

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

ACCESSIBLE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)

June 19, 2025

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

1. Roll Call

Chair Gastil called the Accessible Services Advisory Committee (ASAC) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A roll call sheet listing Accessible Services Advisory Committee member attendance is attached as Attachment A.

2. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

In the absence of a quorum, the ASAC was unable to take a formal action to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2025 meeting. The approval of minutes will be deferred to the next ASAC meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Public Safety Through Environmental Design (Heather Furey and Chris Duddy)

Heather Furey, MTS Director of Capital Projects, and Chris Duddy, MTS Senior Transportation Planner, presented on Public Safety Through Environmental Design. They outlined: background, goals, project management, planned upcoming projects, transit amenities plan, fare gates, and staff's recommendations.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Committee Comment

Committee Member Marino asked if there was an estimate for how much revenue could be recovered by installing the fare gates. He also suggested an update after data is generated on how much revenue could be recovered. Mr. Duddy answered that it was a 15 to 20 year estimated return on investment.

Committee Member Rodriguez asked when the surveys will be completed. Mr. Duddy answered that the expected time was September.

Chair Gastil asked why there were so many projects in the South and East areas. Ms. Furey explained that about 80% of the agency's ridership lives south of Interstate 8 which is a large portion of MTS's ridership. She stated that over the last few years attention was focused on areas that were under invested. She explained that they are trying to balance what passengers are experiencing.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

5. Fixed Route and Trolley Updates (Keith Vann and Aaron Pitt)

Keith Van, MTS Manager of Service Operations, presented on Fixed Route updates. He outlined: weekly hiring events with 497 rostered bus drivers with the goal of 510. He stated there were 14 people in training and a new class of 13 with the starting date of July 7th. He explained there was a service change on June 8th which included minor changes to several routes. He noted that route 11 had service restored to 1st Ave. & G St., since this stop was relocated for a couple years due to construction at Horton Plaza. He mentioned that route 904 in the City of Coronado is on an hourly service but on July 1st throughout August there would be 15-minute service. He also mentioned route 88 had routing and schedule adjustments that allowed service seven days a week. He explained that it used to run counterclockwise on Hotel Circle South and North but after routing changes it no longer goes into Fashion Valley. He stated there was a Trolley bridge planned for June 28th that provides bus service between 12th and Imperial Transit Center to E Street Trolley Station.

Aaron Pitt, Manager of Special Operations, presented Trolley updates. He outlined the following: Ridership impacted by major San Diego events, operations plan for Comic-Con, and upcoming construction projects on 32nd St., Park Blvd., and the Orange Line Improvements.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Committee Comment

Committee Member Rodriguez asked if they were going to begin decorating the Trolleys for Comic-Con. Mr. Pitt answered yes, and that some wrapped Trolleys were already in service. Mr. Rodriguez then suggested adding more decorations to the E Street Trolley Station since the new hotel was built, and it could attract more people in the future.

Committee Member Marino asked if the Trolley wraps were aesthetic event-based concepts or if they were revenue generators. Mr. Pitt answered that they were revenue generators to help offset the cost for Comic-Con.

Chair Gastil asked generally about the uncertainty of MTS long term finances. Mr. Pitt responded that MTS was actively seeking plans that would minimize the impact of the riders, but some project might require readjustment. Mr. Gastil expressed his concern about starting a project that might remain unfinished or partially completed. Mr. Pitt responded that infrastructure projects would not be left incomplete. He used the Orange Line Improvement Project as an example stating that the funds for this project have already been budgeted.

Mr. Riley, Chief Operating Officer of Rail, commented that there were major projects on the Orange Line from 32nd St. all the way to El Cajon including re-signaling, new grade crossing equipment and new track infrastructure. He also stated that there were visual message boards installed along the Orange Line between the Courthouse and El Cajon station. Mr. Riley mentioned construction on the Orange Line will start in the fall and will go on for about four years, which would come from a combination of funding sources including money from the State of California. He said they knew the Orange Line was under invested so these investments being made would provide more efficient service and that trains would be able to operate faster. He explained that the new infrastructure would be similar to what was seen on the newer lines such as the Old Town corridor and the Mid-Coast line. Mr. Riley assured that MTS did not have any projects set up within the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that do not have funding for construction and that we should not see any projects that would be left unfinished.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. Access Update & MTM Report (Charles Posejpal)

Charles Posejpal, MTS Manager of Paratransit and Minibus, presented on statistics of FY25 compared to FY24, same-day paratransit pilot update, evaluation metrics, and new project to provide free fixed route fares for access eligible passengers.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Committee Comment

Chair Gastil stated that he knew about fixed routes being free to paratransit users was happening in the LA area. He encouraged that this would be more efficient for the whole system. Mr. Posejpal added that the free fixed route would also include the Personal Care Attendant (PCA).

