

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

ACCESSIBLE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)

September 18, 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 ASAC member attendance is attached as Attachment A.

2. **Public Comments**

There were no Public Comments.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Committee Member David Merino moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025, and June 19, 2025, MTS ASAC meetings. Committee Member Rene Rodriguez seconded the motion, and the vote was 9 to 0 in favor with Tarrence Lewis, Debbie Marshall, Irene Santiesteban, Letty Zuno, Marianela Camarillo, and Monique Ball absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. **Fixed Route and Trolley Update (Aaron Pitt and Keith Vann)**

Aaron Pitt, Manager of Special Operations, presented Trolley updates. He presented the following: Ridership impacted by major San Diego events, Comic-Con 2025 ridership statistics, Park Blvd Construction Project, and the Orange Line Improvement Project.

Vassilena Hycz, MTS Manager of Paratransit and Minibus, provided a presentation on Fixed Route updates. She announced service changes began on August 31, 2025; Free Ride Day October 1, 2025; 498 bus operators were currently employed with a goal to have 510 bus operators employed, she also mentioned that Human Resources was holding weekly hiring events at the Mills Building to achieve this goal. Ms. Hycz spoke on bus operator training classes, with 11 going through training and five (5) student operators expected to graduate on September 26, 2025. She stated that route 4 Imperial Bikeway Project was over, and a few bus stops had new modular platforms. She also noted that the route 30 Villa La Jolla detour had ended. She explained the Adams Ave Street Fair would be impacting route 11, causing a detour off Adams Ave on Saturday September 20, 2025, and Sunday September 21, 2025, for 24hrs a day on both days. She explained that buses would be detoured off Adams between W. Mountain View and Cherokee Ave (northbound) and between 36th and W. Mountain View (southbound).

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Committee Comment

Committee Member Rodriguez asked if MTS was preparing for the San Diego Football Club (SDFC) and San Diego Padres playoffs. Mr. Pitt replied yes and that there was a contingency

plan, but he was still waiting for the set time for the Wildcard. He explained that MTS has staff on standby and are ready for the event, and he believed SDFC would be held in November.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

5. Transit Operations Insourcing Feasibility Study (Mike Daney)

Mike Daney, MTS Director of Contract Services, presented the updates for the Transit Operations Insourcing Feasibility Study. He provided details on: project overview, service performance recap, labor representation recap, insourcing workforce impacts recap, project cost impacts, cost projection methodology discussion, cost projection labor, non-labor, comparison, long-term outlook, and next steps.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Committee Comment

Chair Gastil asked after knowing there would be a 14 percent increase in costs, what would be the benefit to make the Board consider insourcing. Mr. Daney responded, it would be up to the Board to decide based on what they feel is priority and the Board is continuing to sort through the information.

Committee Member Merino asked how much money could be recouped by not having a contract with Transdev. Mr. Daney responded that the scenario should be viewed as if the contract no longer existed, focusing on the full cost burden. He explained that without the Transdev contract, providing the service in-house would cost significantly more. He stated that the net increase in cost would be approximately \$67 million above what MTS is currently paying.

Committee Member Garrett asked if the contract with Transdev was recompleted on a regular basis and if it was for a limited time with an end date forecast. Mr. Daney answered that MTS has two contracts with Transdev; one was the mini-bus and paratransit contract that has a six-year base term ending in June of 2026 and two option years. He said the second contract was similar for fixed route and it was a year behind with the final base term ending June of 2027 and two option years at the end of that base term. Mr. Garrett asked if after the extended term was completed, and if a new competition or renegotiation was carried out, what would be the chance of contract costs going up. He continued to question the analysis asking that if the contract cost goes up maybe the net difference will be different than what was presented. Mr. Daney responded that anytime a bid goes out, there is a chance of cost increasing and that traditionally there is a 3% to 4% increase seen in costs associated with contracts when they are rebid.

