

Date: _____ November 6, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: _____ November 15, 2007

Board Meeting Date: _____ December 13, 2007

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION ITEM

TO: Administration and Finance Committee
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Jerry G. Mikolajczyk
Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: SamTrans Transfer Agreement

Policy-Related Action: Yes

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the General Manager to execute a revised transfer agreement with the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans).

BACKGROUND:

At the August 30, 2007 meeting, the VTA Board of Directors approved service changes effective January 14, 2008 that will discontinue a segment of VTA bus route 22 which previously extended into San Mateo County. As a result, there will no longer be any shared stops in Menlo Park, and some riders who currently complete trips entirely on VTA vehicles will need to start their trips on Samtrans and then transfer to VTA to complete their travel. At the same meeting, the Board requested that staff enter into a dialogue with SamTrans to explore possible remedies to the transfer issue resulting from the discontinuation of service into Menlo Park.

VTA has had an agreement with SamTrans since 1991, providing for acceptance of each other's monthly passes (and VTA day passes) at shared stops in Menlo Park and Palo Alto. This arrangement has served to facilitate the transfer of passengers between the two systems.

DISCUSSION:

When the new service plan is implemented in January 2008, if there is no adjustment of the transfer agreement, patrons boarding in Menlo Park wishing to ride into Santa Clara County would require both a VTA fare and a SamTrans fare. The service changes would impact fares both for San Mateo County based riders (on the outgoing trip) and for Santa Clara County based riders (on the return trip).

In order to maintain the transit benefits of the existing transfer policy after the VTA service changes, it is necessary to update the transfer agreement. Based on a review of service and ridership in the area of the service boundary, and following discussions with SamTrans staff, an updated transfer agreement has been prepared that will provide for transfers anywhere within the City of Menlo Park and within the City of Palo Alto. The recommended revision to the transfer agreement will eliminate the requirement for additional fare payments and any monthly pass or day pass (currently issued by VTA only) will be valid on both systems within these two cities.

Within the two bordering cities, the proposed agreement will provide free transfers onto VTA local services for passengers with a SamTrans monthly pass, and a free transfer onto SamTrans local services for passengers with a VTA monthly pass or a day pass. The agreement also provides that should SamTrans offer day passes in the future, VTA would honor such passes on the same basis as SamTrans honors VTA day passes. For express and flyer services, each system will provide a base fare credit for passengers presenting the other agency's monthly pass or day pass.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could choose to leave the existing agreement unchanged.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No significant fiscal impact is expected as the agreement is very similar to the existing transfer arrangement.

Prepared by: David Sausjord, Revenue Services Manager