

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

November 12, 2020

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Montgomery called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm. 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 September 24, 2020 Public Security Committee meeting. Chair Montgomery seconded the motion, and the vote was 5 to 0 in favor, with Mr. Sandke absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. Transit Enforcement Employee Residence Report (Tim Curran)

Tim Curran, Deputy Director of Transit Enforcement, provided a presentation on Transit Enforcement Employee Diversity and Residence Report. He presented the zip codes where both Code Compliance and contracted security officers reside, including a percentage breakdown of the officers' gender, ethnicity and how that compares to the ridership. He included percentages on bilingual officers. Mr. Curran closed by stating that the Transit Enforcement Department is a true reflection of the communities MTS serves.

Action Taken

No action take. Informational item only.

5. APTA Peer Organizational Review (Sharon Cooney)

Sharon Cooney, MTS Chief Executive Officer provided a presentation on the peer review process, panel members and their methodology. She discussed the Steering Committee and Community Advisory Committees' initial input on the scope of work. This initial input included topics on training, fare inspection practices, rider/community education, data capture/use, staffing, oversight and policies. Ms. Cooney went on to discuss the peer review findings and the next steps. Ms. Cooney ended her presentation stating a final report should be ready to be presented to the Public Security Committee in the New Year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michelle Krug – Ms. Krug commented on the differences regarding the number of in-house officers versus contracted officers. She feels having more in-house officers means more control over the training. Ms. Krug applauded the change in culture that MTS is making.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Vice Chair Aguirre commented on the Steering Committee recommendation to include additional mental health training for the staff. She noted that the concept of in-house staffing for the contract security officers could be very productive. Vice Chair Aguirre mentioned she likes the idea of having a permanent oversight committee and is looking forward to the final Organizational Review report.

Ms. Galvez stated that a permanent oversight committee would be appropriate. Ms. Galvez agreed with the mental health training recommendation and the data driven approach. She also supported the idea of the bright yellow shirts for better officer visibility. Ms. Galvez mentioned that a color coded breakdown in the final report to recognize and differentiate the items would be helpful.

Mr. Sandke commented on joint training as a wonderful exercise in having people work together in a complimentary fashion. Mr. Sandke discussed the problem with repeat offenders and asked what it would take before one would no longer be invited to ride the MTS system. He stated the importance of creating a way in which MTS can interface with the public that gives the public a direct line to propose changes or policies that would improve the MTS system.

Chair Montgomery asked when the draft report from the Peer Review Panel will be available. Ms. Cooney stated that it is contractually required to be turned into MTS in December. Chair Montgomery mentioned an interesting data point regarding fare evasion citations would be to see how many citations occur in waiting areas compared to citations given onboard vehicles. Chair Montgomery asked for elaboration on the peer reviewers' comments pertaining to the use of force and video retention policies. Ms. Cooney mentioned that the peer reviewers recommended MTS have written policies for all staff to abide by. Karen Landers, General Counsel, added that MTS is working on getting additional storage capacity for the body worn camera videos. Ms. Landers stated that it was recommended for MTS to create one comprehensive policy that details how video footage is handled including system capacity, chain of custody, when to release it, and when not allowed to release the videos. Chair Montgomery stated that she is looking forward to the full Organizational Review report.

Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item only.

6. Resource and Partnership Exploration for People Experiencing Homelessness (Amanda Denham and Scott Ybarrondo)

Amanda Denham, Director of Support Services, and Scott Ybarrondo, Manager of Operations – Transit Enforcement, provided their presentation on Resource and Partnership Exploration for People Experiencing Homelessness. Ms. Denham started the presentation with a look at the impact of homelessness on the MTS system. Mr. Ybarrondo discussed the current Transit Enforcement outreach schedule, and presented photos pertaining to customer concerns of safety, hygiene and cleanliness. Mr. Ybarrondo discussed environmental concerns near the river, safety concerns with fences being cut, and transient camp fires along the right of way. Ms. Denham stated that in addition to data collected from the MTS system, she also looked at transit data collected through other sources. Ms. Denham reported key findings from the data collected including how partnerships are essential to addressing homelessness. Ms. Denham discussed how other transit industries and local jurisdictions are partnering to address mental health issues associated with homelessness. Mr. Ybarrondo reviewed MTS's current strategies of building relationships in the communities. Ms. Denham concluded the presentation with potential next

steps to determine MTS's roles and goals.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Vice Chair Aguirre commented that this is a step in the right direction and likes the efforts made to partner regionally. She stated that she looks forward to seeing how MTS can address this issue in a compassionate way that will also offer the best possible experience for both non-choice riders and choice riders.

Mr. Sandke commented that MTS needs to consider that some individuals, because of their behavior, need to be excluded from our system. He stated the importance of defending the rights of MTS riders by the need for all riders to follow a code of conduct, respectful behavior, and legal behavior in a public place. Mr. Sandke stated MTS could facilitate partnerships that would make connections with services to help those that are able to be helped, but also not to forget MTS's core mission which is to move people to their jobs, homes and the things they need to do in their lives.

Ms. Weber commented that even though it is not MTS's goal to solve the homelessness problem, MTS should play a role in helping. She encourages MTS to continue to reach out to cities and other agencies to form partnerships as partnerships are going to be key in helping to solve this issue.

Chair Montgomery appreciated the committee coming from diverse regions with different backgrounds and perspectives. Chair Montgomery stated that the committee conversations help push for a better transit system and plays an active role in the issues the region is face, including homelessness. She commented that the next steps for MTS would be looking into getting contracts and to see what partnerships look like in regards to a financial commitment. Chair Montgomery noted that it will take time, but she appreciates the approach and likes the direction MTS is heading.

Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item only.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

No committee member comments.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is to be determined based on the members' availability.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

/S/ Monica Montgomery-Steppe
Chairperson

Attachment: A. Roll Call Sheet

PUBLIC SECURITY COMMITTEE
SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE) November 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER (TIME) 2:06 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

RECONVENE

ADJOURN 3:17 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
AGUIRRE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:17 p.m.
ARAMBULA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:17 p.m.
GALVEZ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:17 p.m.
MONTGOMERY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:17 p.m.
SANDKE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:20 p.m.	3:17 p.m.
WEBER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2:00 p.m.	3:17 p.m.

SIGNED BY THE CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE:

Karen Wisniewski

CONFIRMED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT ENFORCEMENT:

[Signature]