

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 15, 2026

[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 Whitburn called the Board meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Board member attendance is attached as Attachment A.

2. Public Comment

Charlotte Iradjpanah – provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Charlotte thanked the Chief Operating Officer for addressing an ADA issue, noting a paratransit reservation glitch was quickly fixed. She raised concerns about Trolley riders not yielding seats due to phone use and suggested limiting phone distractions. She also urged drivers to ensure disabled passengers are seated safely before moving.

Steve Leiserson – provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Steve referenced a written statement he had submitted. He recommended making the route map interactive by turning route numbers into clickable buttons. He suggested using AI to improve trip planning and user experience. He also noted that occasional riders struggle to find the most efficient routes, especially when timing between Trolleys and buses is not aligned.

Miguel Aguirre – provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Miguel introduced himself as the managing partner of Grand Central West, also known as the McDonald's building at the San Ysidro Trolley Station. He urged the Board to initiate an RFP for management of public property currently mismanaged by private transportation activities. He shared that stakeholders had expressed concern about the condition of San Ysidro, especially during recent poor weather. He emphasized the urgency of addressing these issues, particularly with the upcoming World Cup, and offered to follow up with more in-depth outreach before the next Board meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS:

3. Approval of Minutes

Action would approve the December 18, 2025 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

4. CEO Report

5. Community Outreach Consultant Services – Contract Award

Action would 1) Execute MTS Doc No. G3074.0-25, with Brown Marketing Strategies, Inc., dba CENTRIC (CENTRIC), a Women Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) and Small Business (SB), to provide Community Outreach Consultant Services in the amount of \$616,974.79 for a three (3) year base period with (2) two 1-year options, for a total of five (5) years; and 2) Exercise the option years at the CEO's discretion.

6. Kearny Mesa Division (KMD) Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Overhead Charging Phase I – Work Order Amendment 3

Action would 1) Ratify Work Order Amendment WOA356-AE-46.01, under MTS Doc No. PWL356.0-22 with Pacific Rail Enterprises, Inc. (PRE), a Women Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) and Small Business (SB), in the amount of \$46,150.00 for professional services for geotechnical exploration; and 2) Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order Amendment No. WOA356-AE-46.03, under MTS Doc. No. PWL356.0-22, with PRE, in the amount of

\$471,236.88 for additional engineering services and authorizing design support during construction (DSDC) services for Phase 1 of the KMD Overhead Charging project.

7. San Diego Transit Corporation (SDTC) Pension Plan Administration Services – Contract Award

Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to: 1) Execute MTS Doc No. G3110.0-26, with The Howard E. Nyhart Co., Inc., dba Nyhart (Nyhart), to provide SDTC Pension Plan Administration Services in the amount of \$664,000.00 for five (5) base years with five (5) 1-year options for a total of 10 years; and 2) Exercise the option years at the CEO's discretion.

8. Commvault Software and Hardware Support Subscription Two-Year Renewal – Contract Award

Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. G3123.0-26, with Concourse Tech Inc. (Concourse), for a two-year renewal of Commvault software and hardware support services, in the amount of \$314,387.92

9. Operations Budget Status Report for November 2025 (Gordon Meyer)

10. Master Concessionaire Services – Contract Amendment

Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. G2653.1-23, with BriceHouse Station LLC (BriceHouse), related to the proposed rehabilitation of the San Ysidro Retail Kiosks.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Board Comment

There were no Board Comments.

Action Taken

Board Member Hall moved to approve Consent Agenda Item Nos. 3 to 10. Chair Whitburn seconded the motion, and the vote was 13 to 0 in favor with Vice Chair Goble and Board Member Vaus absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

11. Elect Chair Pro Tem and Committee Appointments (Sharon Cooney)

Chair Whitburn explained the methodology of the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee and its proposed slate. Chair Whitburn took nominations for the remaining open positions on the Board, such as the MTS Accessible Service Advisory Committee (ASAC) and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), noting that members could nominate themselves if they were interested in serving. The Chair prompted further discussion on the matter.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Board Comment

Sharon Cooney, MTS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), explained that the schedule for ASAC was coordinated with the appointed Chair to ensure it aligned with their availability. She added that staff support would also be provided to assist the Chair in their role.

Board Member Hall asked for clarification on the specific days ASAC would be meeting. Ms. Cooney responded that historically, the committee met at 1:00 PM on Board meeting days to avoid extra commuting for the Chair. She added that the schedule was flexible and the committee typically met three to four times a year.

