

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
PUBLIC SECURITY COMMITTEE
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

May 14, 2020

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Montgomery called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A roll call sheet listing Public Security Committee members' attendance is attached.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Arambula moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2020 Public Security Committee meeting. Ms. Galvez seconded the motion, and the vote was 6 to 0 in favor.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments.

4. Proposed Fare Enforcement Diversion Program – Pilot Project (Karen Landers)

Karen Landers, MTS General Counsel, provided a presentation on the Proposed Fare Enforcement Diversion Program – Pilot Project. She mentioned that Karen Gorman from LA Metro was on the line for questions. Ms. Landers continued to describe the proposed Phase 1 Pilot – Diversion Program stating that it can be implemented quickly and that data can be collected to analyze what technological or staffing investments may need to be made. She explained 4 options to resolve a citation: pay a reduced fine within 60 days, complete community service within 60 days, limited appeal within 15 days and no action taken within 60 days. No action taken within 60 days will result in the citation being sent to the court for adjudication. In summary, Ms. Landers stated that staff is requesting feedback from the committee to move forward with a recommendation to the Board of Directors to implement the Phase 1 Pilot at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rosa Olascoaga – Ms. Olascoaga from Mid-City Can stated she is excited for the program. She would like to ask MTS Board Members to implement an internal policy to suspend fare evasion tickets during shelter in place orders until this pilot program goes into effect. Ms. Olascoaga asked for the Board to consider extending the payback timeline from 60 days to 90 days. Ms. Olascoaga would like to extend the vision of this program to include a transit school program, similar to driving school.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Vice Chair Aguirre commented that she appreciates the hybrid model and voiced her interest in seeing what the collected data will show to see if we can move towards a civil program. She asked if it would be possible to collect social demographic data. Ms. Landers stated that the

information is limited as to what is collected on the citation. Vice Chair Aguirre stated that she would like to see economic conditions data added to the pilot program. Ms. Landers suggested that could possibly be made as part of a survey when a person decides to participate in the program.

Mr. Arambula stated that for the purpose of this pilot program, a hybrid model makes sense. He stated the goal in examining the data, as the pilot program develops, would be to move to a more administrative and civil program.

Ms. Galvez stated that she appreciates this being a pilot program due to the potential shortfalls in the budget resulting in possible fare evasion rate increases. She asked how the pilot program will be communicated to the public. Ms. Landers stated the information will be given at the time a citation is issued. Ms. Galvez asked if parameters are set to modify or end the program if the fare evasion rate increases resulting in loss of revenue. Ms. Landers responded that the data would be reported regularly. She said that if there was a need to suspend the pilot program, then that could be done after discussing it with the committee.

Mr. Sandke asked LA Metro representative, Ms. Gorman, about the impacts they experienced as a system relative to their fare evasion rate. Ms. Gorman stated that LA Metro is complex and it is rather difficult to associate any fare evasion rates with any particular activity.

Ms. Weber recommended giving updates on the financial aspect at every committee meeting to make sure the committee could track any money losses, especially during the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Chair Montgomery asked Ms. Landers to provide more detail regarding the 60 day window versus the 90 day window for payments. Ms. Landers stated that the idea was to give the person a long enough time to figure out how they wanted to pursue the citation, but not too long that they would forget about the citation. Chair Montgomery asked for the pilot to include tracking how many people show up to MTS in person to pay and how many sign up after the 60 day window.

Action Taken

Mr. Sandke made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors to implement the Phase 1 Pilot for a new Fare Evasion Diversion Program. Ms. Weber seconded the motion and the vote was 6 to 0 in favor.

5. Annual Security Report (January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019) (Manny Guaderrama)

Manny Guaderrama, MTS Chief of Police, apologized for the delay in his presentation due to the pandemic. He then proceeded with the Annual Security Report for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Chief Guaderrama started the presentation with an introduction to the Transit Enforcement Department and its mission, and then continued with an employee training update. He also reviewed trolley and bus crime statistics, special enforcement details, quality of life and transient camp details, non-compliant arrests, Ride Assured, and updates on changes due to COVID-19.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Ms. Galvez stated that she has concerns with the amount of motor vehicle thefts in the south

sector. Chief Guaderrama responded that when there is a theft, the video is provided to Chula Vista Police Department (CVPD) and in most cases provides images of probable suspects. Ms. Galvez recommended having direct matriculation for CVPD to provide real-time access to the cameras in the stations. Chief Guaderrama said he is not opposed to this idea and would work with the MTS IT Department to see if it would be possible.

Mr. Arambula wanted to address the larceny theft numbers. Chief Guaderrama stated that this type of crime is an opportunity type of crime. He said that educating the patrons would be the best way to reduce the thefts. Mr. Arambula suggested better lighting, and possibly more cameras and signs stating you are being recorded as possible theft deterrents. Mr. Arambula asked for a copy of the de-escalation training lesson plan for the committee. He also asked about enforcement and Chief Guaderrama explained the fare inspection and enforcement processes. He also noted that there has been an 80% reduction in inspections and enforcement since the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Vice Chair Aguirre requested a copy of the biased based policing/cultural diversity lesson plan for the committee. Ms. Aguirre asked what type of disciplinary action is taken when inappropriate misconduct of an officer has occurred. Chief Guaderrama explained that it depends on the incident, but could result in retraining and/or discipline action, which could include suspension or termination. He also noted that all cases are documented.

Chair Montgomery asked to see more information on misconduct incidents and complaints that are filed related to these incidents in the future. She suggested a quarterly or biannual report, either as part of the regular reports or as a separate report. Ms. Cooney stated that MTS staff will work with Chair Montgomery's office to come up with a presentable report going forward.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Aguirre requested for the report being created related to misconduct and complaints be shared with the committee. Chair Montgomery confirmed that it would be.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting date is scheduled for July 23, 2020.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

/s/ Monica Montgomery

Chairperson

Attachment: A. Roll Call Sheet

PUBLIC SECURITY COMMITTEE
SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE) May 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER (TIME) 2:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

RECONVENE

ADJOURN 3:28 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
AGUIRRE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:28 p.m.
ARAMBULA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:28 p.m.
GALVEZ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:28 p.m.
MONTGOMERY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:28 p.m.
SANDKE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:28 p.m.
WEBER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:28 p.m.

SIGNED BY THE CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: *Karen Wisniewski*

CONFIRMED BY MANUEL GUADERRAMA: *M.E. Guaderrama*

c: Clerk of the Committee
Accounts Payable
Attachment to Original and Draft Minutes