

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE  
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM (MTS),  
SAN DIEGO TRANSIT CORPORATION (SDTC),  
AND SAN DIEGO TROLLEY, INC. (SDTI)

April 7, 2005

MINUTES

A. ROLL CALL

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Committee members present: Toni Atkins, Bob Emery, Jerry Rindone, Ron Roberts, and Leon Williams. Ex Officio members present: Harry Mathis and Shirley Kaltenborn.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rindone moved approval of the minutes of the March 17, 2005, Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Emery seconded the motion, and the vote was 4 to 0 in favor.

C. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. MTS: Mid-Coast Light Rail Transit Project (CIP 20415)

Ms. Toni Bates, SANDAG Division Director of Planning, introduced this item. She also introduced the project manager, Ms. Christine Rychel, and the project engineer, Mr. Jim Hecht. Ms. Bates provided the Committee with an historical perspective on this project and reported on the status of the Balboa and University City Segments. She then explained why staff is recommending that the two segments be combined into one project. She stated that combining the projects results in a better project that can be more competitive in the process for obtaining federal funding. Ms. Bates also stated that TransNet will provide the local matching funds for this project. She added that, in addition, combining the segments will minimize operating complexities, a larger funding share becomes more probable, and there can be economies of scale related to some of the project tasks. She stated that, if the two projects are not combined, the Balboa segment may be in operation three to four years before the University City Segment is completed. She then provided a brief overview of the next steps that will be undertaken on behalf of this project.

In response to a question from Mr. Mathis regarding University Towne Center's (UTC) attitude toward this project, Ms. Bates stated that meetings are underway with the shopping center to discuss how the trolley would integrate from a design standpoint with their facilities. She stated that SANDAG is stipulating that some service-related retail and pedestrian connections be developed at the UTC trolley station. She also stated that staff will be participating in a planning commission workshop that is to be held in

May, and that the City of San Diego has been working with SANDAG staff on this project.

In response to another question from Mr. Mathis, Ms. Bates reviewed staff's identification of potential right-of-way for this project. Ms. Rychel stated that right-of-way issues remain to be discussed and agreed upon. Ms. Atkins stated that right-of-way dedication for this project has been discussed as part of the City's land-use development plan. She suggested that a number of alternate right-of-ways be evaluated as a precaution in case the desired right-of-way cannot be pursued. Ms. Bates stated that a preliminary engineering study will be conducted to evaluate various alternatives for right-of-way.

Mr. Ridone suggested that staff explore the feasibility and appeal to customers of having a loop at the end of the Mid-Coast line. Ms. Bates advised the Committee that staff will be developing a ridership model that would identify whether the line should serve UCSD or UTC first. Mr. Mathis expressed concern about exploring the possibility of a loop at this point of time in the process. He felt that staff should explore this possibility after a decision about combining the segments is made by SANDAG's Transportation Committee.

In response to a question from Mr. Emery, Ms. Bates stated that a substantial part of the line would be elevated rather than at grade and, therefore, constructing a tunnel would not be significantly more expensive than the cost for the rest of the line. Mr. Mathis suggested the retail space be created in the underground portion of the line.

The Committee briefly discussed political issues related to combining these two segments. Ms. Kaltenborn pointed out that communities served by the first segment of this project may prefer that the Balboa Segment be completed as soon as possible rather than waiting for resolution of issues related to the second segment before any of the project is started. Mr. Mathis agreed with Ms. Kaltenborn's comment. Chairman Williams stated that combining the projects will result in a project that has a better chance of being funded at the federal level. Ms. Bates stated that staff is considering the possibility of doing a design-build, which would accelerate completion of the project.

#### Action Taken

Mr. Rindone moved to receive this report for information and direct staff to review the possibility of creating a loop at the end of the Mid-Coast line. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, and the vote was 4 to 0 in favor with Ms. Atkins abstaining.

#### 2. MTS: Mission Valley East (MVE) LRT Project – Status of Start-Up Activities (CIP 10426.1)

MTS CEO Mr. Paul Jablonski reminded the Committee that they had requested that staff present a detailed report on a regular basis regarding MVE start-up activities from an operational basis. He stated that this is the first of those reports. Mr. Wayne Terry, SDTI Vice President of Operations, called attention to the handout distributed prior to the start of the meeting explaining that it contains detailed information regarding start-up activities. Mr. Terry briefly explained the characteristics that making the opening of the Green Line different from the opening of the Blue and Orange Lines. He reported that the Green Line will connect with the other two lines and there are unique fire, life and

safety issues. He added that there will be system-wide schedule rewrites, the first low-floor trolley operations, and the first operations control center. He provided the Committee with information on general tasks as well as tasks for the Revenue, Facilities, LRV Maintenance, Wayside Maintenance, and Transportation Departments. He also reviewed system safety, tunnel familiarization, and Code Compliance Department & Transit System Security Tasks. He reported that in a recent smoke test at the SDSU tunnel, jet fans were able to clear all smoke in the tunnel within 40 to 45 seconds.

