weiner, Nelson\Nygaard	Lynn Spicer, First Transit/Redi-Wheels
Jane Stahl, Staff Assistant	Patty Talbott, First Transit/Redi-Wheels
David Scarbor, SamTrans	
Henry Silvas, SamTrans	

Absent:

Marie Violet, Dignity Health & Wellness Center

WELCOME

Chair Mike Levinson called the meeting to order at 11:40am. The meeting was held via conference call and a roll call taken.

FEBRUARY & MARCH PAL MINUTES

A motion to approve the February minutes was proposed by Dinae Cruise, seconded by Sammi Riley. The minutes were approved.

A motion to approve the March minutes was proposed by Dinae Cruise, seconded by Sammi Riley. The minutes were approved.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tina Dubost reported that since the COVID-19 outbreak ridership on SamTrans was down 70% and ridership on Redi-Wheels was down 77%. In addition, most of SamTrans' revenue comes from sales taxes which are also down.

The Federal Government has approved financial relief to cover some of the losses through the CARES Act. \$25B was allocated for transportation nationwide with \$1.3B allocated to the San Francisco area. The funds will flow through the MTC. There is currently discussion on how the money will be allocated and they hope to know in a week or so. Jim Hartnett had sent a message thanking everyone who worked to make this funding happen. Sandra Lang reported that oversight of the CARES Act funds is an issue and Ben McMullan advised that he is forming a committee to review the CARES act and will send an update to the PCC and PAL. He is in contact with Anna Eschoo's office on how the act relates to SSI recipients, and will also contact Jackie's Speier's office.

Tina reported that SamTrans is on a task force at the state level to obtain additional relief although the state legislature is not expected to return until May 4th. Additionally, the state budget has to be voted on by June 15th but it will be different from what the Governor initially proposed.

Tina advised the group about a potential 1/8th percent sales tax in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties to provide Caltrain with a stable funding source and improve service. This was planned for the November ballot but that is under discussion.

SB 1376

No report was made.

LOCAL ADVOCACY

Tina reported that Redi-Wheels is not currently charging paratransit fares. The committee discussed the effect of this on coupons and other payment options; Patty Talbott confirmed that the drivers and reservationists have all received training on this.

Mike asked about the current status of the drivers. Patty confirmed that there are currently 24 drivers on unpaid furlough, but receiving benefits, through the end of the April.

Tina thanked the Redi-Wheels drivers and staff who have provided essential service during the Covid-19 pandemic.

POLICY ISSUES – OPEN DISCUSSION

No discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tina had provided a 3-year performance summary for review. The committee thought that the report was very useful and asked to receive it on an annual basis. The report showed the number of rides decreasing and the number of taxi rides increasing. Tina reported that with the number of rides down since February, the percentage of trips on taxis is also down. Henry Silvas advised that First Transit will be working to keep taxi rides down to 15% once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and that it will take time to ramp back up to “normal.”

Richard remarked that the report showed that although demand had dropped, agency and subscription trips have held steady. The drop was seen in advance reservations. Also, the percentage of late cancels and no-shows is low which shows that any policies discouraging this are working. Overall, the number of riders has dropped considerably. Productivity is good and the number of complaints has risen somewhat. Sammi Riley reported that the average wait time is going down.

Mike thought that the decrease in demand was partly due to riders using Uber and Lyft especially when the rider has a short window. Tina remarked that the decrease in ridership is not due to service quality.

The committee then discussed the use of Webex and other platforms for future meetings.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12th, at 11:30am (since changed to 1:30pm during the PCC meeting).

The meeting adjourned at 12:33pm.