

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

MINUTES

March 4, 2021

[Clerk's note: Except where noted, public, staff and board member comments are paraphrased. Note that the meeting was conducted via webinar to comply with public health orders].

1. Roll Call

Chair Fletcher called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Executive Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Fletcher moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021, MTS Executive Committee meeting. Board Member Sandke seconded the motion, and the vote was 4 to 0 in favor with Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis, Board Member Gastil and Board Member Salas absent.

3. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Quarterly Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project Update (Ramon Ruelas of SANDAG)

Ramon Ruelas of SANDAG presented on the quarterly Mid-Coast Corridor transit project update. He outlined the following aspects of the project: project overview, Mid-Coast construction schedule, Mid-Coast construction progress, DBE utilization, construction upgrade, public involvement, accomplishments in last quarter and next steps.

Chair Fletcher asked what the pedestrian accessibility would be to get to the Clairemont station.

Mr. Ruelas clarified there will be a crosswalk in place that will be enhanced for pedestrian access. There will not be a pedestrian bridge, but rather a pedestrian walkway with surface access across the parking lot. Additionally, there will be a pick-up and drop-off area on the east side of the development pathway.

Chair Fletcher asked if there were concerns about the location of the pedestrian walkway since the area is heavily trafficked.

Mr. Ruelas was confident there would not be any concerns due to the signage and appropriate traffic control modifications that will be in place to avert complications.

Board Member Elo-Rivera asked if there was a budget allocation plan to monitor the walkways and elevators for cleanliness, safety and security.

Mr. Ruelas explained that security video cameras will be placed throughout the stations.

Wayne Terry, MTS Chief Operating Officer – Rail, noted that the consultants, contractors and security team have placed cameras in a way to assure there are no blind spots in the monitored areas.

Board Member Elo-Rivera was concerned about camera placement that could make some riders feel surveilled. He noted safety features that could also make riders feel safe include

cleanliness and lighting. He encouraged these features to be incorporated in the design to create an inviting atmosphere for riders.

Sharon Cooney, MTS Chief Executive Officer, explained MTS was part of the design from the inception of the project. She assured that the design of stations were built to ensure comfortability and safety for riders. She also noted that the security plan is currently being developed with the Director of Transit Security and Passenger Safety.

Board Member Elo-Rivera asked about the potential for the Clairemont parking lot to be converted into a transit-oriented development.

Ms. Cooney noted that the parking lot would serve as supplement access to the station for additional commuting riders. She clarified the use of the lot will continuously be monitored while noting the area is part of a shared parking agreement with neighboring amenities.

Rob Schupp, MTS Director of Marketing and Communications, emphasized the collaboration between SANDAG, MTS, UC San Diego and the County. The regional importance of this addition will include South Bay events, along with the 40th anniversary of the Blue Line. A safety plan is also being developed for passenger accessibility.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

5. Free Transfer Consideration (Rob Schupp)

Mr. Schupp provided a presentation on the transfer history and revenue modeling. He outlined the following details: background, transfer history, peer agency analysis, free transfer with one-way ticket analysis, free transfer revenue analysis/impacts, one-way ridership and staff's proposal.

Chair Fletcher asked for clarification on free transfers being integrated into the PRONTO card. He asked Mr. Schupp to explain how MTS will market details for obtaining a PRONTO card.

Mr. Schupp replied that a robust transition plan is in place, including a large transition plan for the expanded retail network. MTS has begun communication with social service agencies, business partners, city employer programs and currently registered card customers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Krug – Provided a verbal statement to the members during the meeting. Krug was concerned about one-time visiting riders and their accessibility to the PRONTO card. Krug also asked when the complimentary cards would be distributed.

Colin Parent – with Circulate San Diego provided a verbal statement to the members during the meeting. Parent stated that the fare policy capping is a progressive effort as it allows the agency to make transfers fair and equal.