Board Member Mendoza offered to serve on the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee as either the representative or alternate. She noted she would be unavailable for the first meeting on January 30 but confirmed availability for the remaining three meetings of the year.

Board Member Mendoza nominated Board Member Caesar Fernandez to serve as the alternate for the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee and as Chair of the MTS ASAC.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe formally nominated Board Member Mendoza to the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee.

Board Member Leyba-Gonzalez thanked the Board for allowing him to continue as the MTS representative for the SANDAG Board. He explained that due to full-time work commitments, he could only attend one of SANDAG's two monthly meetings. He requested that the alternate commit to attending the first meeting, while he would cover the second. Board Member Moreno agreed to that approach as alternate.

Chair Whitburn summarized the nominations: Board Member Fernandez as Chair of ASAC, Board Member Mendoza as the representative to the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee, and Board Member Fernandez as the alternate. He noted that this completed the slate and invited any final comments, also recommending that Board Member Montgomery Steppe continue in her role as Chair Pro Tem.

Chair Whitburn thanked the Board Members for stepping up to serve in various committee roles and expressed appreciation for their support and contributions to MTS.

Action Taken

The Board elected Board Member Montgomery Steppe as Chair Pro-Tem and approved the appointment of representatives to MTS and Non-MTS committees for 2026, as proposed by the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee including the following changes: Board Member Fernandez appointed Chair of ASAC, Board Member Mendoza appointed primary representative of the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee and Board Member Fernandez as the alternate representative of the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee. The vote was 13 to 0 in favor with Vice Chair Goble and Board Member Vaus absent.

12. Public Hearing: Route 910 (Blue Line Overnight Express Bus) (Brent Boyd and Beverly Neff)

Brent Boyd, MTS Director of Planning and Scheduling, and Beverly Neff, MTS Manager of Planning and Reporting, presented on Public Hearing: Route 910 (Blue Line Overnight Express Bus). They presented on: the Blue Line San Ysidro ridership (by time of day), Route 910 timeline, ridership, performance metrics, Title VI Analysis, public input, and staff recommendation.

Public Comment

Barbara Perez – provided a written statement to the Board prior to the meeting. Barbara expressed support for Route 910. The written comment is provided in the January 15, 2026, Final Meeting packet.

Anonymous – provided a written statement to the Board prior to the meeting. Anonymous expressed concerns over Route 910. The written comment is provided in the January 15, 2026, Final Meeting Packet.

Anonymous – provided a written statement to the Board prior to the meeting. Anonymous expressed support and concerns over Route 910. The written comment is provided in the January 15, 2026 Final Packet.

Alex Forsman – provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Alex emphasized the importance of overnight transit service, stating that public transit had enabled him to participate in school, work, and community activities. He noted that early service shutdowns often left him without transportation, requiring family support and limiting opportunities. He stated that Route 910 improved late-night access and urged the Board to maintain the route to ensure equitable transit access and support climate goals.

Board Comment

Board Member Bush thanked staff and members of the public for their comments and expressed enthusiasm about the positive results of the pilot program. He stated that he was pleased with the observed growth and asked staff to elaborate on the growth trajectory, including trends, month-over-month increases, and expectations moving forward. Mr. Boyd explained that ridership had generally increased month over month, with a slight dip in September for unknown reasons and expected seasonal declines during the November and December holidays. He stated that ridership was expected to continue growing gradually. He noted that the second-to-last northbound trip had the highest ridership, likely because the final trip was close enough to the first morning Trolley that riders chose to wait for the Trolley. He added that the service had helped reduce overcrowding on the first Trolley trip and improved capacity. He also explained that operational changes, including running trains out of service southbound before beginning northbound service, had eliminated previous crowding issues and reduced the need for riders to backtrack to secure space.

Board Member Bush asked about the marketing and promotional efforts for the pilot program, including available data on the budget and overall impact. He inquired whether increased promotional efforts could potentially lead to even greater ridership growth. Mark Olson, MTS Director of Marketing and Communications, reported that two major waves of outreach and promotion had been conducted, first at the launch in January and again in the fall, which appeared to correlate with ridership increases. He stated that the most effective strategy had been on-the-ground outreach, particularly in the San Ysidro area, where staff and passenger support representatives directly informed riders about the new service. He explained that marketing efforts also included digital advertising, cross-border billboard placements in Tijuana, and Spanish-language radio advertising. He concluded that a diversified marketing approach had been used and that significant growth potential remained for the route.

