

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

November 18, 2005

MINUTES

A. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Rindone called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Executive Committee member attendance is attached.

B. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. MTS: Appointment of MTS Chairperson (ADM 110.1, PC 50101)

The Executive Committee was provided with a list of interview questions as well as a document outlining the qualifications, critical organizational issues, responsibilities, average time commitment, and support provided by MTS for the MTS Chairperson position. The Committee discussed minor modifications to the interview questions and decided on a process for asking the interview questions.

Ms. Lynn Schenk joined the meeting, and Vice Chair Rindone explained the interview process to her. In introduction, Ms. Schenk stated that she was a long-time San Diego City resident, born in New York City and lived in Los Angeles. She is an attorney who gets a great deal of satisfaction from doing public service. She served as the California Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing under Governor Jerry Brown during the early days of the conception of San Diego Trolley. She also served as Vice Chair of the Port Commission when funding was granted for the Laurel Street overpass for trolley and played a small but important role in funding that project. She was then elected to the U.S. Congress in 1992 and chose to be on the Transportation Subcommittee of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. She added that she has always had an interest in high-speed rail, and is a member of the Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Corridor Agency. She also served as Chief of Staff for Governor Gray Davis, where she stated projects got funded because they came through the Governor's office and through Ms. Schenk as Chief of Staff. She added that she is now in private practice in San Diego.

Ms. Schenk told the Committee that, even though she was initially recommended by the Amalgamated Transit Union and did not initiate interest herself, she is interested in the position and would approach the position with her usual vigor and enthusiasm. She provided the following information to the Committee in response to their questions:

Leadership Style: Supports healthy discussion and debate and, from that, should arrive at a clear and concise path for moving forward. As Chair, she would follow that path. Willing to make decisions, when necessary, and stand up for those

decisions. Feels that the Board should stay within its role as a policy board and let the operators be operators with oversight by the Board. Feels that professional staff members should handle operational issues, and that those staff members in which the Board doesn't have faith should be changed. Would not shirk from contrary and tough decisions. "Knows enough to know when she doesn't know enough."

Balancing of Diverse Interests: Has experience with balancing diverse interests from her tenure with the Port District. Feels it is important to listen, be knowledgeable, and not dismiss anyone's concerns. Willing to make hard decisions when necessary.

Relationships with Staff Members: Has learned to be a client rather than an attorney. As an example, would be able to assess the performance of in-house counsel but would not interfere with in-house counsel's performance of legal tasks for MTS.

Varying Perceptions Between Board and Staff Over Specific Issues: Felt that both Board and staff members are here to serve the public and would assume everyone has the best of intentions. Feels that it is important for Board and staff members to treat each other with respect as the public will base its perceptions of the organization on how these two groups interact.

Public Transportation for People at all Economic Levels: Cited examples of other cities where people at all economic levels utilize public transit, such as New York City and Washington, D.C.. Felt that San Diego could make some improvements in this area to make transit, particularly bus services, more reliable, convenient, and safe. Felt that San Diego would not be a first-class, modern city without this element.

Time Commitment: Can commit, starting in January, to all Thursday Executive Committee and Board meetings. Would change how preparation activities are conducted and can commit to those. Could not commit to all SANDAG meetings at all times but would make herself available for critical issues and discussions. Is results oriented and would take whatever approach was needed to achieve the desired results, not necessarily in the form of a meeting. Would also work for improved results at the legislative level, not necessarily during conferences. Feels that many decisions are made before these events. Believes that staff members have a sense of what issues are critical and are responsible for keeping the Chair and Board apprised of critical issues. Cannot commit three eight-hour days.

The Committee discussed SANDAG Board and Transportation Committee meetings and the fact that there are four MTS Board members who serve in some capacity at each of these two levels and also represent MTS. They agreed that the Chair would not need to be present for every meeting. Ms. Schenk stated she would work with Gary Gallegos, SANDAG Executive Director, and Paul Jablonski, MTS CEO, to handle any critical issues. She felt that communications at this level are many times more effective than those that take place at meetings.

Advocating for Transit: Staff explained MTS's current relationship and process with its lobbyists. Ms. Schenk stated that she has a great deal of experience and would be very interested in helping to identify secure sources of funding and work on eliminating deficits. She felt that is where the future is for MTS.

Mr. Roberts stated that he was in favor of more personal discussions between legislators and someone representing MTS who has this critical experience. Ms. Schenk stated that she knows how to cultivate relationships with key staff members of legislative offices, which is key to this process. She stated that she would use her time effectively and deliver results in this area.

Public Meetings Related to the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA): Would make every effort to make herself available for these meetings. Feels it is important for people to feel that they can be heard.

Merger of MTS and North County Transit District (NCTD): Mr. Emery explained that the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in Sacramento is currently in the process of doing an analysis of how effective the consolidation mandated by SB 1703 has been. Mr. Emery explained that, when interviewed by the LAO, he told them that MTS and NCTD have a good working relationship and work collaboratively on many levels (at SANDAG and through the Joint Committee on Regional Transit) to create a regional transportation system. Mr. Rindone stated that he felt such as merger would yield minimal cost savings. Ms. Schenk agreed with these comments.

Mr. Rindone stressed that MTS's biggest challenge in terms of its relationship with SANDAG and NCTD relates to receiving a fair share of funding for transit balanced against funding for highways and roads. He alluded to MTS's infrastructure needs. Ms. Schenk stated that this has been a 30-year battle and will continue to be one. Ms. Scheck stated that she was very impressed with where transit has come since 1978, but that a lot more that needs to be done relative to bus service. She reiterated that she is a strong advocate for transit use at every economic level. She stated that San Diego is covering its land with freeway lanes.

Ms. Atkins stated that most developers do not consider transit during their initial planning process. Ms. Schenk stated that transit is an economic driver, and she would like to make sure that all transit components are fully developed.

Ms. Schenk left the meeting. Each Committee member briefly outlined his/her impressions. All members felt comfortable that Ms. Schenk could meet the basic time requirements and be effective in other ways where she could not meet specific meeting requirements. All members were favorably impressed.

C. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Committee Member Communications and Other Business.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2005 in the Executive Conference Room.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Rindone adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Chairman

Attachment: A. Roll Call Sheet
gailwilliams/minutes