



January 2009

# METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

## ORGANIZATION

- Creation* The Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) was created in 1975 by the passage of California Senate Bill 101 and came into existence on January 1, 1976. In 1984, the Governor signed Senate Bill 1736, which expanded the MTD Board of Directors from 8 to 15 members. In 2002, Senate Bill 1703 merged MTDB's long-range planning, financial programming, project development, and construction functions into a new regional agency known as the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). In 2005, MTDB changed its name to the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) which reflects the new relationship with SANDAG and the reorganization of 5 separate operations into one agency.
- Board of Directors* 15-member Board generally meets twice a month. Members selected as follows:
  - Four appointed from the San Diego City Council
  - One appointed from each city council of Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway and Santee
  - One appointed from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors
  - One San Diego County resident elected by other Board members to serve as Chairman
- Subsidiary* MTS owns assets of: San Diego Trolley, Inc. (SDTI); San Diego Transit Corporation (SDTC); the San Diego & Arizona Eastern (SD&AE) Railway Company, which owns 108 miles of track and right-of-way; and San Diego Vintage Trolley, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established to restore historic trolley vehicles.
- Area of Jurisdiction* About 570 square miles of the urbanized areas of San Diego County as well as the rural parts of East County, 3240 total square miles, providing service to nearly 3 million San Diego County residents.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provision of Transit Services* MTS provides bus and rail services directly or by contract with public or private operators. MTS determines the routing, stops, frequency of service and hours of operation for its existing services.
- Light Rail* Light rail service is operated by SDTI on three lines (the Blue, Orange and Green Lines) through 53 stations and 52 miles of double track rail.
- Bus* Eighty-two fixed bus routes operated by MTS Bus. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit service is provided by MTS Access and ADA Suburban Paratransit.
- Freight* MTS contracts with the San Diego & Imperial Valley (SD&IV) Railroad and the Carrizo Gorge Railway (CZRY) to provide freight service to San Diego shippers over SD&AE right-of-way. SD&IV shares certain tracks with SDTI, operating during nonservice trolley hours.
- Operating* Approximately \$229 million; \$80 million comes from fares. Fare revenue accounts for 35% of annual operating cost, which is one of the highest fare box recovery ratios among similar transit systems.
- Ridership* Ninety-four million annual passengers, or 290,000 each weekday. MTS provides approximately 2 million hours of service across 28 million miles each year.
- Cost* Average subsidy per passenger is \$1.28. MTS' operating budget is \$230 million.
- Planning and Scheduling* MTS is responsible for the service planning, scheduling, and performance monitoring of all MTS transit services. Services adjustments occur three times per year as needed to improve efficiency and customer service.
- Funding* MTS receives funding from various federal, state and local sources. The primary sources are the California Transportation Development Act (TDA), the Federal section 5307 and 5309, State Transit Assistance (STA) and TransNet funds (local sales tax).
- Taxicab Administration* MTS licenses and regulates taxicabs, jitneys, and other private for-hire passenger transportation services by contract with the cities of San Diego, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Poway and Santee.

