

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 3, 2022

[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 9:05 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 January 13, 2022, MTS Executive Committee meeting. Board Member Moreno seconded the motion, and the vote was 6 to 0 in favor with Board Member Salas absent.

3. Public Comments

Christine Brady –Made a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Brady requested the homeless population be offered discounted fares, similarly as senior and disabled passes. Brady also asked it be authorized with community-based organizations that work closely with the homeless population.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. COVID-19 Update (Sharon Cooney)

Sharon Cooney, MTS Chief Executive Officer, presented on the COVID-19 update. She presented on: Impact of COVID absences, tight labor market, trolley COVID cases, effect of trolley operator call-outs minimal and short lived, bus operator shortage, bus operator shortage impact on service, bus operator recruitment, service changes, COVID-19 customer complaints, ridership, and fiscal year 2022 operating budget revenue assumptions - passenger levels.

Chair Fletcher was encouraged by the trends.

Board Member Elo-Rivera was encouraged by the article acknowledging increased ridership. He asked about the workforce issues and asked if the agency has partnered with the Community College Districts to create job partnership opportunities.

Ms. Cooney stated that the agency currently collaborates with the various districts to facilitate job opportunities. She acknowledged that the agency has various career paths at the agency, beyond transit operators.

Board Member Elo-Rivera offered support to assist facilitating career paths.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

5. Ridership Recovery Action Plan Update (Mark Olson)

Mark Olson, MTS Director of Marketing and Communications, presented on ridership recovery action plan update. He outlined: Ridership Update, November – February recap and results, upcoming initiatives and promotions.

Board Member Moreno referenced the ridership results slide and asked how many of the riders were added with the Blue Line extension and how the agency was capturing the data.

Mr. Olson explained the onboard mechanisms that count passenger boardings per station.

Ms. Cooney stated a range of 10,000 to 12,000 boardings for the Mid-Coast extension stations and passenger increase trends. She also stated that East County parking lots have reported higher than usual use. She believed that El Cajon residents were beginning to use the system to commute to the University Town Center area.

Board Member Moreno clarified that she was posing the question to distinguish between the Mid-Coast and Blue Line ridership data.

Ms. Cooney acknowledged that the data reported was from December, before the COVID surge.

Mr. Olson clarified that Pueblo Planning would conduct research and generate a report in six months.

Chair Fletcher noted that he has the same question about ridership baseline as Board Member Moreno. He clarified that while some UCSD classes returned to in person participation, the agency should report ridership differences in the upcoming Spring quarter.

Board Member Sandke also referenced the article acknowledging the increase in ridership. He was happy to see how crucial MTS was to the regional education system. He acknowledged the summer escape program and encouraged the Board to integrate the waterway transportation as part of a regional commuter option. He asked staff if the agency has had successful conversations with SANDAG or the ferry operators regarding the PRONTO integration process.

Mr. Olson stated that the agency will be assessing special events and integration with ferry services. He assured Board Member Sandke that there are several marketing opportunities to integrate the system into PRONTO. He shared an anecdote about an incident that forced commuters to use the ferry system in order to access the airport; he envisioned the ferry being a top option for airport access rather than a last resort.

Board Member Elo-Rivera acknowledged that the Youth Opportunity Pass projected outline made the program tangible, which was exciting for him and youth constituents. He wanted staff to explain the tactic that would assure the agency references low-income riders as the target audience while simultaneously considering tourist needs.

Mr. Olson noted that the main target audience are the residents of the service area while understanding that San Diego is a vacation destination. He acknowledged the importance of capturing the needs of the South Bay and that many of the efforts will be targeted.

Board Member Elo-Rivera asked that the agency create next steps based on the needs of primary constituents. He supported additional services for tourists in order to better support residential transit dependent riders. He agreed with Board Member Sandke's vision for a waterway system in order to attract new riders.

Chair Fletcher added his support to a ferry system and listed the various benefits to the addition.

Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis was excited about Federal project funding. She supported a waterway system and listed various benefits to the addition.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. Trolley to Airport Update (Heather Furey and Brent Boyd)

Ms. Cooney presented on Trolley to Airport Update. She outlined the following information: Elevate SD background, Advantages of Trolley Serving Airport, 2022 Trolley to Airport Feasibility Study, 2022 Feasibility Study, Potential Cost Estimates, Downtown to Laurel Segment, Laurel to Airport, Options, and 2022 Feasibility Study.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Noah Harris – Representing Climate Action Campaign made a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Harris cited sea level and ground water climate change projection maps and cautioned the Board about the impacts to this and other transportation impact threats. Harris urged the board to adequately study and prepare for these changes.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Board Member Sandke agreed that the agency should assess climate change as an obstacle to this project. He acknowledged his seat as the Airport Authority Advisory Committee representative and noted that the community outreach group at the airport may have differing visions. He asked if a trolley to the airport project would interfere with SANDAG's mobility hub to the airport. He also pointed out the acute price difference with the tunneling option. He asked that stakeholders be included into the connection vision.

Ms. Cooney stated that the agency has met with the five different policy stakeholders. She explained that the central mobility hub is contingent on other infrastructure improvements and that the project would not be completed within the next six years.

Chair Fletcher acknowledged that the agency aims to work in partnership with all stakeholders while being conscious that the mobility hub connection is currently a vision with no timeline. Currently the agency has an opportunity to build the trolley connection with viable projections and encouraged the Board to move forward with the project.

Board Member Sandke acknowledged that this project needs a strong infrastructure backbone which the agency can spearhead. He asked Ms. Cooney to assist and prepare a report back on this project to the Airport Authority Advisory Committee.

