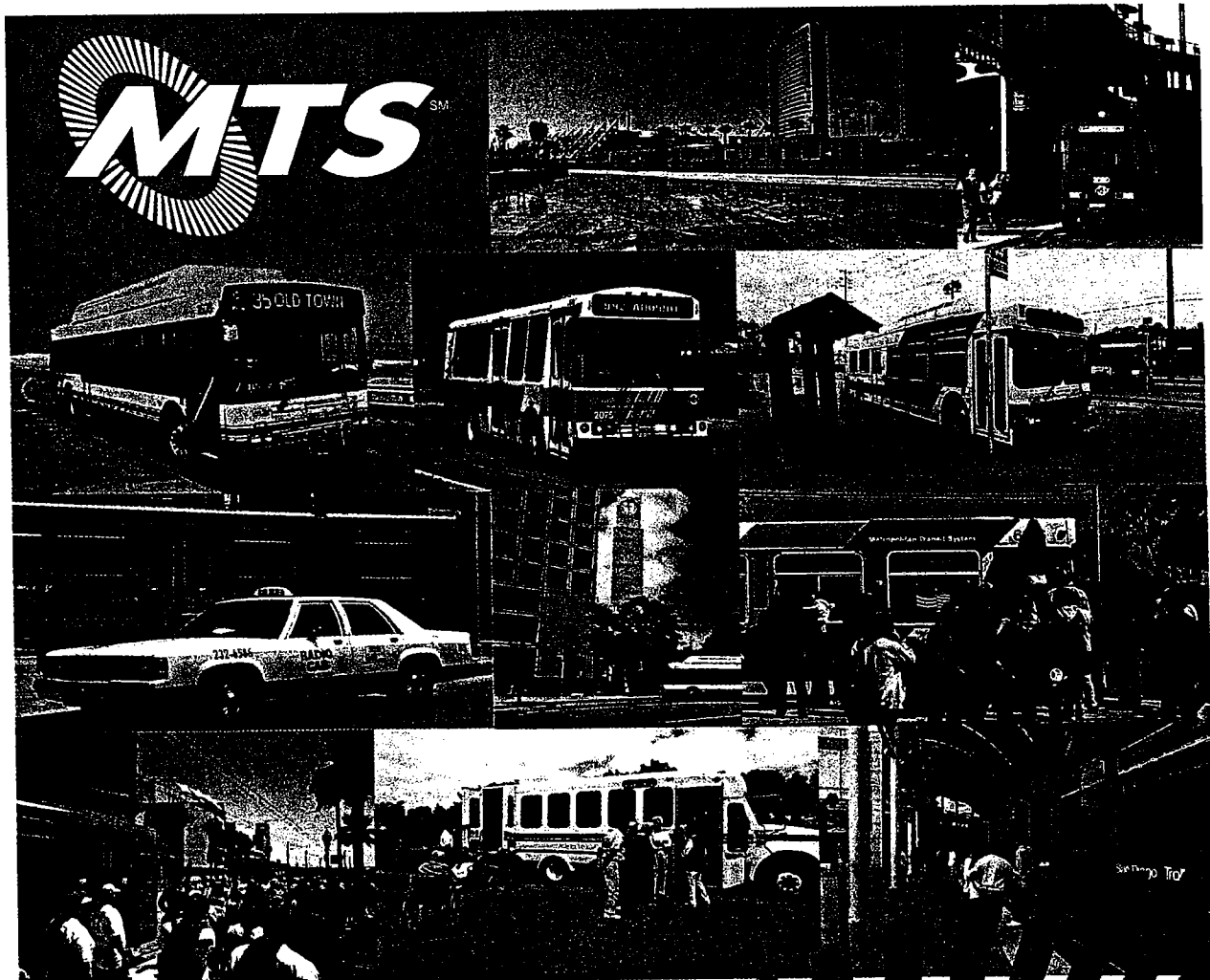


COMPREHENSIVE  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT



FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004  
SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA





# SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

## Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

June 30, 2004

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**INTRODUCTORY SECTION**

This Section Contains the Following Subsections:

- Letter of Transmittal
- Listing of Board of Directors and Management

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June 16, 2006

The Board of Directors and Transit Riders  
San Diego Metropolitan  
Transit System:

The comprehensive annual financial report of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004 is hereby submitted. Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data and the completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with management. Management of MTS is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of MTS are protected from loss, theft, or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data are compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management. As management, we assert that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

State statutes require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants. The firm of KPMG LLP has been retained to meet this requirement. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of MTS for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004 are free of material misstatement. The independent audit involved examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management; and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The independent auditors concluded, based upon the audit, that there was a reasonable basis for rendering an unqualified opinion that MTS' financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004 are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP. The independent auditors' report is presented as the first component of the financial section of this report.

The independent audit also was designed to meet the requirements of a broader, federally mandated "Single Audit" to meet the special needs of federal grantor agencies. The standards governing Single Audit engagements require the independent auditor to report not only on the fair presentation of the financial statements, but also on the audited government's internal controls and compliance with legal requirements, with special emphasis on internal controls and legal requirements involving the administration of federal awards. The reports related specifically to the Single Audit are issued under separate cover.

MTS maintains budgetary controls, the objective of which is to ensure compliance with the provisions embodied in the annual appropriated budget approved by the board of directors. Activities of the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, and Capital Projects Fund are included in the annual appropriated budgets. Comprehensive multiyear financial plans, adopted when major projects are approved for the final design and construction phase, provide project-length budgetary control in the Capital Projects Fund. The portion of costs expected to be incurred on each project during the fiscal year is included in the annual operating budget. The level of budgetary control (that is, the level at which expenditures cannot legally exceed the appropriated amount) is established by line item within an individual fund. The Chief Executive Officer has the authority to transfer up to \$25,000 between line items. MTS also maintains an encumbrance accounting system as one technique of accomplishing budgetary control. Encumbered amounts lapse at year end. However, encumbrances are evaluated and may be reappropriated as part of the following year's budget.

GAAP require that management provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it. The MD&A can be found immediately following the report of the independent auditors.

#### **Reporting Entity**

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System was created effective January 26, 1976 to provide the policy setting and overall management coordination of the public transportation system in the San Diego metropolitan service area. This service area encompasses approximately 1.96 million people residing in a 570 square mile area of San Diego County, including the Cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, Santee, and San Diego and the unincorporated area of the County of San Diego. A number of fixed-route operating entities provide the service and have banded together to form a federation of transit service providers called the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS). The purpose of the MTS is to provide coordinated routes, fares, and transfers among the different operating entities.

MTS' mission statement, adopted by the board of directors, is to enhance the personal mobility of San Diego metropolitan area residents and visitors by:

- Obtaining maximum benefit for every dollar spent
- Being the community's major public transportation advocate
- Increasing public transportation usage per capita
- Taking a customer-oriented approach
- Offering high-quality public transportation services
- Responding to the community's socio-economic interests.

Effective January 1, 2003, Senate Bill 1703 (SB 1703) took effect, which consolidated the planning, programming, project development, and construction activities of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), MTS, and North San Diego County Transit Development Board (NCTD) within SANDAG. The legislation called for an initial transfer of the planning and programming functions from MTS to SANDAG by July 1, 2003 and a subsequent transfer of the project development and construction functions by January 30, 2004. Now that the consolidation is complete, MTS' focus has shifted to transit service operations, as SANDAG, in its newly configured role, is responsible for all other facets of

