



**Metropolitan
Transit
System**

Policies and Procedures No. 22

Board Approval: 6/13/19

SUBJECT:

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM (MTS) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PURPOSE:

To define and clarify Board Rules of Procedure and incorporate them in Board Policy.

BACKGROUND:

In 1977, the Board adopted Rules of Procedure by resolution and from time to time amendments have been adopted. The Rules shall be contained in Board Policy for ease of reference and periodic updating. The Board is established and governed by the Mills-Deddeh Transit Development Act, set forth in the Sections 120000 through 120702 of the California Public Utilities Code ("MTS Enabling Legislation"). Section 120101 requires to the Board to "establish rules for its proceedings." In the event the rules of procedure set forth herein conflict with the MTS Enabling Legislation, or other applicable law, the applicable law shall supersede these rules.

22.1 Membership and Organization

22.1.1 Membership in this Board is established by Sections 120050 through 120051.6 of the MTS Enabling Legislation.

22.1.2 The Board consists of 15 members selected as follows:

- a. One member of the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
- b. Four members of the City Council of the City of San Diego, one of whom shall be the mayor, appointed by the City Council.
- c. One member of each city council appointed individually by the City Councils of the Cities of Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, and Santee.



- d. Two members of the City Council of the City of Chula Vista, one of whom shall be the mayor, appointed by the City Council.
- e. The chairperson of the board shall be selected from the board membership by a two-thirds vote of the board, a quorum being present. The chairperson shall serve for a term of two years, except that he or she is subject to removal at any time by a two-thirds vote of the board, a quorum being present.

22.1.3 [RESERVED]

22.1.4 Alternate members of the Board shall be appointed as follows:

- a. The County of San Diego Board of Supervisors shall appoint as its alternate member a county supervisor not already appointed as the primary board member under Section 22.1.2(a), who represents one of the two supervisorial districts within MTS's jurisdiction with the greatest percentage of its area within the incorporated area of the County of San Diego.
- b. The City Councils of the Cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, San Diego and Santee shall each individually appoint a member of their respective city councils not already appointed as a primary board member to serve as an alternate member for each member of the city on the board.
- c. At its discretion, a city council or the county board of supervisors may appoint a second alternate member to serve on the board in the event that neither a member nor the alternate member is able to attend a meeting of the board.

22.1.5 This Board shall exercise all powers authorized by the laws of the State of California.

22.1.6 Only the duly selected official representative, or in his or her absence his or her duly selected alternate, shall be entitled to represent a member agency in the deliberations of the Board.

22.1.7 Names of the official representatives and alternates shall be communicated in writing to the Board by each participating member agency and shall thereafter be annually communicated or reaffirmed prior to the February meeting of the Board and at such other times as changes in representation are made by member agencies.

22.1.8 The Board shall have the authority to appoint committees or subcommittees and may provide for the appointment of alternates to these committees or subcommittees.

22.1.9 Standing committees shall be appointed by the Board as may be required to carry out general and continuing functions and shall be abolished only upon specific action by the Board.

22.1.10 Ad hoc specialized subcommittees may be appointed by the Board as the need arises to accomplish specific tasks. Upon completion of its assignment, each ad hoc subcommittee shall disband.

22.1.11 Board members serving on such subcommittees shall be compensated as provided by Board ordinance. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to enter into agreements to compensate individuals who were Board members at the time of their appointments to such subcommittees and who continue to serve on such subcommittees after their terms of office as Board members, subject to the same limitations as exist for compensation of Board members, and subject to replacement by the Board.

22.2 Meetings

22.2.1 On or before the first regular meeting of the Board in December of each year, the Board shall adopt a schedule of its meetings by date, time, and location for the coming year. The schedule of the meetings shall be published in the local newspaper of general circulation prior to the next regular meeting. The schedule of meetings shall also be published on the MTS website and posted at the MTS Executive Offices.