Board Member Bush thanked Mr. Olson and stated that many people were still unaware of the service, noting significant opportunity for increased promotion. He highlighted National City and airport workers with off-hour shifts as key populations that could benefit and expressed willingness to support additional marketing investments. He stated that increased spending could yield strong returns based on current trends and asked for data on rider destinations, including whether trips were primarily to the airport, downtown, or other locations. Mr. Boyd explained that ridership destinations were spread across the route, with approximately 60% of riders boarding at San Ysidro. He estimated that about half of those riders traveled to downtown San Diego, while the remainder exited at intermediate stops. He noted that, contrary to initial expectations, many riders were using inner stops between San Ysidro and downtown, resulting in significant activity throughout the corridor. He added that detailed ridership data by stop could be provided. Board Member Bush expressed his strong support for the program and expressed satisfaction with the observed growth and future potential. He requested detailed ridership data by stop to help identify additional marketing opportunities and improve outreach efforts. He stated that targeted promotion could further expand usage and noted his appreciation for the limited-stop design, which balanced efficiency with accessibility by providing service in each city without slowing operations. He also commended the data-driven planning process used to

determine stop locations and recommended continued engagement with drivers, noting their direct interaction with riders and valuable insights.

Board Member Moreno thanked staff for the presentation and praised Route 910 as a valuable addition to MTS's service portfolio. She stated that the route successfully combined efforts to increase overall ridership while expanding service for existing customers. She highlighted that ridership had increased by 31% in the first six months, with more than 75,000 total passengers, approximately 7,000 riders per month, and about 220 riders daily, calling the results exceptional. She emphasized that the route demonstrated MTS's ability to create services that meet customer needs and serve as a model for future growth. She encouraged further analysis of rider travel patterns beyond downtown destinations and noted the significance of cross-border travel to MTS ridership. She commended staff and overnight bus drivers for their work and expressed support for continued innovation, expanded marketing and outreach efforts, including social media engagement. She made a motion on the actionable item and requested ongoing updates.

Board Member Elo-Rivera thanked staff for the presentation and echoed prior comments in support of Route 910. He stated that the service was thoughtfully designed around the realities of riders' lives rather than standard schedules and emphasized its significant impact on overnight workers, students, and families. He explained that without this service, many riders faced high transportation costs or major disruptions to family routines. He expressed appreciation for the route as a meaningful way to improve quality of life for hardworking individuals and voiced strong support for making the service permanent.

Board Member McCann thanked staff for the presentation and noted that the Blue Line was among the most heavily used lines in the MTS system. He commended the innovative approach taken to expand service to meet the needs of a 24-hour society and highlighted that more than 75,000 passengers had already used the route. He stated that the service provided safe, reliable, and affordable transportation for work and other essential travel, and expressed appreciation for the positive impact on riders.

Action Taken

Board Member Moreno moved to 1) Receive public testimony and 2) Approve the conversion of Pilot Route 910 into a permanent route. Board Member McCann seconded the motion, and the vote was 13 to 0 in favor with Vice Chair Goble and Board Member Vaus absent.

13. Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service (Samantha Leslie)

Samantha Leslie, MTS Deputy General Counsel, presented on Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service. She provided details on: MTS For-Hire Vehicle Regulations, Waymo, MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC), TAC Motion, TAC Motion to MTS Board, and staff recommendation.

Public Comment

Mikail Hussein – provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Mikail expressed support for the recommendation and resolution while raising concerns about the impact of autonomous taxi services on human drivers. He stated that robot taxis created unfair competition and threatened the livelihoods of hardworking taxi drivers who serve seniors, visitors, and the community. He urged MTS to seek greater regulatory authority to ensure fairness and protect drivers.

Matthew Fish – provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Matthew introduced himself as the Business Manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 465 and stated their support for the resolution.

Crisoforo Gomez – provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Crisoforo expressed support for the resolution, stating solidarity with taxi workers and highlighting the

financial challenges they faced. He warned that driverless vehicle deployment would further harm workers and urged the Board to approve the item to ensure public input and prioritize worker and community impacts.