Chair Fletcher also pointed out the infrastructure funding currently available which could help move the project forward.

Board Member Elo-Rivera reminded the Board to revisit the agency's mission rather than being committed to a particular project preference. He acknowledged that inexpensive solutions do not necessarily yield cost effective results.

Chair Fletcher assured the Board that additional visions are welcomed. He was concerned about the time variable and any unknowns that would create project delays.

Action Taken

Chair Fletcher moved to receive the report. Board Member Elo-Rivera seconded the motion, and the vote was 6 to 0 in favor with Board Member Salas absent.

OTHER ITEMS

8. REVIEW OF DRAFT March 10, 2022 BOARD AGENDA

Recommended Consent Items

6. Authorization of Remote Teleconferenced Meetings
Action would authorize remote teleconferenced meetings for any public meetings held by MTS, including all Brown Act committees, for the next thirty (30) days pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 361 and make the following findings: 1) The MTS Board has considered the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact in San Diego County; and 2) State or local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing. On September 23, 2021, County of San Diego Public Health Officer, Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., issued a recommendation supporting the use of teleconferencing for attendance at public meetings as “a social distancing measure that may help control transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.”
7. On-Call Card Access Reader Services – Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. PWG340.0-22 (in substantially the same format as Attachment A) with Electro Specialty Systems (ESS), a Small Business (SB), for \$318,956.00, for the provision of on-call card access reader services for three (3) base years from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2025, and three option years from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028.
8. San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan – Annual Update
9. Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) and Iris Rapid Projects Construction Management (CM) Services – Award Work Order Amendment
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order Amendment No. WOA2501-CM01.1 under MTS Doc. No. G2501.0-21 (in substantially the same format as Attachment A), with TRC Engineers, Inc. totaling \$574,202.74 for CM services for the Iris Rapid Project.
10. Cisco Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Licenses Three (3) Year Maintenance Renewal
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute a Purchase Order (PO) to Axelliant, LLC, a Minority Owned Business Enterprise (MBE) and a Small Business (SB), for the renewal of the CISCO VOIP licenses for three (3) years that includes technical support and software updates through March 26, 2025 for a total of \$227,890.30.

11. Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Procurement Project: 60-Foot Low-Floor Electric Buses – Contract Amendment (New Flyer)
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Amendment No. 3 to MTS Doc. No. B0722.0-21 (insubstantially the same format as Attachment A) with New Flyer, in the amount of \$155,428.49 per technical specification changes for the twelve (12) 60-foot low-floor electric battery-powered buses.
12. Cost Segregation Services – Mid-Coast Project – Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. G2582.0-22 (in substantially the same format as Attachment A) with HCA Asset Management LLC (HCA) for Cost Segregation Services for the Mid-Coast Project for a two (2) year base period for \$143,250.00.
13. Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Funding
Action would adopt Resolution No. 22-02 in order to: 1) Agree to comply with all conditions and requirements set forth in the Certification and Assurances Document, and applicable statutes, regulations, and guidelines for all LCTOP funded transit projects; and 2) Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or designated representative, to execute all required documents of the LCTOP and any amendments thereto with the California Department of Transportation; and 3) Authorize the allocation of \$8,103,037 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 LCTOP funding for the procurement of Battery Electric Buses (BEB's). A total of \$12,426,859 will be funded and programmed in the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility with a priority on serving Disadvantaged Communities (DAC); and 4) Certify that at least 50% of the total LCTOP funds received will be spent on projects or services that will benefit DACs identified in Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.
14. New Transit Facility, Conceptual Layout and Report – Work Order
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order MTS Doc No. WOA2075-AE-73 to MTS Doc. No. G2075.0-18 (in substantially the same format as Attachment A) with Dokken Engineering (Dokken) in the amount of \$206,043.16 to provide planning services for the Division 6 conceptual layout and report.
15. 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, 2022 through March 31, 2023, 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, rail track, bridges, guideways and tunnels).

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9. Other Staff Communications and Business

Ms. Cooney asked if the Committee would like the Ridership Recovery Action Plan update to be presented at the March 10, 2022 meeting. The Committee directed staff to bring the item to the March Board meeting.

10. Committee Member Communications and Other Business

There were no committee member communications and other business.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION – TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

7. The Board convened to Closed Session at 10:18 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION INITIATION OF LITIGATION PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (4) OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION 54956.9: (1 POTENTIAL CASE)

The Committee reconvened to Open Session at 10:38 a.m.

Oral Report of Final Actions Taken in Closed Session

Karen Landers, General Counsel, reported that the Executive Committee received a report from legal counsel and gave instructions.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

/S/ Nathan Fletcher

Chairperson

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): March 3, 2022 CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 9:05am
 RECESS: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 CLOSED SESSION: 10:18am RECONVENE: 10:38am
 PUBLIC HEARING: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 ORDINANCES ADOPTED: _____ ADJOURN: 10:42am

REPRESENTATIVE	BOARD MEMBER	(Alternate)	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
County	FLETCHER (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Vargas) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:05am	10:42am
Vice Chair	SOTELO-SOLIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (no alternate) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:05am	10:42am
City of San Diego	ELO-RIVERA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Montgomery Steppe) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:05am	10:42am
East County	HALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Frank) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:05am	10:42am
SANDAG Transportation Committee	MORENO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Aguirre) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:05am	10:42am
Chair Pro Tem	SALAS	<input type="checkbox"/> (no alternate) <input type="checkbox"/>	-	-
South Bay	SANDKE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Aguirre) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:05am	10:42am

SIGNED BY THE CLERK OF THE BOARD:

/S/ Dalia Gonzalez