22.2.2 The Board may, when necessary, change the time and place of regular meetings. Notice of such change shall be posted pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

22.2.3 The Clerk of the Board shall forward written notice of the annual schedule of regular meetings and any changes thereto stating the dates, times, and locations to each member's agency and to the respective members and alternates of the Board and the standing committees.

22.2.4 Special meetings may be called and noticed under the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act as applicable and, specifically, Section 54956 of the California Government Code. The call and notice shall be posted in an area accessible to the public at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Special meetings normally shall be called by a majority of the Board or Executive Committee only upon a finding that

extraordinary circumstances require Board action prior to the next scheduled Board meeting, such as to discuss a work stoppage or significant litigation, or that a special meeting is necessary to hold a workshop, a joint meeting with another agency, or for other special purposes at a future date beyond the next Board meeting. The Chair may call such meetings only when such extraordinary circumstances arise after the last Board or Executive Committee meeting and Board action is required prior to the next regularly scheduled Board or Executive Committee meeting.

22.2.5 A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and all official acts of the Board shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board present.

a. After a vote of the members is taken, a weighted vote may be called by the members of any two jurisdictions in accordance with Section 120102.5 of the MTS Enabling Legislation and MTS Board Policy No. 27 (Weighted Vote).

22.2.6 Parliamentary procedure at all meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised except as otherwise modified herein.

22.2.7 Prior to each regular meeting, the Clerk of the Board shall forward a copy of the agenda to each member in accordance with the schedule adopted by the Board. The agendas shall also be mailed to each person or entity previously requesting such in writing. The Clerk shall post the agenda in an area accessible to the public at least 72 hours before the meeting in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Agenda materials shall be available as public record in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and, specifically, Section 54957.5 of the California Government Code.

22.2.8 The Board may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

22.2.9 Requests for Board action may be initiated by any member of the Board or any staff officer.

22.2.10 Communication requests may be initiated by an individual and submitted to the Clerk by letter or on forms provided by the Clerk and must state the subject matter and the action which the writer wishes the Board to take. The Clerk shall review all communication requests so received and shall list them on the Board's docket under those items which the Clerk deems to be proper areas of discussion or action by the Board. When a Communications item is listed on the docket, it is not debatable and must be referred to an appropriate committee, other public agency, or to staff to prepare a report or response.

22.2.11 Any permanent rule of the Board as set forth herein and unless otherwise established by law may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

22.3 Amendments

22.3.1 The Board shall be responsible for making all amendments to these rules.

22.3.2 Proposed amendments may be originated by the Board, or any member of such, or by the Chief Executive Officer.

22.3.3 Each proposed amendment shall be considered by the Board and a copy thereof forwarded by the Clerk of the Board to the official representative of each member agency.

22.4 Ordinances

22.4.1 Every ordinance shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Board and attested by the Clerk of the Board.

22.4.2 On the passage of all ordinances, the votes of the several members of the Board shall be entered on the minutes.

22.4.3 Ordinances shall not be passed at other than a regular meeting or at an adjourned regular meeting. However, an urgency ordinance may be passed at a special meeting. Except when, after reading the title, further reading is waived by regular motion adopted by unanimous vote of the Board members present, all ordinances shall be read in full either at the time of introduction or passage. When ordinances, other than urgency ordinances, are altered after introduction, they shall be passed only at a regular or at an adjourned regular meeting held at least five days after alteration. Corrections of typographical or clerical errors are not alterations within the meaning of this section.

22.4.4 Consistent with Section 120109 of the MTS Enabling Legislation, the Clerk of the Board shall cause a proposed ordinance or proposed amendment to an ordinance, and any ordinance adopted by the Board, to be published at least once, in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the Board's area of jurisdiction.