Board Comment

Board Member Elo-Rivera thanked staff for their work and emphasized the urgency of addressing autonomous vehicle operations, noting that Waymo intended to begin operating in San Diego. He expressed concern about the lack of local oversight, potential safety risks, operational disruptions, and negative impacts on transit, rideshare, and taxi workers. He argued that autonomous vehicles threatened jobs, public safety, and local control, and stressed the importance of regulatory authority and community input. He made a motion on staff recommendation and stated that he preferred handling this effort with internal MTS resources whenever possible, rather than outsourcing or relying on outside legal counsel. Board Member Foster seconded the motion.

Board Member Fleming stated his opposition to the motion, expressing concern about labor union influence and arguing that human-operated vehicles caused more disruptions than autonomous vehicles. He said he would support efforts focused solely on increasing local control but felt the motion aimed to hinder technological innovation. He emphasized that autonomous vehicle technology represented progress, compared it to other historical innovations, and noted his positive experiences observing Waymo operations in other cities. He concluded that resisting this technology would hold the region back and stated his intent to vote against the motion.

Board Member Mendoza stated that her questions regarding safety concerns had been addressed by Board Member Elo-Rivera and acknowledged that significant safety issues appeared to exist in other cities. She then asked for clarification on the resolution's reference to the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, specifically whether it concerned prohibiting services such as Waymo at the airport or related to potential airport-operated autonomous shuttle services between terminals. Ms. Leslie clarified that the draft resolution did not address airport-operated autonomous vehicle services and stated that she was not aware of any current plans for autonomous vehicles to transport passengers within the airport. Board Member Elo-Rivera clarified that the resolution specifically targeted Waymo-type autonomous passenger vehicles and was not intended to affect airport-operated people movers or shuttle services between terminals. He emphasized that the intent was not to impede airport transportation operations or MTS service to and from the airport, but rather to address individual autonomous vehicles operating without drivers.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe shared the airport's perspective, stating that the San Diego International Airport was currently awaiting guidance from the CPUC, which did not yet allow autonomous vehicle operations in the airport vicinity. She noted that there was no current conflict, as the airport was proceeding with traditional transportation methods, but expected the issue to be discussed further by the Airport Authority Board.

Board Member Elo-Rivera responded to concerns about innovation and safety, stating that while some safety data on autonomous vehicles appeared positive, he believed it was selectively framed and did not reflect broader operational risks. He cited recent disruptions in San Francisco during a power outage as evidence of the system's vulnerability and potential impacts on transit operations. He emphasized that the issue was not opposition to innovation, but the need to protect workers, public safety, and community interests. He defended labor participation in public processes and argued that technological advances should benefit everyday people, not only large corporations. He warned that unchecked deployment could eliminate driving jobs, reduce competition, and ultimately increase costs for passengers, citing past experiences with rideshare services. He concluded by stressing the importance of local control, fair regulation, and prioritizing workers and communities in the transition to new transportation technologies.

Board Member Hall stated that the primary intent of the motion was to ensure local control. He emphasized the importance of knowing which autonomous services were entering his city and addressing concerns as they arose.

Karen Landers, MTS General Counsel, explained that the final recommendation presented was intended to capture the committee's requests by providing broader authority to explore options, including submitting a protest or position letter. She stated that this approach allowed staff flexibility to assess available actions and effectively communicate the Board's direction and position following the meeting.

Board Member Elo-Rivera stated that he supported the staff recommendation as presented and explained that differences from the TAC motion reflected evolving regulatory approvals that occurred during the process. He noted that these changes highlighted the challenges of responding to rapidly developing autonomous vehicle policies and confirmed that the current recommendation represented the appropriate motion.

