

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
BUDGET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (BDC)

September 13, 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 Moreno called the Budget Development Committee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A roll call sheet listing Budget Development Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Goble moved to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2023, MTS Budget Development Committee meeting. Board Member Whitburn seconded the motion, and the vote was 4 to 0 in favor with Board Member Elo-Rivero absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Preliminary Operating Budget Results (Gordon Meyer)

Gordon Meyer, Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis, provided a presentation on the preliminary results for the FY23 Operating Budget ending June 30, 2023. He discussed total operating revenues, expenses, and activities; subsidy revenue category descriptions; total non-operating revenues and expenses; total revenues less expenses, contingency reserve balance, and the staff recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guadalupe Rojas – Rojas, representing Mid-City CAN, commented on the importance that the Youth Opportunity Pass Program (YOP) has to the youth advocates, including their newest member, Mia. She mentioned Mia depends on public transportation to get to school out in Mission Bay because her local high school does not offer college prep courses. She mentioned that Mia's commute is about two hours long, but is determined to make that commute in order to have a better education. Mia and other youth are eager to be part of the changes that will improve her community. Rojas stated she is happy that programs like YOP give fair chances regardless of the youth socioeconomic background and would like to see a permanent program that will continue to benefit youth for years to come. She noted that is why Mid-City CAN continues to advocate for funds from the state and other local revenue sources. Rojas mentioned that they still need MTS to include the YOP as a budget priority to ensure that youth continue to use public transportation.

Action Taken

Board Member McCann moved to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve staff recommendations for programming excess revenues less expenses. Board Member Whitburn seconded the motion, and the vote was 4 to 0 in favor with Board Member Elo-Rivera absent.

5. Senate Bill (SB) 125 Funding Update (Sharon Cooney)

Sharon Cooney, Chief Executive Officer, provided a funding update related to SB 125. She discussed the details of the transportation funding; SB 125 legislative intent; draft guidelines; requirements for funding allocation; approval and programming; timeline; proposals for the Zero Emission Transit Capital Program; proposals for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program; impact to the operating budget; and addressing the structural deficit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Manny Rodriguez – Rodriguez, representing the San Diego Transit Equity Working Group (SDTEWG), mentioned that SB 125 was in response to the Governor's budget, which originally did not include funding for transit. He noted that the mass advocacy efforts pushing for transit funding helped pass SB 125. He mentioned that MTS has been doing a really great job in getting the transit system up and running after the pandemic and he has no doubt that things will only get better with the funding from SB 125. Rodriguez mentioned that the SDTEWG does have some priorities for SB 125 and he would share those at another time. He went on to say that overall, he feels that MTS is doing a good job with using Elevate SD as a blueprint for where to allocate funding. He also mentioned that many transit riders and future transit riders look forward to the increased service frequencies.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Board Member Whitburn hoped to increase security enhancements, frequency, overnight bus service, prevent service cuts and mitigating the deficit. Board Member Whitburn suggested staff to bring the SB 125 funding item to the October 19, 2023 Board meeting.

Board Member Goble supported the request to bring the item to the October 19, 2023 Board Meeting. Member Goble asked about the Public Utility Code (PUC) that was favorable to the agency based on population size and not based of the agency's financial need. He asked whether in-house or contracted security positions would receive the funding. Ms. Cooney replied that internal MTS Code Compliance Inspectors would be funded. She added that community feedback preferred more CCIs. Board Member Goble asked staff to clarify that MTS was not contractually obligated to deploy the CCIs and contracted officers in pairs. Ms. Cooney confirmed that this was not the case. He also noted that he would want to pilot a first and last mile program to attract new riders. Board Member Goble expressed concern that SANDAG would expect MTS to operate the people mover to the airport and suggested that costs be anticipated with the SB125 funding. Ms. Cooney noted that the Board would ultimately make any

decisions as to how the funding is prioritized. Ms. Landers clarified that SANDAG does not have the legal authority to delegate what MTS pays for.

Chair Moreno noted that the funding was an opportunity for the agency to invest in the future. She suggested investing in services that generate ridership and suggested transit amenities such as shelters, benches and trashcans at bus stops. Chair Moreno asked that the item be taken to the Board as an informational item, and subsequently return to the Budget Development Committee with more specific actions on how the funds will be spent for the public to be able to participate. She asked staff about AB 761, the Transit Transformational Taskforce and asked if Ms. Cooney was on the Committee. While appointment parameters have not been finalized, Ms. Cooney anticipated to join the committee. Ms. Cooney noted that once the agency lists the proposed funding allocation in December, the document is flexible to change.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

OTHER ITEMS

6. Next Meeting Date

The next Budget Development Committee meeting is to be determined.

*Clerk's note: the next Budget Development Committee meeting was subsequently scheduled for November 2, 2023.

7. Adjournment

Chair Moreno adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

/S/ Stephen Whitburn
Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

/S/ Lucia Mansour
Committee Clerk
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
BUDGET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): 09/13/2023 CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: 2:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER		(Alternate)	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
MORENO (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(no alternate) <input type="checkbox"/>	1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
ELO-RIVERA	<input type="checkbox"/>	(no alternate) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent	Absent
GOBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(no alternate) <input type="checkbox"/>	1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
MCCANN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(no alternate) <input type="checkbox"/>	1:13 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
WHITBURN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(no alternate) <input type="checkbox"/>	1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lucia I Mansour Digitally signed by Lucia I Mansour
Date: 2023.09.18 09:33:21 -07'00'