22.4.5 The publication of an ordinance, as required by subdivision 22.4.4, may be satisfied by either of the following actions:

- a. The Board may publish a summary of a proposed ordinance or proposed amendment to an ordinance. The summary shall be prepared by the Clerk of the Board and General Counsel. The summary shall be published and a certified copy of the full text of the proposed ordinance or proposed amendment shall be posted in the office of the

Clerk of the Board at least five (5) days prior to the Board meeting at which the proposed ordinance or amendment is to be adopted. Within 15 days after adoption of the ordinance or amendment, the Board shall publish a summary of the ordinance or amendment with the names of those Board members voting for and against the ordinance or amendment, and the Clerk of the Board shall post in the office of the clerk a certified copy of the full text of the adopted ordinance or amendment along with the names of those Board members voting for and against the ordinance or amendment.

- b. If the person designated by the Board determines that it is not feasible to prepare a fair and adequate summary of the proposed ordinance or amendment, and if the Board so orders, a display advertisement of at least one-quarter of a page in a newspaper of general circulation in the Board's area of jurisdiction shall be published at least five (5) days prior to the Board meeting at which the proposed ordinance or amendment is to be adopted. Within 15 days after adoption of the ordinance or amendment, a display advertisement of at least one-quarter of a page shall be published. The advertisement shall indicate the general nature of, and prove information regarding, the adopted ordinance or amendment, including information sufficient to enable the public to obtain copy of the complete text of the ordinance or amendment and the name of those Board members voting for and against the ordinance amendment.

22.4.6 Ordinances shall take effect thirty days after their final passage. An ordinance takes effect immediately, if it is an ordinance for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, containing a declaration of the facts constituting the urgency and is passed by a four-fifths vote of the Board.

22.5 Public Comment

22.5.1 At a public hearing of the Board, persons wishing to provide comment and testimony shall be permitted to address the Board after submitting a written request to speak to the Clerk identifying the person and the subject agenda item. The Chairperson may limit the time for each presentation and may permit additional time to speakers representing a group of individuals or organizations to avoid duplicative testimony. Ordinarily, each speaker will be allowed no more than three minutes.

22.5.2 Persons wishing to comment on agenda items other than a public hearing must submit a written request to speak in advance to the Clerk identifying the person and the subject agenda item. Comments must be limited to issues relevant to the particular agenda item. The Chairperson may limit the time for each presentation and may permit additional time to speakers

representing a group of individuals or organizations to avoid duplicative testimony. Ordinarily, each speaker will be allowed no more than three minutes.

22.5.3 Public comment on matters not on the agenda will be permitted on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Persons wishing to comment must submit a written request in advance to the Clerk identifying the person and subject matter. The Chairperson may limit the time for each speaker. Ordinarily, each speaker will be allowed no more than three minutes.

22.6 Chairperson

Prior to the expiration of a Chairperson's term, the Executive Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board on whether to reelect the current Chairperson. In the event that the Board does not reelect a chairperson, or in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chairperson, the Executive Committee shall create an ad hoc nominating committee that shall, by whatever means it deems appropriate, recommend to the Board a candidate or candidates for the position of Chairperson. The Board shall then vote to elect a Chairperson in accordance with Section 22.1.2(e).

22.7 Election of Board Officers and Appointments to Committees

22.7.1 On or before the Board's first meeting in November, the Board shall appoint less than a quorum of members to an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee. The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee shall review the list of MTS committees and make recommendations to the Board with respect to the appointment of members of the Board or former Board members to serve on each MTS committee.

22.7.2 The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee shall also review the list of outside boards and/or committees and make recommendations to the Board with respect to the appointment of members of the Board to represent MTS on each outside board or committee.

22.7.3 The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee shall also make a recommendation to the Board with respect to the appointment of the Vice Chairperson and the Chair Pro Tem and any other board officers.

22.7.4 The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee shall forward its recommendations for appointments of officers and committee members on or before the first Board meeting in January.

22.7.5 At its first meeting in January, the Board shall elect a Vice Chairperson and a Chair Pro Tem from amongst its members. The Vice Chairperson shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson. In the event of the absence or inability to act by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the Chair Pro Tem shall preside.

22.7.6 The Board shall then vote on the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee with respect to all other committee appointments.