Chair Whitburn clarified the motion to ensure accurate documentation, stating that it authorized the CEO or her designee to participate in potential proceedings before the CPUC or DMV, communicate the Board's position on autonomous vehicle passenger services, and engage with the San Diego International Airport regarding these concerns. He confirmed that the motion included only the first three action items and did not include the final bullet point, and asked staff to confirm their understanding. Ms. Landers clarified that the position statement under consideration sought to restore local control and oppose autonomous vehicle passenger services operating without meaningful local oversight. Chair Whitburn requested clarification regarding whether outreach to the CPUC and/or DMV would take the form of a formal protest or a comment letter. He asked whether this decision would be left to staff discretion and emphasized the need to clearly define the Board's intent. Board Member Elo-Rivera asked Ms. Cooney for clarification on how she interpreted the difference between submitting a formal protest and a comment letter, noting that the distinction was important to him. Ms. Cooney explained that the formal requirements for submitting an official protest were not yet fully known and would depend on specific procedural steps, including demonstrating standing and potential harm to the agency. She stated that many agencies had submitted position or opposition letters, which was the more common approach, but noted that staff could explore the formal protest process further if directed. Ms. Landers explained that the recommendation was intentionally written broadly to allow flexibility as regulatory processes evolved. She stated that Waymo was expected to submit an advice letter application to the CPUC to operate passenger services in San Diego, and that agencies typically respond during the protest period through position or opposition letters. She noted that while formal technical protests could be explored, they involved complex procedural requirements. She added that the broader authorization would allow MTS to participate in future CPUC proceedings without returning to the Board for additional approval, ensuring timely and proactive engagement. Board Member Elo-Rivera stated that the clarification was helpful and expressed support for beginning with a position letter while further evaluating additional engagement options. He emphasized the importance of minimizing reliance on outside counsel and confirmed his understanding that MTS would clearly state its position and pursue opposition through the CPUC. He added that it was important for the agency to build internal capacity on these issues, noting that autonomous vehicle impacts would continue to grow, including in delivery and freight, with potential implications for MTS.

Ms. Cooney stated that if the City of San Diego had already taken a position, MTS could potentially collaborate and share resources, particularly if a more formal protest process became necessary. Board Member Elo-Rivera noted that the City of San Diego had taken a position through its legislative platform, though he stated that the current action differed and was moving more quickly. He added that the TAC action was driving the timing and urgency of the item.

Action Taken

Board Member Elo-Rivera moved to 1) Adopt Resolution 2026-01; and 2) Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or her designee(s), to participate in potential future proceedings at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) or the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), if any, to communicate the Board's position statement or concerns regarding autonomous vehicle passenger services; and 3) Authorize the CEO, or her designee(s) to communicate the Board's position statement or concerns regarding autonomous vehicle passenger services at the San Diego International Airport. Board Member Foster seconded the motion, and the vote was 12 in favor (Board Members Fernandez, Foster, Mendoza, McCann, Bush, Leyba-Gonzalez, Montgomery Steppe, Dillard, Hall, Elo-Rivera, Whitburn, and Moreno) to 1 opposed (Board Member Fleming) with Vice Chair Goble, and Board Member Vaus absent.

14. Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Monitoring (Samantha Leslie and Katie Rich, The Solis Group)

Samantha Leslie, MTS Deputy General Counsel, and Katie Rich, Solis Group Project Manager, presented on Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Monitoring. They presented on: MTS roles and responsibilities, 2025 MTS PLA projects, future PLA projects, and future efforts.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Board Comment

Board Member Dillard thanked staff for their presentation and commended their efforts, particularly highlighting the importance of supporting local employees in the San Diego region. She requested follow-up information regarding the Orange Line, specifically asking for an approximate breakdown of project costs invested in the City of La Mesa. She asked that the information be provided via email and concluded by expressing appreciation for the team's work.

Board Member Foster asked a clarifying question regarding the presentation, specifically referencing a chart that listed journeyman and apprentice labor hours. He inquired whether the unchanged heading indicated that no apprenticeship hours had been utilized to date on the project. Ms. Rich explained that the chart appeared to contain a duplication error and clarified that apprenticeship hours had been utilized, estimating approximately 9,000 hours with a compliance rate of about 75%. She stated that the information would be corrected. Board Member Foster thanked staff for the clarification and stated that he wanted to ensure compliance with apprenticeship requirements. He acknowledged that projects typically had until completion to meet obligations but emphasized the importance of monitoring progress. He also asked whether staff had observed any instances of apprentices working without proper supervision during site visits. Ms. Rich stated that instances of apprentices working unsupervised occurred occasionally and, when identified, required restitution. She noted that contractors generally complied with supervision requirements and documented apprentice participation through payroll reporting. She added that staff regularly cross-checked certified payroll, site observations, and reported work activities to ensure compliance, emphasizing that while such issues were not common, they did occur from time to time. Board Member Foster asked whether staff utilized an electronic certified payroll system. Ms. Rich responded that they used DIR reporting along with platforms such as LCPtracker, and in some cases direct submissions via Dropbox, depending on the contractor.

Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item only.

