



## Agenda

### MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM PUBLIC SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 17, 2022

2:00 pm

\*Meeting will be held via webinar\*

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#### ACTION RECOMMENDED

1. ROLL CALL

2. [APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 4, 2021](#)

Approve

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. [Security and Passenger Safety Community Advisory Group Meeting \(Sharon Cooney\)](#)

Possible Action

Action would receive a report on the Security and Passenger Safety Community Advisory Group and provide feedback.

5. [Director's Security Update \(Al Stiehler\)](#)

Informational

#### OTHER ITEMS

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: April 21, 2022

8. ADJOURNMENT



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



## Agenda Item No. 4

### MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM PUBLIC SECURITY COMMITTEE (PSC)

February 17, 2022

#### SUBJECT:

SECURITY AND PASSENGER SAFETY COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING  
(SHARON COONEY)

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Public Security Committee receive a report on the Security and Passenger Safety Community Advisory Group and provide feedback.

#### Budget Impact

None.

#### DISCUSSION:

The Security and Passenger Safety Community Advisory Group (CAG) is comprised of 16 voting members. The duties of the CAG are advisory and include the following:

- a. Provide feedback to the Public Security Committee related to security and passenger safety practices throughout the MTS system;
- b. Act as a resource to the Public Security Committee to review proposed security and passenger safety policies and procedures;
- c. Provide recommendations to the Public Security Committee on security and passenger safety policies and procedures; and
- d. Review, comment, and provide recommendations on special proposed programs and projects forwarded to the CAG by the Public Security Committee.

The CAG had its first meeting on February 1, 2022, in which they appointed Megan Welsh as Chair and John Brady as Vice Chair. Megan Welsh is an Associate Professor for the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University and John Brady is an active advocate for the unsheltered population in San Diego. The CAG was then provided a comprehensive report from Al Stiehler, Director of Transit Security and Passenger Safety, on department updates and initiatives.

The CAG will tentatively meet prior to each Public Security Committee meeting.



The Public Security Committee is asked to provide feedback to staff on what topics should be addressed at the next CAG meeting. MTS staff will work with Chair Welsh to bring the suggested items forward to the next CAG meeting.

/S/ Sharon Cooney  
Sharon Cooney  
Chief Executive Officer

Key Staff Contact: Julia Tuer, 619.557.4515, [Julia.Tuer@sdmts.com](mailto:Julia.Tuer@sdmts.com)

Attachment: A. CAG Roster



**SECURITY AND PASSENGER SAFETY COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP  
APPOINTMENT LIST**

(3 Year Term: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024)

South Bay Resident Transit Rider (1 representative):

- Rocina Lizarraga

East County Resident Transit Rider (1 representative):

- Vinton Omaleki

City of San Diego Resident Transit Rider (2 representatives):

- Hoan-Vu Do
- Karen Howard

Youth/Young Adult (2 representatives):

- Manu Agni
- Emma Rodriguez

Senior Community Advocate (1 representative):

- V Turner

Educator with a Primary Study Focus in Public Safety (2 representatives):

- Roddrick Colvin
- Megan Welsh

Business or Tourism Professional (1 representative):

- Todd Temple

Social Service Agency Professional (1 representative):

- Matthew Wechter

Public Safety Professional or Consultant (1 representative):

- Bobby Ray Salas

Disabled Community Advocate (1 representative):

- Michelle Krug

Community Advocacy Group Member (2 representatives):

- John Brady
- Ariana Federico Mondragon

Representative Appointed by the Executive Director of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless:

- Kathryn Durant







## Agenda Item No. 5

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM  
PUBLIC SECURITY COMMITTEE (PSC)

February 17, 2022

SUBJECT:

DIRECTOR'S SECURITY UPDATE (AL STIEHLER)

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None with this action

DISCUSSION:

The Director of Transit Security and Passenger Safety will provide information and updates regarding initiatives that are currently underway and new projects to be implemented that will enhance the transportation environment for our customers and employees.

/S/ Sharon Cooney

Sharon Cooney  
Chief Executive Officer

Key Staff Contact: Julia Tuer, 619.557.4515, [Julia.Tuer@sdmts.com](mailto:Julia.Tuer@sdmts.com)





# Public Security Committee Director's Report

February 17, 2022

# Inter-Con Transition

- Three Phases
  - Preparation (Through October 15<sup>th</sup>)
  - Implementation (Through November 12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Execution (January 1, 2022)
- Corporate Support and Infrastructure
  - Local office located at the Westgate Hotel
- Current Staffing
  - 117 Armed
  - 60 Unarmed
  - 177 Goal



# Naloxone (Narcan)

- Project Status
  - Implemented on July 1, 2021
  - All active Code Compliance Officers trained
  - 18 incidents of administered doses
- CDC data shows that the US reached a record high of more than 96,000 drug overdose deaths in a 12-month period.



# Bus Enforcement Support Team (B.E.S.T.)

- Team started operations March 7, 2021
  - 698 Calls for service
  - 1539 Buses met



# Bus Enforcement Support Team (B.E.S.T.)

- 1500 Bus stops inspected
  - 119 Individuals accepted outreach information
  - 198 refused assistance



# Community Engagement

# Homeless Outreach Efforts

## Joint Outreach Pilot

- 12<sup>th</sup> and Imperial
- Mondays and Wednesdays
  - 7:30AM to 11AM
- Results
  - 452 people encountered
  - 41 accepted shelter
    - 13 Approved – No beds available
  - 10 utilized the Family Reunification Program





# Community Engagement

## San Diego Safe Kids Safety Fair

- National Injury Prevention Day



# Community Engagement (cont.)



# Super Bowl

February 13, 2022

SoFi Stadium, Inglewood,  
California

K-9 Supervisor Francisco Bautista  
& K-9 Aska

- Other local agencies:

US Coast Guard

San Diego Harbor Police



# Employee Engagement

# Employee Survey

## Results (43 respondents)

- 100 percent said that they have a thorough understanding of the mission statement and core values
- 32 of 43 felt employees in the department work as a team at least “very well”
- 32 of 37 feel comfortable voicing concerns to a supervisor
- 33 of 37 feel management treats all employees fairly

# Employee Survey (cont.)

## Issues Identified

- CCIs feel that they need more feed back from supervisors
- CCIs feel that other internal departments need to know more about their role and responsibilities
- CCIs would like to explore more self-defense options



# What's Next?

# Deployment





# Wellness Council

Peer Support

Wellness Programs/Training

Physical Wellness

Comradery Events

# Professional Standards Unit

- Identify misconduct that discredits the organization and decreases legitimacy within the diverse communities we serve.
- Complete thorough and timely investigations in order to ensure that our employees consistently treat all community members fairly, with dignity and respect.
- Enhance public trust and ensure the quality of service to our valued riders.

# Challenges

- Enhancing outreach efforts
  - Establishing new partners
  - Identifying additional resources
- Crime reduction
  - Provide a safer environment for riders
  - Reducing assaults on personnel
- Fare Collection
  - Enhancing revenue

# Questions?