22.7.7 In the event that a Board member vacates his or her position on the Board, at the next meeting, the Chairperson shall take nominations from the floor to fill any opening in any Committee positions vacated by that Board member.

22.8 Executive Committee

22.8.1 The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson (if he or she is not already a voting member), a member from the County of San Diego, a member from the City of San Diego, the Transportation Committee Representative (if he or she is not already a voting member), one member who represents the cities of Chula Vista, National City, Coronado, and Imperial Beach (the “South Bay Cities’ representative”), and one member who represents the cities of Lemon Grove, La Mesa, El Cajon, Poway, and Santee (the “East County Cities’ representative”). The South Bay Cities’ representative and the East County Cities’ representative shall serve as members of the Executive Committee for a term of two years each. The terms of these two members shall be staggered so as to avoid replacement of both members at the same time.

22.8.2 The East County and South Bay representatives shall serve in the following order:

East County: El Cajon, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Santee, Poway—each serving a two-year term.

South Bay: Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City—each serving a two-year term.

After each member has served as either the East County or South Bay representative, the rotation schedule shall repeat.

22.8.3 The alternates to the Executive Committee members shall be as follows:

22.8.3.1 The alternate for the County of San Diego shall be the alternate appointed by the County of San Diego to serve as the alternate for the Board.

2.8.3.2 The alternate for the City of San Diego shall be selected by the City of San Diego from amongst the three remaining City of San Diego Board members.

2.8.3.3 The alternates for the East County Cities' and the South Bay Cities' representatives shall be the representative from the city that is next in the rotation order set forth in section 22.8.2 above (for example, if the City of El Cajon is currently the primary Executive Committee member, then the City of La Mesa member shall be the alternate Executive Committee member). Alternates shall be appointed for a term of two years or such lesser term as necessary to coincide with the term of the member for whom the alternate is appointed.

22.8.4 The Vice Chairperson shall attend each Executive Committee meeting as a voting member. The Vice Chairperson shall serve as the alternate to the Chairperson in his or her absence and as a second alternate at large for any of the Executive Committee representatives and shall be a voting member when serving in this capacity.

22.8.5 At its first meeting in January, the Board shall vote on the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee's recommendation for the representative and alternate to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Transportation Committee to serve for a term of one year. In the event that the Board votes to appoint a member of the Board who does not serve on the Executive Committee, then the appointed SANDAG Transportation Committee representative, or the alternate in his or her absence, shall attend the Executive Committee meetings as a voting member.

22.8.6 The primary purpose of the Executive Committee shall be to review and recommend consent items for the agenda of the next MTS Board of Directors meeting; add or delete items as appropriate; and provide input and direction on emerging policies, plans, and issues, in advance, for Board consideration. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to create ad hoc subcommittees for purposes of carrying out its duties and responsibilities.

22.8.7 Three members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee, and a majority vote of the members present shall be required to approve any item. In the absence of a quorum, the Chairperson may review and recommend consent items for the agenda, establish the order of items, and add or delete items.

22.8.8 The Executive Committee shall adopt operating procedures as are necessary for the conduct of its business.

22.9 Audit Oversight Committee

22.9.1 The Audit Oversight Committee shall be comprised of the same members that make up the Executive Committee and such other

individuals as the Board may appoint at the first MTS Board meeting each calendar year. The Board may also appoint individuals who are not members of the Board to serve as non-voting advisory members to the Audit Oversight Committee

22.9.2 No additional compensation shall be paid to the members of the Audit Oversight Committee unless a meeting takes place on a day other than a regularly scheduled MTS Board meeting or MTS Executive Committee meeting. Compensation shall be paid to any additional voting members who are appointed to serve on the Audit Oversight Committee. No compensation shall be paid to any non-voting advisory member appointed by the MTS Board.

