

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
JOINT AUDIT OVERSIGHT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 13, 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 Whitburn called the Joint Audit Oversight and Executive Committee meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Joint Audit Oversight and Executive Committee member attendance is attached as Attachment A.

2. Public Comment

Dorene Dias – A resident of Jamacha Neighborhood provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Dorene urged the Board to upgrade all 18 bus stops in her community. She noted that many stops lacked benches and shelters, forcing seniors and children to sit on the ground or stand in the rain. She expressed frustration that new services were being prioritized over basic infrastructure improvements in underserved areas. She also raised concerns of Trolley service delays over 20 minutes, and questioned how the current system could support plans for new housing.

3. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Goble moved to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2025, MTS Executive Committee meeting. Board Member Hall seconded the motion, and the vote was 6 to 0 in favor with Board Member Elo-Rivera absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Draft of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) (Erin Dunn and Jennifer Pentoney with Coley Delaney of the Pun Group)

Coley Delaney, with the Pun Group, presented on the Draft of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). He provided details on: Management's and Auditors responsibilities, overview of the financial statements, key pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) information and audit results.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Committee Comment

Chair Whitburn thanked Mr. Delaney and the Pun Group for conducting the audit and delivering the presentation. He congratulated the financial team on receiving a clean audit and expressed his satisfaction with the results.

Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item only.

5. Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Final Operating Budget Results (Gordon Meyer)

Gordon Meyer, MTS Manager of Financial Planning, presented on Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Final Operating Budget Results. He presented on: consolidated MTS operations comparison to budget, total operating revenues, total operating expenses, total operating activities, subsidy revenue category descriptions, total non-operating revenues and expenses, total revenues less expenses, contingency reserve balance, and staff recommendation.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Committee Comment

Vice Chair Goble thanked staff for a clear and concise presentation. He raised a concern regarding slide two, specifically the 5.2 million increase in ridership and questioned why that did not translate into a proportional increase in fare revenue. He calculated that, in a full fare scenario, this increase should have resulted in approximately \$13 million, yet only \$5.5 million was reported, indicating a shortfall of roughly \$7.5 million. He suggested it could be due to increased use of free youth passes or discounted monthly passes. Vice Chair Goble was surprised that overall fare revenue was missed despite the ridership gain and referenced fare evasion studies showing only 15–17% evasion, implying other factors might be at play.

Sharon Cooney, MTS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), responded that revenue loss could stem from undetected fare evasion, increased reliance on monthly passes, and the current fare structure which allows free transfers within two hours. She also mentioned ongoing efforts to improve enforcement and better understand rider behavior through data collection and surveys, noting that recent changes in fare enforcement and structural policy shifts were still being analyzed for their impact. Ms. Cooney also added that the discounted SDM pass, and reduced use of paratransit services might mean more riders are using the fixed-route system for convenience and cost, potentially resulting in more trips per day by SDM pass users.

Vice Chair Goble raised the idea of tracking stored revenue balances year over year, suggesting that unspent funds on rider accounts could explain some revenue gaps. He noted that some riders may risk fare evasion, seeing the \$25 fine as comparable to the cost of 10 trips. He recommended adding a bullet point on stored revenue in the next Board presentation. Vice Chair Goble supported the proposal to allocate \$2.9 million to reserves, referencing a prior \$19.3 million reserve draw and offered to make the motion for approval.

Action Taken

Vice Chair Goble moved to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the allocation of \$2.9M in excess revenues over expenses in FY25 to the contingency reserve. Board Member Hall seconded the motion, and the vote was 6 to 0 in favor with Board Member Fernandez absent at the time of the vote.

OTHER ITEMS

6. Review of Draft November 20, 2025 Committee Agenda

Ms. Cooney informed the Executive Committee that the Board would hold two closed sessions in addition to the scheduled agenda items. She also noted that, to manage time effectively, some report items would be postponed to the December meeting.

7. Staff Communications and Committee Member Communications

Board Member Elo-Rivera shared concern about his experience entering the building to attend the meeting without his MTS pass, noting a noticeable change in security protocol. He expressed that if members of the public were treated similarly, it could discourage public participation. While he acknowledged his own oversight, he emphasized the need for a more welcoming environment at public meetings. Ms. Cooney responded that the issue was related to building security rather than MTS security and assured the Board that the matter would be addressed with building management.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

/s/ Stephen Whitburn
Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

/s/ Lucia Mansour
Clerk of the Board
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Attachment: A. Roll Call Sheet