Committee Member Lordson thanked MTS for sending reminder letters related to ending the Do Not Leave Alone Policy and thanked MTS for the new project on free fixed fare. He mentioned that North County Transit District (NCTD) provides this service, which raised questions about why MTS has not already yet implemented this service. Mr. Lordson asked if the PCA that would ride for free needed a different ID that distinguishes them as PCA. Mr. Posejpal answered that he was working with the MTS Director of Support Services on this issue. He explained that the PCA information would be loaded onto a PRONTO card and the operators would see it on the display with example language of person plus one.

Committee Member Marino asked if the free disabled service for fixed route service would require registration through MTS. Mr. Posejpal confirmed that it would and explained that eligibility would be part of the certification or recertification process. He also stated that for customers who are currently eligible would be notified about the free fixed route pass. Mr. Marino asked if this would apply to customers who are handicapped tourists who want to use the free fixed route service. Mr. Posejpal confirmed that this would also apply for temporary eligibility so tourists would be able to access the service. Mr. Marino asked for clarification on same day service and the use of taxis. Mr. Posejpal responded, if an individual calls in looking for a trip that same day, Transdev, MTS's third party contractor operating MTS Access, would work with dispatch and review availability of MTS vehicles and taxis. Mr. Marino followed up by asking about the radius in Coronado. Mr. Posejpal said that there is a radius used in Coronado to determine when a free summer fare on MTS Access would be available.

Committee Member Rodriguez asked for an update on the Do Not Leave Alone Policy. Mr. Posejpal responded that as of January 1, 2026, MTS will no longer be providing Do Not Leave Alone services. He stated that reminder notices will be sent out every three months.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

OTHER ITEMS

7. Committee Member Communications

There was no Committee Member Communications and Other Business discussion.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next Accessible Services Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for the next September 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Chair Gastil adjourned the meeting at 2:00pm.

/s/ George Gastil
Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

/s/ Diana Hernandez
Committee Clerk
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Attachment: A. Roll Call Sheet

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
ACCESSIBLE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC) MEETING

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): June 19, 2025

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 1:00PM

ADJOURN: 2:08PM

COMMITTEE MEMBER		ALTERNATE		ORGANIZATION	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
Voting Committee Members						
George Gastil (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	ASAC Chair	1:00PM	2:09PM
Letty Zuno	<input type="checkbox"/>	VACANT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Access to Independence	ABSENT	ABSENT
Christian Hernandez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arun Prem	<input type="checkbox"/>	FACT (CTSA)	ABSENT	ABSENT
Debbie Marshall	<input type="checkbox"/>	VACANT	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Council on Developmental Disabilities	ABSENT	ABSENT
Todd Lordson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shane Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Regional Center	1:00PM	2:09PM
Marianela Camarillo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kimberly Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Center for the Blind	ABSENT	ABSENT
Tim Garrett	<input type="checkbox"/>	Benjamin Gembler	<input type="checkbox"/>	SANDAG	ABSENT	ABSENT
Alyssa Ahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Daniela Turner	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caltrans	1:00PM	2:09PM
Melissa Hernandez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacob Carson	<input type="checkbox"/>	County of San Diego AIS	ABSENT	ABSENT
Irene Santiesteban	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paratransit Consumer	ABSENT	ABSENT
David Marino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eugenia Kainz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paratransit Consumer	1:00PM	2:09PM
Rose Napoleon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rene Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fixed Route Consumer	1:00PM	2:09PM
Tarrence Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walter Castillo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fixed Route Consumer	ABSENT	ABSENT
Monique Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wendy Merritt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deaf Community Services	1:00PM	2:09PM
Kacie Rodvill	<input type="checkbox"/>	Betsy Knight	<input type="checkbox"/>	County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services	ABSENT	ABSENT

COMMITTEE CLERK: /S/ Diana Hernandez