22.9.3 The primary duties and responsibilities of the Audit Oversight Committee shall be to ensure that management is maintaining a comprehensive framework of internal control, to ensure that management's financial reporting practices are assessed objectively, and to determine to its own satisfaction that the financial statements are properly audited and that any problems uncovered in the course of the audit are properly reported and resolved.

22.9.4 The Audit Oversight Committee shall:

- a. Review the scope of the annual financial statement audit and any other audits the committee feels are appropriate. The financial statement or CAFR audit should be conducted by an external, independent, public accounting firm experienced in municipal financial audits (external auditor).
- b. Review the purpose and scope of any nonaudit services to be performed by the external auditor.
- c. Oversee the procurement of the external auditor and any related advisory services with final approval by the Board.
- d. Oversee the preparation of annual financial statements, the annual financial reporting process, internal controls, and the external auditor using an appropriate degree of professional skepticism.
- e. Assess the performance of the external auditor.
- f. Provide a forum for internal auditor(s) to report findings during committee meetings. Internal auditor(s) are MTS employee(s) who report to management and primarily perform operational and compliance audits. In unusual circumstances involving significant fraud, waste, or abuse, the internal auditors must contact the Chairperson of the Audit Oversight Committee.

g. Establish a procedure for receipt, retention, and treatment of complaints regarding accounting, internal controls, or auditing matters.

22.9.5 The Audit Oversight Committee shall perform the following tasks each year and, to the extent possible, adhere to this timetable:

- a. Prior to the fiscal year end, review the independent audit engagement letter.
- b. Prior to the fiscal year end establish a plan for review of the audits with external auditor.
- c. In October or November, review a draft of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- d. Prior to the fiscal year end, review the management letter and management's response to the letter from the previous year.

22.9.6 At a minimum, and no later than the MTS Board meeting for the CAFR final adoption, the Audit Oversight Committee shall publically ask the following questions of MTS management and/or the external auditors:

- a. What is the name of the audit firm performing the audit, and how long has such firm been under contract to perform such audits?
- b. Was the audit performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and generally accepted government auditing standards? If not, why?
- c. Has the external auditor prepared an unqualified opinion regarding the financial statements? If not, what type of opinion was issued and why?
- d. Did the external auditor issue a management letter?
- e. Did the external auditor find any nonmaterial weaknesses or reportable conditions?
- f. How did the external audit firm maintain its independence during the course of the audit?
- g. Describe, in general, the audit procedures performed.
- h. Were any new accounting principles adopted? If so, what was their effect?

- i. Does the external auditor recommend any changes in the accounting policies used or their application? Did management apply the best accounting principles or merely permitted ones?
- j. Describe any significant accounting adjustments affecting the financial statements (prior year as well as current year).
- k. Did the external auditor encounter any difficulties in dealing with management in performing the audit?
- l. Were there any disagreements with management regarding any accruals, estimates, reserves, or accounting principles?
- m. Did the external auditor have the full cooperation of MTS management and staff?
- n. Assess the quality of the accounting, internal controls, and the competency of staff.
- o. Were there any accounting issues on which the audit firm sought the advice of other audit firms or regulatory bodies?
- p. Are there new pronouncements and/or risks affecting future financial statements which the Audit Oversight Committee should be aware of?

22.9.8 A majority of the members of the Audit Oversight Committee shall constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of the members present shall be required to approve any item.

22.9.9 The Audit Oversight Committee shall adopt operating procedures as are necessary for the conduct of its business.

22.10 Board Member Standards of Conduct

22.10.1 The purpose of this policy is to emphasize that each Board member occupies a position of public trust that demands the highest moral and ethical standard of conduct.

22.10.2 This policy shall be supplemental and in addition to the Conflict of Interest Code of the Board and any applicable laws or regulations (including, but not limited to, the Brown Act, Government Code section 1090 and the Political Reform Act) and is not intended to supersede any provisions thereof.

22.10.3 Board members shall not engage in any business or transaction or have a financial or other personal interest, actual, potential, or

apparent, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her official duties or would tend to impair his or her independence of judgment or action in the performance of such duties. Such business, transaction, or interest shall constitute a conflict of interest.