Committee Member Lordson asked if this presentation was in conjunction with Brent Boyd's presentation that was given at a previous ASAC meeting. Mr. Daney responded, yes, that this presentation was alongside the other presentation, to determine feasibility.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. Access Update & MTM Report (Vassilena Hycz)

Vassilena Hycz, MTS Manager of Paratransit and Minibus, presented FY25 MTS Access statistics compared to FY24, Do Not Leave Alone policy discontinuing January 1, 2026, same-day paratransit pilot update, evaluation metrics, and announcement of future braille sign study.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Committee Comment

Committee Member Merino asked for clarification of the same day trips statistics. Ms. Hycz responded that since the start of July 1, 2025, there have been 2,100 trips completed.

Committee Member Lordson asked if same day trips were at a higher fare compared to regular trips. Ms. Hycz responded yes, that the fare is \$10 per one way trip.

Committee Member Garrett asked how the same day trips were going to be reported since they are separate than ADA required service. He asked since San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) receives Transportation Development Act (TDA) reporting from MTS on a quarterly basis. He continued to say he was curious about the statistics since same day trips are \$10 instead of \$5 and how that impacts operations cost changes, fare recovery, etc. Ms. Hycz answered that MTS has the data available, but she was unsure how it's all reported or what the impact would be. She assured the committee that she would reach out to Mr. Garrett for more information.

Committee Member Hernandez asked if the same day service was for only clients in wheelchairs or if it was also for ambulatory riders who are already eligible for Access services. Ms. Hycz responded this is for anyone who is eligible for MTS Access, but that during the next ASAC meeting she could provide a breakdown of ambulatory and wheelchair ridership.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

OTHER ITEMS

7. Committee Member Communications

Chair Gastil announced that Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (FACT) would be celebrating its 20th anniversary on December 3, 2025.

Committee Member Garrett announced SANDAG has a group like ASAC called Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) which advises the SANDAG Board of Directors and its transportation committee regarding regional issues of accessible transportation provided by public, private, and nonprofit organizations. He said there was a vacancy on that group for a social service provider for people with disabilities. He said they were looking for a primary and alternate member from an organization that is a social service provider for people with disabilities to apply. He stated that information on how to apply can be found either through contacting him or online at www.sandag.org/SSTAC.

Committee Member Vasquez announced that Caltrans has been working with MTS and other regional transit providers to get feedback on how Caltrans can best be a partner with the district transit plans. She stated that the plans should be completed in July of 2026 and if there are any questions on the district transit plans to please contact Alyssa Ahn.

Committee Member Merino asked if there was an update on free rides for disabled riders. Ms. Hycz answered that she was not sure where that project currently stands, but that she would find more information and provide an update at the next ASAC meeting.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next ASAC meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Chair Gastil adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm.

/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): September 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): _____
1:00PM ADJOURN: 1:40PM

COMMITTEE MEMBER		ALTERNATE		ORGANIZATION	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
Voting Committee Members						
George Gastil (Chair)	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	ASAC Chair	1:00PM	1:40PM
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)	1:00PM	1:40PM
Debbie Marshall	<input type="checkbox"/>	VACANT	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Council on Developmental Disabilities	ABSENT	ABSENT
Todd Lordson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shane Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Regional Center	1:00PM	1:40PM
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	1:00PM	1:40PM
Alyssa Ahn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandra Vazquez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caltrans	1:00PM	1:40PM
Melissa Hernandez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacob Carson	<input type="checkbox"/>	County of San Diego AIS	1:00PM	1:40PM
Irene Santiesteban	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paratransit Consumer	ABSENT	ABSENT
David Merino	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eugenia Kainz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paratransit Consumer	1:18PM	1:40PM
Rose Napoleon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rene Rodriguez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fixed Route Consumer	1:00PM	1:40PM
Tarrence Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walter Castillo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fixed Route Consumer	ABSENT	ABSENT
Monique Ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wendy Merritt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deaf Community Services	ABSENT	ABSENT
Kacie Rodvill	<input type="checkbox"/>	Betsy Knight	<input type="checkbox"/>	County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services	1:00PM	1:40PM

COMMITTEE CLERK: /s/ Diana Hernandez