

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 9, 2023

[Clerk's note: Except where noted, public, staff and board member comments are paraphrased. The full comment can be heard by reviewing the recording at the [MTS website](#).]

1. Roll Call

Chair Fletcher called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Executive Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Public Comment

Alex Wong – Made a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Wong encouraged transportation frequency at the busiest transit lines and commended the agency for their 2022 ridership recovery on the light rail system.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Fletcher moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023, MTS Executive Committee meeting. Vice Chair Whitburn seconded the motion, and the vote was 6 to 0 in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. San Ysidro Transit Center Improvements Project Update (Denis Desmond, Beverly Neff)

Denis Desmond, MTS Director of Planning and Beverly Neff, MTS Senior Transportation Planner presented on San Ysidro Transit Center improvements project update. They provided details on: challenges impacting San Ysidro, approach solutions, bus layout options, potential layout concepts, stakeholder and community outreach.

Committee Comment

Board Member Moreno acknowledged the high traffic in the San Ysidro station and highlighted community involvement in the project. She asked if the initial concept has changed since showing the initial proposal to the community. Ms. Neff clarified that design concepts have not been shared with the community, rather the community has expressed that transit be prioritized and with that feedback, the concepts were drafted. She noted staff's next steps will be to present the concepts to the community. Board Member Moreno supported the redesign of the area and hopes that the project moves rapidly while being creative and innovative, even at an expense. She encouraged accessing federal and state funding to move this project forward. She commended SANDAG for acquiring federal and state funding for other projects through a showcase of the proposed region. She acknowledged that MTS is not in charge of the project planning, but encouraged MTS to begin lobbying state and federal funding bodies. She asked about the community participation timeline. Ms. Neff replied that there was additional outreach to do for this project. Board Member Moreno stated that the trolley line should be built to accommodate passenger growth. Ms. Neff clarified that SANDAG will be leading long term planning projections and phasing for the project. Board Member Moreno also asked about the possibility of eminent domain. Karen Landers, MTS General Counsel clarified that some concepts require the use of property that MTS does not own. The agency would first attempt to negotiate a voluntary sale, but if that is not accepted, then eminent domain is an option. She asked about the project timeline. Ms. Neff replied that the planning phase will conclude in the summer of 2023, the environmental phase would begin in 2023 and conclude in 2024. The remainder of the timeline is unknown until a concept is identified and funding is secured. Board

Member Moreno asked if the intent was for community meetings to begin at the early summer and pick a preferred concept choice by the end of the summer. Ms. Neff confirmed that this was the intent.

Board Member Bush agreed with all of Board Member Moreno's comments. He encouraged the agency to have grand thinking for the concept designs. He noted the importance of the station not only locally, but also internationally. He asked if this project was the same as SANDAG's San Ysidro Intermodal Transit Center project. Ms. Neff clarified that there were two phases to the project, the first phase is short term, led by MTS and presented today which focuses on the third track; the second phase is led by SANDAG and focuses on long term goals for the mobility hub. Ms. Cooney replied that the second phase was in conjunction with their vision of the Blue Line express. Board Member Bush replied that SANDAG is focusing on the Purple Line concept more than the Blue Line Express. He noted the disconnect in visions and limited funding sources for priorities. He encouraged speedy construction and implementation of the project. He also asked about all three design concepts to exclude or impede the potential of the trolley extension into the Tijuana region. Ms. Landers replied that MTS staff has not had conversations with SANDAG staff about this, since this project was just proposed this summer and the milestones of the third track project were well underway before then. Ms. Landers replied that staff concern is to not lose sight of the immediate project need, and this portion would not conflict with the phase two portion of the project. Board Member Bush noted he would not want the agency to backtrack on existing work nor limit future growth. He asked that the presentation be agendaized for an upcoming Board meeting so he can understand where the project is in the priority list.

Board Member Hall encouraged cohesive planning between the agencies.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

5. SANDAG Request for Innovative Concepts: Trolley Extension to Tijuana (Brent Boyd)

Brent Boyd, MTS Manager of Service Quality and Special Operations for Rail presented on trolley extension to Tijuana. He presented on: background, Cordoba proposal, major components of proposal, MTS engagement, issues that need clarification and next steps.