15. Grants Administration Report (Julia Tuer and Kena Teon)

Julia Tuer, MTS Manager of Government Affairs, and Kena Teon, MTS Grants Administrator, presented on the Grants Administration Report. They outlined the following information: team structure, administration of grants, regional support and collaboration, types of grants: formula and competitive, formula grant summary, stimulus / SB 125 summary, competitive grant summary, competitive funding challenges, Operation Lifesaver Program, Clean California Local Grant Program, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, Specialized Transportation Grant Program, strategic partnerships, and compliance audits.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Board Comment

There were no Board Comments.

Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item only.

16. Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Operating Reports (Brian Riley and Devin Braun)

The Board agreed to receive this report. No presentation provided.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Board Comment

There were no Board Comments.

Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item only.

OTHER ITEMS:

17. Chair, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) Communications

Board Member Hall noted that it was Vice Chair Goble's birthday and extended birthday wishes.

Ms. Cooney highlighted the PRONTO commemorative cards presented to the Board as part of MTS's community celebration program, which showcased local artists and the communities MTS served. She explained that the program included neighborhood beautification efforts and featured artwork highlighted in the agency's annual report. She introduced a special Black History Month PRONTO card titled American Sketches, created by Ibn Edwards, MTS Manager of Rail Facilities, inspired by the montage technique of his father, local artist and former art teacher, Eddie Edwards. She noted that the artwork celebrated Black history and community pride, had been featured in a recent KUSI interview, and would also appear on a wrapped bus during a local parade. She concluded by expressing pride in the program and congratulating Mr. Edwards for his contribution.

Board Member Bush thanked MTS staff for their efforts on the 24th Street mural project and provided a brief update, stating that work was scheduled to resume that evening with completion of the west façade expected later in the week. He noted that the project was intended to serve as a catalyst to address graffiti issues in the area and expressed appreciation for staff's diligence and support.

18. Remainder of Public Comments Not on The Agenda

There were no additional public comments.

19. Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is February 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

20. Public Comment for Closed Session

There were no Public Comments.

The Board convened to Closed Session at 10:52 a.m.

21. Closed Session - Conference With Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code 54956.9 (d)(4) (one potential case)

22. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

Angela McGaff, et al. vs. San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, et al.
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2022-00049144-CU-PO-CTL

Closed Session Reconvening

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 11:58 a.m.

Karen Landers, General Counsel, reported the following oral report of final actions taken in Closed Session:

21. The Board received a report and gave instructions to staff.

22. The Board received a report from legal counsel and gave instructions.

ADJOURNMENT

23. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

/s/ Stephen Whitburn

Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Filed by:

Approved as to form:

/s/ Lucia Mansour

Clerk of the Board
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

/s/ Karen Landers

General Counsel
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): January 15, 2026 CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 9:07 a.m.
 RECESS: _____ RECONVENE: _____
 CLOSED SESSION: 10:52 a.m. RECONVENE: 11:58 a.m.
 ORDINANCES ADOPTED: _____ ADJOURN: 11:59 a.m.

JURISDICTION	BOARD MEMBER	ALTERNATE	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
City of Chula Vista	Cesar Fernandez <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Preciado <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of Chula Vista	John McCann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Preciado <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of Coronado	Carrie Downey <input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Fleming <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
County of San Diego	Monica Montgomery Steppe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paloma Aguirre <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of El Cajon	Steve Goble (Vice-Chair) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phil Ortiz <input type="checkbox"/>	10:38 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of Imperial Beach	Matthew Leyba- Gonzalez <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mariko Nakawatase <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of La Mesa	Patricia Dillard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Arapostathis <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of Lemon Grove	Jennifer Mendoza <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jessyka Heredia <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of National City	Marcus Bush <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Rodriguez <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of Poway	Steve Vaus <input type="checkbox"/>	Peter De Hoff <input type="checkbox"/>	ABSENT	11:59 a.m.
City of San Diego	Vivian Moreno <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Campbell <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of San Diego	Sean Elo-Rivera <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe LaCava <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of San Diego	Todd Gloria <input type="checkbox"/>	Henry Foster <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of San Diego	Stephen Whitburn (Chair) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kent Lee <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.
City of Santee	Ronn Hall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Koval <input type="checkbox"/> John Minto <input type="checkbox"/>	9:07 a.m.	11:59 a.m.

SIGNED BY THE CLERK OF THE BOARD: /s/ Lucia Mansour