Noah Harris – with Climate Action Campaign provided a verbal statement to the members during the meeting. Harris voiced support for the free transfer policy and noted concerns regarding the raising of fares during the current economic recession. Harris urged the reduction of youth fares without having service cuts.

Jesse O'Sullivan – with Circulate San Diego provided a verbal statement to the members during the meeting. O'Sullivan expressed support for the staff policy recommendation.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Gastil acknowledged the monetary trade offs in the budget. He asked for a differentiation between the monthly pass versus the PRONTO pass and supported the project.

Mr. Schupp explained the PRONTO account can be established with a set value with the flexibility to add more value to the pass. The cost of the ride will be automatically deducted and the rider will never be charged more than the value of a day pass in one day.

Board Member Elo-Rivera asked if the agency could partner with community-based organizations for outreach.

Mr. Schupp explained various community-based partners would be used in the outreach. Currently, the Community Advisory Committee engages with interest groups to facilitate the platform change.

Board Member Elo-Rivera asked if the constituents would be monetarily compensated for their outreach efforts.

Ms. Cooney responded this could be a possibility; however, the option of doing so would have to be explored further.

Chair Fletcher noted the recommendation should include community-based organizations as a mode to enhance outreach and engagement. He acknowledged that alleviating the burden of the transition would increase the success rate of the program.

Board Member Elo-Rivera asked that the motion move forward with the transfer recommendation and exclude raising fares. He asked that the committee explore all options to secure the revenue needed to support the service.

Chair Fletcher asked MTS staff how excluding the fare increase proposal in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 from the recommendation would affect the agency and the process at SANDAG.

Ms. Cooney explained the increase would be in anticipation of the fiscal needs in 2025. She noted including the fare increase would allow staff to prepare for the change and reduce timing delays by having SANDAG pass a comprehensive regional fare ordinance change. Alternatively, Ms. Cooney suggested including the recommendation into the ordinance with the disclosure that MTS staff can decide whether or not to enforce the fare increase.

Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis supported the revised recommendation to include the change in the ordinance and exercise at the Board and staff's discretion. She asked that the PRONTO card handouts be done at different times of day to provide access to as many riders as possible. She supported the suggestion to monetarily incentivize community-based organizations with their outreach efforts.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe supported the proposal with the amended recommendations. She also encouraged the opportunity for data collection.

Action Taken

Board Member Elo-Rivera moved to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors to: 1) Implement fare policy change to allow “best fare”; 2) Reduce Youth One-way fares to align with SDM; 3) Keep all other fares at the current rate; 4) Allow free transfers with one-way fare with PRONTO card; 4) Use CARES/COVID Relief funding to fill revenue gaps through FY2024; and 5) Allow one-way fares to increase to \$2.75 in FY 2025 pending subsequent Board action. Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis seconded the motion, and the vote was 5 to 0 in favor with Board Member Salas and Board Member Sandke absent.

6. New Bus Maintenance Facility – Division 6 (Denis Desmond)

Denis Desmond, MTS Director of Planning, presented on the new bus maintenance facility project. He outlined the following aspects of the project: defining a bus division, existing five bus divisions, need for division expansion, future facility specifications, location sites, project schedule and budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Horgan – Provided a verbal statement to the members during the meeting. Horgan asked if the new facility would be operated as a contracted or in-house facility.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Montgomery Steppe asked about the potential displacement referenced in the presentation. She asked if the displacement would be along the site located in an industrial area, since it would be difficult to locate a green field area for that topographic region.

Mr. Desmond clarified this would include industrial displacement.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe emphasized the importance of community engagement in the early development of the project. She listed the following organizations as potential partners: San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition, Chollas Valley Community Planning Group (formerly Encanto), Chollas View Volunteer Park, Town Councils, Western Member Town Councils, Elementary Institute of Science, Lincoln Cluster, NAACP Environmental Committee, Outdoor Outreach, The Jacob Center, Urban Collaborative, and the Chollas Creek Coalition.