In response to a question from Mr. Rindone, Mr. Terry reported that substations have been modified as the result of a recent substation fire. Mr. Terry offered to provide Committee members with a report that staff prepared regarding this matter. Mr. Rindone asked that the report simply be forwarded to Committee members. He stated that it did not have to be an agenda item. Mr. Terry explained that substations are inspected on a regular basis, and there is a warning light that can be seen from the right-of-way that alerts trolley operators when there is a problem. He stated that, once a problem is reported, staff is able to respond within 10 to 15 minutes.

Mr. Jablonski stated that activities connected with the timely start up of this project are proceeding as scheduled, and staff is continually monitoring these activities. He stated that the delivery of trolley cars is proceeding, and weekly conference calls with Siemens are still being conducted to ensure that the new trolley cars arrive in a timely fashion. He stated that staff and Siemens are still working on issues related to the compatibility between the new S70 and existing SD100 trolley cars. He stated that the resolution of these issues is critical to the system's ability to have mixed consists. He also stated that there is a supply issue that has arisen relative to interior liners for the new trolley cars that has hopefully now been resolved.

#### Action Taken

Mr. Rindone moved to receive the report on the status of start-up activities and related construction elements on the Mission Valley East line extension. Mr. Emery seconded the motion, and the vote was 5 to 0 in favor.

#### 3. MTS: Update on Mission Valley East Start-Up Marketing and Promotions (CIP 10426.13)

Mr. Gonzalo Lopez, MTS Director of Marketing and Public Relations, distributed a list of ideas being considered for opening day for the MVE Green Line and tasks that have already been completed. In response to a question from Mr. Roberts, Mr. Jablonski stated that the safety issues referenced in the handout relate to a possible plan to bring two trolley cars together face to face on the same track. Mr. Rindone suggested that the venue selected for the dinner/reception be accessible by trolley. Mr. Roberts stated that the dinner should be held at SDSU.

Ms. Atkins stated that chairs should be provided for everyone attending the opening event – members of the public as well as dignitaries. She also suggested that staff provide shaded areas and ensure that the event is ADA accessible. She also suggested that informational giveaways be provided for distribution at summer street fairs. Mr. Lopez stated that staff will actually be participating in some of these street fairs.

Ms. Atkins stated that she really liked the special postcards showcasing the art at the various stations. She suggested that staff invite the arts reporter from the Union-Tribune

as well as the artists who created the art to the opening event. She suggested that staff really promote the art aspect of the project. She added that she was not totally comfortable with the "Think Green" theme.

In response to a question from Mr. Roberts, Mr. Lopez reported that the contract with the media consultant is \$15,000 and for the event planning consultant is \$12,000. Mr. Lopez also confirmed that these expenses were budgeted for. Mr. Roberts stressed the unique marketing opportunity the Green Line presents leading up to, during, and after its opening. Mr. Rindone advised Mr. Lopez that the Celebrate Chula Vista event has been moved to July 4 and stated that staff should be present to promote the Green Line.

#### Action Taken

Mr. Rindone moved to receive the report for information. Mr. Emery seconded the motion, and the vote was 5 to 0 in favor.

#### Public Comment

*Peter Warner:* Mr. Warner suggested that staff provide Trainweb.com with materials on the opening of the Green Line for use at its upcoming May 4-5 meeting in Fullerton. He also suggested that their media personnel be invited to the opening to take pictures for display on the Trainweb Web site.

#### D. REVIEW OF DRAFT APRIL 14, 2005 BOARD AGENDA

##### Recommended Consent Items

6. MTS: Dart/Flex Services – Contract Extension (OPS 980.9, PC 30133)

Recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the CEO to exercise six carryover months allowable under the current contract (MTS Document No. B0228.0-00) with Southland Transit, Inc. for the DART/Flex-route services. The extension of the carryover months will run from July 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005 (see Attachment A of the agenda item.)

7. MTS: Helix Water District Request for Easement (CIP 10426.6)

Recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the CEO to execute an easement with Helix Water District to ratify the installation of water facilities within MTS-owned property on Keeney Street in La Mesa, located on Assessor Parcel No. 469-100-03, in substantially the same form as shown in Attachment A of the agenda item

##### Recommended Consent Items

There was no discussion of Recommended Consent Items.

##### Recommended Board Discussion Items

There was no discussion of Recommended Board Discussion Items.

E. REVIEW OF SANDAG TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Mr. Conan Cheung, MTS Director of Planning and Performance Monitoring, reported that the only items of interest on the April 15, 2005, Transportation Committee Agenda are the public hearing for the Regional Short-Range Transit Plan, which has already been presented to the MTS Board, and the Mid-Coast LRT Update, which was presented earlier in this meeting.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS

There was no discussion under this item.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

C. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)

4. CLOSED SESSION (Taken Out of Order)

The Board convened to Closed Session at 10:40 a.m. for MTS: Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of California Government Code Section 54956.9) California Regional Water Quality Control Board v. MTS (CA10-3015837.02:rodrv) (CIP 10426.2)

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 11:06 a.m.

Oral Report of Final Actions Taken in Closed Session

Ms. Tiffany Lorenzen, MTS General Counsel, reported the following action taken in Closed Session: The Executive Committee received a report and gave direction to staff.

H. NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2005 in the Executive Conference Room.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

---

Chairman

Attachment: A. Roll Call Sheet

gailwilliams/minutes