

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

November 4, 2021

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Montgomery Steppe called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm. A roll call sheet listing Public Security Committee members' attendance is attached.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Whitburn moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021, Public Security Committee meeting. Mr. Hall seconded the motion, and the vote was 4 to 0 in favor, with Vice Chair Aguirre and Mr. Elo-Rivera absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. Director's Security Update (Al Stiehler)

Al Stiehler, Director of Transit Security & Passenger Safety, started his presentation with an update on de-escalation training, the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) training and mentioned the status on the Naloxone Project. He discussed the Bus Enforcement Support Team (B.E.S.T.), touched bases with the Inter-Con Transition and talked about the homeless outreach efforts. Mr. Stiehler went over the APTA Peer Review Updates, mentioned the Employee of the Month and that the MTS Canine Sergeant was invited to provide security at the Super Bowl in 2022. He continued with the Employee Engagement and Wellness Council, the Employee Recognition Day and mentioned the Community Engagement where MTS Canine officers were invited to do a canine demonstration for the St. Pius X Red Ribbon Day and Blue Mass for first responders. Mr. Stiehler ended his presentation with a video showing his UTC ride with special guests from El Cajon Valley High School.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Ms. Galvez commented that she appreciates Mr. Stiehler's philosophies and how he keeps up the spirits and happy attitudes of his team.

Mr. Whitburn applauded the work being done. He asked about the homeless contacts who decline services and if MTS has the resources needed to move along those individuals. Mr. Stiehler stated that the officers will ask individuals to leave the station and if they refuse, the officer can call local police agencies for assistance. Mr. Whitburn asked if the hiring for Inter-Con is on track and Mr. Stiehler stated that it is a little ahead of schedule.

Chair Montgomery Steppe commended the work done thus far and asked about attending a

de-escalation training session. Mr. Stiehler stated the next training is being held by the District Attorney's office and said he would send her the date. Chair Montgomery Steppe mentioned barriers when trying to provide help to those in need and asked if there is anything that can be done on a policy level at the respective agencies/municipalities that could help MTS. Mr. Stiehler discussed issues with having beds available when needed. He stated that there are a lot of resources out there, but everyone is working separately. If resources could all be pulled together, it would be a great thing and make a difference. Chair Montgomery Steppe inquired about the new deployment strategy and asked if it will be different or remain the same. Mr. Stiehler stated the plan is to have security personnel at every two to three stations along the line, which will give officer station presence and will allow for a train to be checked three or four times as it moves up the line. Mr. Stiehler stated that once we are fully staffed in January it will give a better idea on how effective this strategy will be.

Chair Montgomery Steppe asked Ms. Landers, General Counsel, about the video retention policy. Ms. Landers stated that documentation on the proposed video system procedures were brought to the Public Security Committee in March and MTS has been working on how to formalize that documentation into a policy that would be taken to the MTS Board of Directors.

5. Mid-Coast Deployment Update (Isaiah Alexander)

Isaiah Alexander, Assistant Manager of Field Operations for Transit Security and Passenger Safety, provided a presentation with updates on the Mid-Coast Deployment. He mentioned that the extension has added eleven miles of track and nine additional trolley stations. Mr. Alexander stated that three stations will be staffed with armed guards: Nobel Drive, UCSD Central Campus and UTC. He said these particular stations were chosen due to the expectation to produce the most ridership. Mr. Alexander also mentioned that there will be two train teams and one mobile unit. He continued with how many additional personnel were hired and finished with mentioning the outside agencies outreach meetings and working relationships established with first responding agencies.

Mr. Whitburn asked if the new portion of the Blue Line will be treated separately from a security standpoint or if it will be folded into the existing Blue Line. Mr. Alexander stated that it will be part of the existing system and when the deployment is being done, it will just be added to what is already in place. Mr. Whitburn asked if there have been any issues thus far with the new platforms including tagging or security issues. Mr. Alexander commented that there was some graffiti at the Tecolote Station, but there has been a decrease with the presence of security as opening day gets closer.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS

No committee comments.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be determined.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

/S/ Monica Montgomery Steppe
Chairperson

Attachment: A. Roll Call Sheet

ROLL CALL

ADJOURN 2:44 pm

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