Board Member Elo-Rivera explained the economic prosperities the development could bring to the area, but also cautioned for potential unintended consequences. He asked if the site would house Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs).

Mr. Desmond replied the site would primarily be used as a new operating and maintenance facility for the transition to ZEBs.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

7. Declaration of Surplus Property Site (Karen Landers)

Karen Landers, MTS General Counsel, provided a presentation on declaring a surplus property site. She outlined the following aspects of the site: 5801 and 5805 Fairmount Ave, El Dorado Properties, Inc. request to negotiate property sale, surplus property declaration, and staff recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Krug – Provided a verbal statement to the members during the meeting. Krug asked if the Grantville housing prioritized low-income housing.

Action Taken

Chair Fletcher moved to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors to declare the property located at 5801 and 5805 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, California as “surplus land” for purposes of Government Code sections 54220, et seq. Board Member Gastil seconded the motion, and the vote was 5 to 0 in favor with Board Member Salas and Board Member Sandke absent.

8. Approval of Complimentary Transit Services (Sharon Cooney)

Ms. Cooney explained MTS Policy No. 40, “MTS: Complimentary Services”, requires Executive Committee approval for MTS to provide complimentary transit services for any purpose not specifically covered in the policy. Jewish Family Services approached the agency for interim services to transport asylum seekers to temporary housing. Ms. Cooney clarified MTS would only support this service for six weeks as it could detract from regular transit service. If the requests for service were made daily during the six week period, the service would accrue a \$50,000 cost.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Krug – Provided a verbal statement to the members during the meeting. Krug expressed approval for this proposal. Krug asked the committee to consider extending the six-week service if the service will not limit the agencies operations after the expiration date.

Action Taken

Chair Fletcher moved to approve complimentary transit services to asylum seekers from the U.S.-Mexico border to various temporary lodging locations in San Diego for up to six weeks. Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis seconded the motion, and the vote was 5 to 0 in favor with Board Member Salas and Board Member Sandke absent.

ADDITIONAL STAFF COMMENT

Ms. Cooney also noted that the City of San Diego approached MTS to transport individuals at the convention center to temporary housing. MTS provided this service at the beginning of the pandemic and would like to assist in the effort again. She noted that because the cost of the service does not meet the threshold of needing approval from the Executive Committee under MTS Policy No. 40, MTS would move forward on participating in the humanitarian effort.

OTHER ITEMS

9. REVIEW OF DRAFT March 11, 2021 BOARD AGENDA

Recommended Consent Items

6. El Cajon Third Track Special Trackwork Materials – Contract Award

Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. L1569.0-21, with Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, Inc., (“Voestalpine”), for the one-time supply of special trackwork materials, in the amount of \$503,871.33, effective April 1, 2021.

7. Blue Line Right Of Way Fence Improvements – Construction Change Orders (CCO)
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute CCO MTSJOC275-13.01 under Job Order Contract (JOC) Work Order MTS Doc. No. PWG275.0-19 with ABC Construction Co., Inc. (ABC), in the amount of \$166,984.80 for the replacement of additional chain link fencing along the Blue Line right-of-way.
8. Superloop Paver Replacement – Work Order Agreement
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order MTSJOC275-18 under Job Order Contract (JOC) MTS Doc. No. PWG275.0-19 with ABC Construction Co., Inc. (ABC), in the amount of \$168,500.75 for the replacement of damaged pavers with concrete along the SuperLoop route.
9. Rail Welding Services – Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. PWL323.0-21, with Railworks Track Services, Inc., for rail welding services, for five (5) years effective May 1, 2021, in the amount of \$277,171.27.
10. Fare Collection Change Orders – Contract Amendment
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Amendment No. 6 to MTS Doc. No. G2091.0-18, with Innovations in Transportation, Inc. (INIT), for a total contract increase of \$765,271.76.
11. Building C Security Restroom & Locker Room Rehabilitation –Work Order Agreement
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order MTSJOC324-01 under Job Order Contract (JOC) to MTS Doc. No. PWG324.0-21 (in substantially the same format as Attachment A) with ABC Construction Co., Inc. (ABC), in the amount of \$349,714.14, for rehabilitating the MTS Security restrooms and locker rooms in Building C.
12. Engine Transmission Overhaul & Cummins Parts – Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. Nos. B0719.0-21 to Harbor Diesel and Equipment (Group I), B0727.0-21 to Cummins, Inc. (Group II), and B0728.0-21 to Cummins, Inc., B0729.0-21 to Aftermarket Parts, and B0730.0-21 to Muncie Transit Supply (Group III) for Engine Transmission Overhaul and Cummins Parts for five (5) years for a total amount of \$12,458,722.24.
13. Crosstie and Grade Crossing Improvements – Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. PWL325.0-21, with Veterans Engineering Services, Inc., a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), for Crosstie and Grade Crossing Improvements in the amount of \$2,358,317.36 plus 20% contingency.