22.10.4 No Board member shall engage in any enterprise or activity that shall result in any of the following:

- a. Using the prestige or influence of the Board office for private gain or advantage of the member or another person.
- b. Using time, facilities, equipment, or supplies of the Board for the private gain or advantage of the member or another person.
- c. Using official information not available to the general public for private gain or advantage of the member or another person.
- d. Receiving or accepting money or other consideration from anyone other than the Board for the performance of acts done in the regular course of duty.
- e. Receiving or accepting, directly or indirectly, any gift or favor from any one doing business with the Board under circumstances from which it could reasonably be inferred that such was intended to influence such person in such person's duties or as a reward for official action.
- f. Soliciting any gift or favor in such person's official capacity, either directly or indirectly, when such solicitation might reasonably be inferred as to have a potential effect on such person's duties or decision, or when the individual's position as a Board member would in any way influence the decision of the person being solicited.
- g. Engaging in or accepting private employment or rendering services for private interest, direct or indirect, which may conflict with such person's responsibility or duty, or which, because of that person's position, may influence a decision to the benefit of the organization in which such person has an interest.

22.10.5 If a Board member has an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest in the subject of an agenda item, and the Board will make a decision regarding this agenda item during an open session meeting, the Board member must recuse himself or herself or, in the case of uncertainty, request a binding determination from the Board's General Counsel. If the Board member has a conflict, he

or she may observe, but not participate, in the decision-making process.

22.10.6 If a Board member has an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest in the subject of an agenda item to be discussed during a closed session meeting, the Board member shall be disqualified and not present during such discussion so as not to make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence the discussion or decision. In such case, the Board member must recuse himself or herself or, in the case of uncertainty, request a binding determination from the Board's General Counsel. In accordance with the Brown Act, the Board member would be entitled to any information that is publicly reported. The Board member would not, however, be privy to any confidential or privileged information or communications pertaining to the closed session agenda item.

22.10.7 No Board member shall disclose to any person, other than members of the Board and other Board staff designated to handle such confidential matters, the content or substance of any information presented or discussed during a closed session meeting unless the Board authorizes such disclosure by the affirmative vote by a majority of the Board.

22.10.8 No Board member may disclose confidential or privileged information or communications to any person other than a Board member, General Counsel to the Board, or other Board staff designated to handle such matters, unless disclosure is mandated by law or the Board authorizes such disclosure by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board.

22.10.9 A Board member shall not be privy to confidential or privileged information or communications concerning threatened, anticipated, or actual litigation affecting the Board where the Board member has an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest. In the case of uncertainty as to whether a conflict of interest exists, the Board's General Counsel shall issue a binding determination.

22.10.10 No Board member shall represent a position on an issue to be the Board's unless the Board has formally adopted such position at a public meeting.

22.10.11 Any violation of this policy shall constitute official misconduct if determined by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Board in an open and public meeting. The Board may elect to censure the Board member and the violation may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties as provided for by applicable law.

Original Policy approved on 4/5/84.
Policy revised on 1/12/84.

Policy revised on 7/11/85.
Policy revised on 1/8/87.
Policy revised on 1/11/90.
Policy revised on 8/23/90.
Policy revised on 1/10/91.
Policy revised on 3/24/94.
Policy revised on 1/14/99.
Policy revised on 6/14/01.
Policy revised on 1/10/02.
Policy revised on 1/24/02.
Policy revised on 5/8/03.
Policy revised 2/26/04.
Policy revised 1/12/06.
Policy revised 3/9/06.
Policy revised 3/23/06.
Policy revised 6/14/07.
Policy revised 7/19/07.
Policy revised 2/21/08.
Policy revised 12/11/08.
Policy revised 2/12/15.
Policy revised 11/10/16.
Policy revised 11/9/2017, changes effective 1/1/2018.
Policy revised 6/13/2019.