Committee Comment

Board Member Moreno expressed excitement over the project and classified it as innovative for the region. Board Member Moreno cautioned staff's tone on the presentation and listed Youth Opportunity Passes and the Downtown Promenade as examples of deterrence. She encouraged staff to be the body that assesses feasibility and look towards innovative and cutting-edge concepts. She noted that CBX officers currently crossover into Mexico to inspect agriculture to show that agents do cross between borders. She encouraged staff to also speak enthusiastically about the project and work to assess the feasibility.

Chair Fletcher acknowledged the obstacles, but agrees with the exciting feeling that the concept brings. He encouraged MTS to become more optimistic with new ideas. He stated that the Board is not naive about the challenges to this project. He asked staff to assess how many individuals cross to board the trolley versus those who would board the trolley directly in Mexico. Mr. Boyd replied that ridership boardings are approximately 12,000 at San Ysidro. He noted there is a 30,000 to 40,000 ridership projection with the proposed project. Additional ridership modeling is necessary to understand rider travel patterns. Chair Fletcher acknowledged the

positive impact that a challenging project like this would have for the region and highlighted how the two countries are intertwined.

Public Comment

Zack Defazio Farrell – Representing Circulate SD made a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Farrell asked if the Baja states would play a role with construction, maintenance, abiding by US safety standards and funding contributions.

Committee Comment Continued

Mr. Boyd replied that the project presented is at a concept development stage with small funding available for assessments. There is an effort to find additional funding to further explore the project feasibility.

Board Member Bush was happy to see joint collaboration on the grant application for this project. He asked if staff had worked with Congressman Juan Vargas on the project. Mr. Boyd replied that MTS has not directly contacted the Congressman about this project, and is unaware of SANDAG's communication. Board Member Bush noted that the Air Pollution Control District is exploring this project as a vehicle-miles traveled reduction solution. He also encouraged a more optimistic tone on projects from staff. Board Member Bush asked that in the future, staff be mindful and intentional of language used to reference Mexico. Mr. Boyd apologized and clarified that there was no intention other than to acknowledge cross country complexity issues. Board Member Bush acknowledged that there were potential positive cost offsets and asked if the agency has received communication from the state or federal government in Mexico. Mr. Boyd replied that SANDAG will take point in political communications and those conversations will come about once the project is solidified more in the future. Board Member Bush encouraged MTS to allocate dedicated staff and a subcommittee for this project. He encouraged MTS to take the lead as the experts on a ridership study.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe is excited about the project. She also cautioned about the dangers of technology surveillance, particularly with the international connection of this project.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

7. PRONTO Fare Validation (Tapping/Scanning) Education Update (Mark Olson)

Mark Olson, MTS Director of Marketing and Communications presented on PRONTO Fare Validation. He outlined the following items: PRONTO tapping and scanning on trolleys trips vs validations, validation percentages, challenges, tap and scan education efforts to date, security focus group, updated education strategy, upcoming messaging changes, updated communications, upcoming changes, upcoming technology improvements and changes and takeaways.

Public Comment

Leif Gensert – Provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Gensert confirmed personal issues with validators in the Fashion Valley station and was curious about future plans to add validators on the trolley.

Zack Defazio Farrell – Representing Circulate SD made a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Farrell acknowledged the limited number of fare validators. Farrell noted that having validators on the trolley would mitigate the problem of fare tapping access.

Committee Comment

Board Member Hall agreed with having onboard validators. Board Member Hall asked if the infrastructure has the capacity to validate fare with a credit card. Ms. Cooney replied that the next presentation would address his question. Board Member Hall encouraged the placement of banners at every station.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe appreciated the presentation and focus group efforts. She believed that riders are not tapping because of lack of knowledge or forgetfulness and believed that this issue would have to be continuously monitored to come up with solutions.

Vice Chair Whitburn commended the agency for its efforts and proposed next steps. He asked what it would look like if staff was posted outside of the trolley with the validators in order to reduce the loss. Mr. Olson responded that staff was assessing that tactic as a possibility and is currently coordinating staff capacity for select station and special events.

Board Member Moreno asked if there were tapping differences between the number of riders who board in comparison to those who tap and if there are differences between trolley lines. She asked if increased fare enforcement decreased validation rates. She also asked about the optimal amount of fare enforcement in an open transit system, comparably to similar transit systems. She looked forward to receiving answers from her questions from staff at a later time.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. PRONTO Fare System – Update on Open Payments Upgrade Options (Emily Outlaw)

Emily Outlaw, MTS Chief Information Officer presented on the PRONTO fare system update on open payments upgrade options. She outlined the following items: current PRONTO system, history, roadmap, contactless credit card payment, workshops, minimum viable product (MVP) and its timeline, challenge and mitigation strategy.

Committee Comment

Board Member Moreno asked about the MVP listed in slide 7. She asked about the two options presented and asked staff to define daily capping. Ms. Outlaw clarified that the rider would not be charged more than the number of trips to give the rider the best fare possible. Board Member Moreno asked staff to differentiate between the alternative option of being charged a day pass. Ms. Outlaw replied that one tap would charge the user a day pass. Board Member Moreno asked if this was the best product the agency could offer that would be charged to everyone. Ms. Cooney replied that this was the fastest option the agency could acquire. Kristine Villa, MTS Deputy Fare Systems Administrator clarified that everyone using the open payment could be charged a day pass, but was not meant to replace the PRONTO best fare system. The open fare payment would not replace the PRONTO system, rather aims to gain new riders. Board Member Moreno asked if this payment method would be electronic. Ms. Villa replied that the rider would be using the banking system directly rather than using the closed loop PRONTO system and clarified that the validators would become mini points of sale throughout the system. Ms. Cooney added that because these are the two most viable options, the agency will need to

fully understand the implications of either option. Board Member Moreno asked what would incentivize riders to use this option rather than PRONTO. Ms. Outlaw clarified that this option is meant for one-time riders or tourists. Board Member Moreno was concerned that PRONTO riders would be inconvenienced because of the open loop system. Ms. Outlaw clarified that they would still have the ability to use the PRONTO card.

Chair Fletcher gave an example of a tourist that is willing to be charged more for the service for the sake of convenience. The agency's preference would continue to be riders using PRONTO and the system would still offer the best fare and convenience for a frequent rider. Ms. Outlaw also added that this option would not be available for reduced fares at first. The California Integrative Travel Project is working on a system that would identify information about people so reduced fare could be available for folks who use an open system banking method in the future. Board Member Moreno was concerned that the agency was prioritizing tourists over existing riders.

Board Member Hall asked who would take on credit card fees. Ms. Outlaw believed that it is the same merchant processing fee through PRONTO. Ms. Villa believed there may be additional interchange fees, but it would be the same merchant processor gateway that would be used and all fees have not been fully identified at this stage.

Board Member Hall supported the convenience of the open system.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe asked staff to clarify why both options were not available and one needed to be selected. Ms. Villa replied that the current PRONTO system allows the agency to control the configurations because it is the agency's stored value purse. The banking system does not allow the agency to have as much control and sets specific standards beyond that 2-hour fee window. Board Member Montgomery Steppe said she may need a further explanation.

Chair Fletcher re-stated that the PRONTO option continues to be the best, cheapest option, otherwise riders can tap to pay either one time or once every time they ride. It would be one message or the other.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

OTHER ITEMS

8. Review of Draft March 16, 2023 Board Agenda

Recommended Consent Items

3. Approval of Minutes

Action would approve the February 16, 2023 Board of Director meeting minutes.

4. Imperial Avenue Division (IAD) Chassis Wash Cover – Work Order

Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order MTSJOC324-19 under Job Order Contract (JOC) MTS Doc. No. PWG324.0-21 with ABC General Contracting, Inc. (ABCGC) in the amount of \$448,798.80 to construct a cover over the bus chassis wash area at IAD.

- 5. 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) Property Insurance Program, effective March 31, 2023 through March 31, 2024, with various coverage deductibles of \$50,000 (real property, personal property and business interruption), \$100,000 (bus fleet), \$250,000 (light rail fleet) and \$3,000,000 sublimit each occurrence subject to a \$500,000 deductible for unscheduled infrastructure.
- 6. Microsoft 365 Implementation Consultant – Contract Award**
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. G2689.0-23 with AdaptivEdge LLC, in the amount of \$332,380.00 for the provision of Microsoft (MS) 365 implementation consulting services.
- 7. Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Charge Management Software System – Contract Award**
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. B0751.0-23 with BP Pulse Fleet North America Inc., (“BP Pulse”) for \$1,505,322.73 for charge management software system, for five (5) base years, and two (2) option years exercisable at MTS’s sole discretion, for a total of seven (7) years.
- 8. SAP Punchout Catalog for Office Supplies – Piggyback Contract**
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. G2713.0-23 with ODP Business Solutions, Inc. (ODP) for a base period of April 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 and three (3) option years for SAP punchout catalog for office supply purchases for a total contract amount of \$600,000.
- 9. 115 Re Head Hardened Steel Rail – Contract Award**
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to: 1) Execute MTS Doc. No. L1628.0-23 with A&K Railroad Materials, Inc. (A&K), for the provision of 212 tons of 115 RE Head Hardened Steel Rail at a cost of \$506,929.57 plus an option for the purchase of an additional 106 tons of 115 RE Head Hardened Steel Rail in 2024/2025 at a cost of \$285,890.42, for an overall estimated contract total of \$792,820.00; and 2) Exercise the option purchase at the CEO’s discretion.
- 10. Blue Line Right-Of-Way Fencing Repairs – Work Order Agreement**
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order MTSJOC347-09 under Job Order Contract (JOC) to MTS Doc. No. PWG347.0-22, with ABC General Contractor, Inc. (ABCGC), in the amount of \$301,035.56 for the removal and replacement of chain link fence sections along the Blue Line right-of-way.
- 11. Blue Line Right of Way Retaining Wall – Work Order**
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order No. MTSJOC348-01, under MTS Doc. No. PWG480.0-22, with Veterans Engineering Services, Inc. (Veterans), in the amount of \$1,241,292.37 for the installation of 550 linear feet of a new sheet pile retaining wall near Switch 85 along the Blue Line right-of-way.

Ms. Cooney replied that the March 16th meeting agenda was full and asked for the topics presented today to be divided between the March and April agendas.

Board Member Moreno suggested that the PRONTO update be taken in March, since the San Ysidro project is not on a quick timeline. Chair Fletcher asked that the PRONTO items be combined into one. Ms. Cooney agreed.

9. Other Staff Communications and Business

Ms. Cooney acknowledged that an inter-agency agreement had been signed to renew the Youth Opportunity Pass extension through the summer. SANDAG is planning to bring it through the budgeting process for next year for an additional year extension.

10. Committee Member Communications and Other Business

There was no Committee Member Communications and Other Business discussion.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

/S/ Stephen Whitburn
Vice - Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

/S/ Dalia Gonzalez
Clerk of the Board
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): March 9, 2023 CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 9:00am
 RECESS: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 CLOSED SESSION: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 PUBLIC HEARING: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 ORDINANCES ADOPTED: _____ ADJOURN: 10:40am

| REPRESENTING | BOARD MEMBER | ALTERNATE | PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED) | ABSENT (TIME LEFT) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| City of San Diego | Elo-Rivera <input type="checkbox"/> | Montgomery Steppe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 9:03am | 10:40am |
| County of San Diego Chair | Fletcher <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Vargas <input type="checkbox"/> | 9:00am | 10:40am |
| East County | Hall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Frank <input type="checkbox"/> | 9:00am | 10:40am |
| SANDAG Transportation Committee | Moreno <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bush <input type="checkbox"/> | 9:01am | 10:40am |
| South Bay | Bush <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Leyba- Gonzalez <input type="checkbox"/> | 9:00am | 10:40am |
| Vice Chair | Whitburn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No Alternate <input type="checkbox"/> | 9:00am | 10:40am |

SIGNED BY THE CLERK OF THE BOARD:

/s/ Dalia Gonzalez