14. Transit Vehicle Wrap Production and Installation Services – Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. G2437.0-21, with Turbo Images, for the provision of Transit Vehicle Wrap Production and Installation Services for a three (3)-year period in the amount of \$200,627.83.
15. Application for Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust (Trust) Fund Bus Replacement Program
Action approve Resolution No. 20-2, authorizing the application for rebates of up to \$720,000 in VW Trust funds for the current and future purchase of battery electric buses.
16. Property Insurance Renewal
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to renew the property insurance coverage for the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), San Diego Transit Corporation (SDTC), and San Diego Trolley, Inc. (SDTI) with the Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management (PRISM) [formerly known as the California State Association of Counties – Excess Insurance Authority (CSAC-EIA)] Property Insurance Program, effective March 31, 2021, through March 31, 2022, with various coverage deductibles of \$25,000 (real estate and personal contents property), \$100,000 (bus fleet), \$250,000 (light rail fleet) and \$1,500,000 (roads, bridges and tunnels).
17. Declaration of Surplus Property Site
Action would declare the property located at 5801 and 5805 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, California as “surplus land” for purposes of Government Code sections 54220, et seq.

10. Committee Member Communications and Other Business

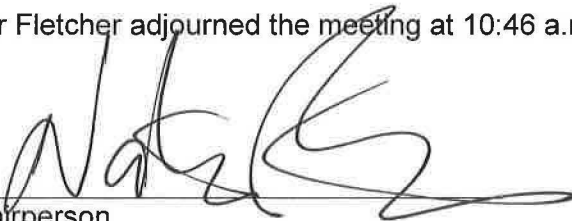
Julia Tuer, Manager of Government Affairs, briefly discussed the items on the SANDAG Transportation Committee meeting agenda. The items included the following: TransNet commercial paper program and an update on the regional bikeway program.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. [Clerk’s note: the April 1, 2021 Executive Committee was subsequently cancelled.]

12. Adjournment

Chair Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.



Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): March 4, 2021 CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 9:01 am
 RECESS: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 CLOSED SESSION: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 PUBLIC HEARING: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 ORDINANCES ADOPTED: _____ ADJOURN: 10:46 am

REPRESENTATIVE	BOARD MEMBER	(Alternate)	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
County	FLETCHER (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Vargas) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:01 am	10:46 am
Vice Chair	SOTELO-SOLIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (no alternate) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:03 am	10:46 am
City of San Diego	ELO-RIVERA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Montgomery Steppe) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:01 am	10:46 am
East County	GASTIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Hall) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:03 am	10:46 am
SANDAG Transportation Committee	MONTGOMERY STEPPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Aguirre) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:01 am	10:46 am
Chair Pro Tem	SALAS	<input type="checkbox"/> (no alternate) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	-
South Bay	SANDKE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Aguirre) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:01 am	10:46 am

SIGNED BY THE CLERK OF THE BOARD:

CONFIRMED BY THE GENERAL COUNSEL:

