# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA REGULAR MEETING <br> APRIL 23, 2021 - 9:00 AM 

## DUE TO COVID-19, THE APRIL 23, 2021 SANTA CRUZ METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-25-20 AND N-210-20, WHICH SUSPEND CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON

The public may participate remotely via the Zoom website at this link and following the instructions or by calling 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID 84796640755
Public comment may be submitted via email to boardinquiries@scmtd.com. Please indicate in your email the agenda item to which your comment applies. Comments submitted before the meeting will be provided to the Directors before or during the meeting. Comments submitted after the meeting is called to order will be included in the Board's correspondence that is posted online at the board meeting packet link.

The Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.SCMTD.com.
The Board may take action on each item on the agenda. The action may consist of the recommended action, a related action or no action. Staff recommendations are subject to action and/or change by the Board of Directors.

BOARD ROSTER

Director Jimmy Dutra Director Aurelio Gonzalez
Director Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Director Manu Koenig
Director Donna Lind
Director Bruce McPherson
Director Donna Meyers
Director Larry Pageler
Director Kristen Petersen
Director Dan Rothwell
Director Mike Rotkin
Ex-Officio Director Dan Henderson
Ex-Officio Director Alta Northcutt
Alex Clifford
Julie Sherman

City of Watsonville
City of Watsonville
City of Santa Cruz
County of Santa Cruz
City of Scotts Valley
County of Santa Cruz
City of Santa Cruz
County of Santa Cruz
City of Capitola
County of Santa Cruz
County of Santa Cruz
UC Santa Cruz
Cabrillo College
METRO CEO/General Manager
METRO General Counsel

## TITLE 6 - INTERPRETATION SERVICES / TÍTULO 6 - SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN

Spanish language interpretation and Spanish language copies of the agenda packet are available on an as-needed basis. Please make advance arrangements with the Executive Assistant at 831-426-6080. Interpretación en español y traducciones en español del paquete de la agenda están disponibles sobre una base como-necesaria. Por favor, hacer arreglos por adelantado con Coordinador de Servicios Administrativos al numero 831-426-6080.

## SECTION I: OPEN SESSION

NOTE: THE BOARD CHAIR MAY TAKE ITEMS OUT OF ORDER

## 1 CALL TO ORDER

2 ROLL CALL

## 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.1 Today's meeting is being broadcast by Community Television of Santa Cruz County.

## 4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

5 ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5.1 April 20, 2021 Brian Peoples, TrailNow, email \& slide

## 6 LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATION

7 METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) WRITTEN COMMUNICATION
8 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

## CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the Consent Agenda are recommended actions which are considered to be routine and will be acted upon as one motion. All items removed will be considered later in the agenda. The Board Chair will allow public input prior to the approval of the Consent Agenda items.
9.1. ACCEPT AND FILE: PRELIMINARY APPROVED CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2021
Chuck Farmer, CFO
9.2. ACCEPT AND FILE: MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, THE APRIL 9, 2021 FINANCE, BUDGET \& AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING, THE APRIL 9, 2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE APRIL 9, 2021 PERSONNEL/HR STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager
9.3. ACCEPT AND FILE YEAR TO DATE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021
Chuck Farmer, CFO
9.4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY21 REVISED CAPITAL BUDGET
Kristina Mihaylova, Deputy Finance Director
9.5. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT AWARDS FOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000
Eddie Benson, Maintenance Manager
9.6. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO USE THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION (CALACT) I MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MBTA) PURCHASING COOPERATIVE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO CNG BUSES FROM GILLIG, LLC
Eddie Benson, Maintenance Manager
9.7. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FY22 APPROPRIATIONS AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION EARMARK REQUESTS Wondimu Mengistu, Grants/Legislative Analyst
9.8. APPROVE: METRO EXTERNAL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Danielle Glagola, Marketing, Communications \& Customer Service Director
REGULAR AGENDA
10. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS: MICHELLE FITZPATRICK \& DAVID VALDEZ (25 YEARS)
Donna Lind, Board Chair
11. RETIREE RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION: EDUARDO BIDDLECOME, WILLIAM DOVE AND JOSE HERRERA Donna Lind, Board Chair
12. CEO ORAL REPORT / COVID-19 UPDATE

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager
13. CONSIDERATION OF BOARD SUPPORT OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS LEGISLATION AB 703 \& AB 361
Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager
14. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Julie Sherman, General Counsel
15. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021 AT 9:00 AM, VENUE (TELECONFERENCE OR PHYSICAL) TO BE DETERMINED Donna Lind, Board Chair
16. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION
17. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(b)(1)
CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6

AGENCY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE: DONNA LIND, BOARD CHAIR

# Following the Closed Session, and after a 15 minute recess, the Board may consider potential actions to amend the Employment Agreement of the CEO/General Manager. 

## SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

## 18. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Julie Sherman, General Counsel

19. ADJOURNMENT<br>Donna Lind, Board Chair

## Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

This document has been created with accessibility in mind. With the exception of certain 3rd party and other attachments, it passes the Adobe Acrobat XI Accessibility Full Check. If you have any questions about the accessibility of this document, please email your inquiry to accessibility@scmtd.com. Upon request, Santa Cruz METRO will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at/related to public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to boardinquiries@scmtd.com or submitted by phone to the Executive Assistant at 831.426.6080. Requests made by mail (sent to the Executive Assistant, Santa Cruz METRO, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060) must be received at least two days before the meeting. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

## Public Comment

If you wish to address the Board, please follow the directions at the top of the agenda. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the Board and included for the official record, please include it in your email. Comments that require a response may be deferred for staff reply.

# Communications to the Board of Directors 

| From: | Brian Peoples |
| :---: | :---: |
| To: | Gina Pye |
| Cc: | dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com; sbrunner@cityofsantacruz.com; sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com; Justin Cummings; |
|  | rgolder@cityofsantacruz.com; skalantari-johnson@cityofsantacruz.com; mwatkins@cityofsantacruz.com; Alex |
|  | Clifford; Guy Preston; Matt Machado; Steve Wiesner; Shannon Munz; $\underline{\text { Zach Friend; Patrick Mulhearn; "Bruce }}$ |
|  | McPherson (bruce.mcpherson@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)"; Gine Johnson; rlj12@comcast.net; greg.caput@co.santa- |
|  | cruz.ca.us; ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us; Manu Koenig; "jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org"; |
|  | openup@cats.ucsc.edu; Andy Schiffrin; eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org; ladykpetersen@gmail.com; |
|  | Bertrand, Jacques; aurelio.gonzalez@cityofwatsonville.org |
| Subject: | Metro Board Meeting - Oral Communications - Open Coastal Trail NOW |
| Date: | Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:44:44 PM |

Hi Gine,
Can you please include the attached slide for the Metro Board meeting on April $23{ }^{\text {rd }}$. We would like to speak to this slide during Public Oral Communications.

Now that the decision has been made to not move forward with a passenger train along the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor, we are hopeful our community can move forward with opening the Coastal Corridor for Active Transportation. There are 3 transportation corridors traversing Santa Cruz County (Highway 1, Soquel, Coastal) and each of the corridors need to be open NOW for mobility across the County.

We are asking Metro Board to support finding solutions NOW to use the Coastal Corridor for active transportation. We believe it is possible to open the Coastal Trail from Watsonville to Santa Cruz Boardwalk by 2023.

Best regards,

Brian Peoples
Trail Now


DATE: April 23, 2021
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Farmer, CFO
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARY APPROVED CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2021

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Board of Directors accept and file the preliminary approved Check Journal Detail for the month of March 2021

## II. SUMMARY

- This staff report provides the Board of Directors (Board) with a preliminary approved Check Journal Detail for the month of March 2021.
- The Finance Department is submitting the check journals for Board acceptance and filing.


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

This preliminary approved Check Journal Detail provides the Board with a listing of the vendors and amounts paid out on a monthly cash flow basis (Operating and Capital expenses).

All invoices submitted for the month of March 2021 have been processed, the checks have been issued and signed by the Deputy Finance Director.

## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

This report aligns to METRO's Financial Stability, Stewardship \& Accountability strategic plan.
V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS/IMPACT

The check journals present the invoices paid in March 2021 for Board review, agency disclosure and transparency.

## VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

N/A.

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

None.

## VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Check Journal Detail for the Month of March 2021

Prepared by: Holly Alcorn, Accounting Specialist

Board of Directors
April 23, 2021
Page 3 of 3

## IX. APPROVALS

Chuck Farmer, CFO


Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


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## Attachment A



PAGE 1
DATE: 03/01/21 THRU 03/31/21
AMOUNT
AMSACTION COMMENT
TRANSACTION
DESCRIPTION
INV ORDER 9013903656
$1 / 19-2 / 18$ MAIN
1/19-2/18 MAN ELEV
1/19-2/18 OPS ELE 21 TPA FEES
MARCH
VENDOR TRANS.
TYPE NUMBER
106087
105998
105999
106105
106001
105962
105949
106091
106095
105951
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 SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL BY CHECK NUMBER
ALL CHECKS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

| CHECK AMOUNT | VENDOR | VENDOR NAME |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 161.84 | 002828 | ALLIED ELECTRONICS |
| 4,699.12 | 001D | AT\&T |
| 5,221.08 | 001348 | ATHENS INSURANCE SERVICE, INC. |
| 360.00 | 003271 | AUTO CARE TOWING |
| 1,869.62 | 002802 | BATTERY SYSTEMS INC. |
| 170.60 | 002627 | CDW GOVERNMENT, INC. |
| 56.53 | 130 | CITY OF WATSONVILLE UTILITIES |
| 675.00 | 733 | CLAREMONT EAP |
| 29,315.71 | 001124 | CLEAN ENERGY |
| 1,998.05 | 075 | COAST PAPER \& SUPPLY INC. |
| $\begin{array}{r} 213.41 \\ 18,131.16 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 002814 \\ & 003116 \end{aligned}$ | CREATIVE BUS SALES, INC. CUMMINS PACIFIC LLP |
| $\begin{aligned} & 3,605.00 \\ & 9,198.61 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 003561 \\ & 003274 \end{aligned}$ | DOCUSIGN, INC. LOCKBOX EAST BAY TIRE CO. |
| 5,784.65 | 432 | EXPRESS SERVICES INC. |
| 28.69 | 001297 | FASTENAL COMPANY INC |
| 47,660.31 | 002295 | FIRST ALARM SECURITY \& PATROL |


| $\begin{aligned} & \text { CHECK } \\ & \text { AMOUNT } \end{aligned}$ | VENDOR | VENDOR NAME |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 161.84 | 002828 | ALLIED ELECTRONICS |
| 4,699.12 | 001D | AT\&T |
| 5,221. 08 | 001348 | ATHENS INSURANCE SERVICE, INC. |
| 360.00 | 003271 | AUTO CARE TOWING |
| 1,869.62 | 002802 | BATTERY SYSTEMS INC. |
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| 56.53 | 130 | CITY OF WATSONVILLE UTILITIES |
| 675.00 | 733 | CLAREMONT EAP |
| 29,315.71 | 001124 | CLEAN ENERGY |
| 1,998. 05 | 075 | COAST PAPER \& SUPPLY INC. |
| $\begin{array}{r} 213.41 \\ 18,131.16 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 002814 \\ & 003116 \end{aligned}$ | CREATIVE BUS SALES, INC. CUMMINS PACIFIC LLP |
| $\begin{aligned} & 3,605.00 \\ & 9,198.61 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 003561 \\ & 003274 \end{aligned}$ | DOCUSIGN, INC. LOCKBOX EAST BAY TIRE CO. |
| 5,784.65 | 432 | EXPRESS SERVICES INC. |
| 28.69 | 001297 | FASTENAL COMPANY INC |
| 47,660.31 | 002295 | FIRST ALARM SECURITY \& PATROL |


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CUMMINS PACIFIC LLP
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EAST BAY TIRE CO.
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## Attachment A

| DATE 04/01/21 07:38 |  | SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL BY CHECK NUMBER ALL CHECKS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE |  |  |  |  |  |  | PAGE 2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | DATE: | 03/01/21 THRU | 03/31/21 |
| CHECK NUMBER | CHECK DATE | CHECK AMOUNT | VENDOR | $\qquad$ | VENDOR TYPE | TRANS. NUMBER | TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION | TRANSACTION AMOUNT | COMMENT |
| 71393 | 03/01/21 | 7,907.45 | 002952 | FLYERS ENERGY LLC |  | 106032 | 2/1-2/15 FUEL | 5,883.07 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106033 | 2/1-2/15 NONREV FUEL | 2,024.38 |  |
| 71394 | 03/01/21 | 57.79 | 647 | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS - 6145 GENFARE A DIV OF SPX CORP |  | 106025 | 2/13-3/12 SKYLINE | 1.57.79 |  |
| 71395 |  | 2,482.96 |  |  |  | 106034 | CONFIGURE MODEMS 496 | 1,200.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106043 | TECH SUPPORT SV TVM | 300.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106075 | INV ORDER 90171623 | 982.96 |  |
| 71396 | 03/01/21 | 105.00 | 003562 | GERALD R WALKER |  | 106099 | FCC LICENSE APPL | 105.00 |  |
| 71397 |  | 2,344.41 | 117 | GILLIG LLC |  | 105952 | VEH\#1305 PARTS 7387 | 230.30 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105954 | VEH\#4202 PARTS 6851 | 39.20 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105955 | VEH\#1305 PARTS 6336 | 295.36 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105956 | VEH\#4209 PARTS 6850 | 9.81 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105957 | INV ORDER 40776849 | 884.87 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105958 | INV ORDER 40776848 | 884.87 |  |
| 71398 | 03/01/21 | 562.81 | 282 | GRAINGER |  | 105963 | UTILITY KNIFE | 2.53 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105969 | WHEEL DOLLY LEVER | 281.37 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105970 | VEH\#908 PARTS 3449 | 20.91 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106021 | KNEE MATS FACILITIES | 258.00 |  |
| 71399 | 03/01/21 | 2,841.80 | 001203 | GREYHOUND LINES, INC. |  | 106100 | MARCH 20 RENT REFUND SECURITY DEPOSIT REF | $1,091.80$ $1,750.00$ |  |
| 71400 | 03/01/21 | 4,195.57 |  | HOSE SHOP, THE INC |  | 106101 | SECURITY DEPOSIT REF | $1,750.00$ 73.36 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106074 | PARTS VEH\#2215 1867 | 4,122.21 |  |
| 71401 | 03/01/21 | 4,772.88 | 003223 | JASPER WELLER LLC |  | 105990 | VEH 1201 PARTS 1586 | 237.52 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106102 | PARTS VEH\#1301 9839 | 4,535.36 |  |
| 71402 | 03/01/21 | 299.41 | 1117 | KELLEY'S SERVICE INC. |  | 105967 | VEH\# 504 PARTS 9319 | 106.89 |  |
| 71403 | 03/01/21 | 4,173.00 | 003276 | LUTRON SERVICE INC |  | 106072 | IN/21-2/22 ANNUAL | 4,173.00 |  |
| 71404 | 03/01/21 | 17,455.06 | 003017 | MANSFIELD OIL CO OF GAINSVILLE |  | 106045 | 2/11 DIESEL FUEL | 17,455.06 |  |
| 71405 | 03/01/21 | 639.75 | 041 | MISSION UNIFORM |  | 105965 | UNIFORMS/COVID SUPPL | 421.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105966 | COVID/FUEL STA TOWEL | 156.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105975 | TOWELS/MAT PC | 10.50 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106023 | TOWELS/MOP/MAT MMF | 41.75 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106048 | TOWELS/MATS PC | 10.50 |  |
| 71406 | 03/01/21 | 5,936.20 | 003529 | MONTEREY SANITARY SUPPLY, INC. |  | 105982 | INVENTORY ORDER | 1,484.05 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105983 | COVID 19 SUPPLIES | 1,484.05 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106070 | INV ORDER 326277 | 1,484.05 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106071 | INV ORDER/COVID SUPP | 1,484. 05 |  |
| 71407 | 03/01/21 | 5,183.87 |  | PACIFIC TRUCK PARTS, INC. |  | 106061 | INV ORDER 1836561 | 872.18 $3,779.09$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106062 | INV ORDER 1836559 CREDIT FOR INV 5714 | 3,779.09 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 106064 | INV ORDER 1836878 | 1,196.29 |  |
| 71408 | 03/01/21 | 33.00 | 043 | PALACE ART \& OFFICE SUPPLY |  | 105977 | OFFICE SUPPLIES | +17.26 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105978 | OFFICE SUPPLIES | 15.74 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 71409 \\ & 71410 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 03/01/21 } \\ & 03 / 01 / 21 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,564.00 \\ 310.05 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 002947 \\ & 107 \mathrm{~A} \end{aligned}$ | PEDX COURIER AND CARGO PROBUILD COMPANY LLC | 7 | 105974 | JAN 21 COURIER SVC | 1,564.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105947 | COVID 19 SUPPLIES | 23.18 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105948 | COVID 19 SUPPLIES | 12.77 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 105979 | EXTENSION CORDS VER | 82.54 |  |

## Attachment A

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PAGE 3
DATE: 03/01/21 THRU 03/31/21



SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
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SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE
SPORTWORK NORTHWEST, INC
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## Attachment A

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## Attachment A

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| ANYTIME TICKET CARDS 1／22 BOD MEETING |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
|  | VEH\＃ 1207 REPAIRS |
| VEH\＃1301 PARTS 0776 |  |
|  |  |
| PARTS VEH1306／2805 |  |
|  | R／LABOR VEH\＃1003 |
| RPR VEH\＃2813 |  |
|  | FEB WASH STATION SVT |
| FEB WASH STATION SMC |  |
|  | FEB WASH STATION WTC |
| NON REV TIRES |  |
|  | REVENUE TIRES |
| Revenue tires |  |
| NON INV ORDER |  |
|  | LARGE PRINT HEADWAYS |
| TRANSIT CNTR POSTERS |  |
| 2／16－3／15 SKY／RIVER |  |
|  | RPR ELECTRONIC ITEM |
| PARTS VEH\＃4208 9803 |  |
| INV ORDER 40781915 |  |
|  |  |
| INV ORDER 40778829 |  |
| NOTCOVEREDB <br> INVENTORY ORDER 0878 |  |
|  |  |
|  | MOBILE LIFT TAB |
| INV ORDER 9809248173 |  |
|  | GREASE TRAP SVT |
| INV ORDER PARTS MMF |  |
| HAMMER DRILL |  |
|  | ROCK FILL BUS STO |
| INV ORDER 432140 |  |
|  | NON INV ORDER 432141 |
| INV ORDER 432139 |  |
| PARTS VEH\＃ 2215 |  |
|  | INVENTORY ORDER |
| 2／21－2／23 SUPPORT |  |
| OIL PUMP AND KITINVENTORY ORDER |  |
|  |  |
| PARTS VEH\＃ 602 |  |
| PARTS VEH PC1109 MAR 21 LEASE PAYMENT |  |
|  |  |
| CL\＃1989102352 |  |
| INV ORDER 568979 |  |
| INV ORDER 56897 |  |
| INV ORDER 570 |  |

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL BY CHECK NUMBER CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL BY CHECK
ALL CHECKS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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HOSE SHOP，THE INC
HUNT \＆SONS，INC．
IXSYSTEMS，INC．
JOBBERS EQUIPMENT WAREHOUSE
KAADY CHEMICAL LLC
KELLEY＇S SERVICE INC．
KEY GOVERNMENT FINANCE INC
LAW OFICES OF MARIE F SANG 7
LUMINATOR TECHNOLOGY GROUP INC
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## Attachment A



| SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT | PAGE |
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DATE: April 23, 2021
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, THE APRIL 9, 2021 FINANCE, BUDGET \& AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING, THE APRIL 9, 2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE APRIL 9, 2021 PERSONNEL/HR STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Board of Directors Accept and File the Minutes of the March 26, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting, the April 9, 2021 Finance, Budget \& Audit Standing Committee Meeting, the April 9, 2021 Capital Projects Standing Committee Meeting and the Apri 9, 2021 Personnel/HR Standing Committee Meeting

## II. SUMMARY

- Staff is providing minutes from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) March 26, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting, the April 9, 2021 Finance, Budget \& Audit Standing Committee Meeting, the April 9, 2021 Capital Projects Standing Committee Meeting and the April 9, 2021 Personnel/HR Standing Committee Meeting.
- Each meeting staff will provide minutes from the previous METRO Board and Committee meetings.


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

The Board requested that staff include, in the Board Packet, minutes from previous METRO Board and Committee meetings. Staff is enclosing the minutes from these meetings.

## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

The actions taken in this report tie to METRO's Stewardship and Accountability responsibility.

## v. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONSIIMPACT

None.
VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

N/A

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

None.

## VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting of March 26, 2021

Attachment B: Draft minutes for the Finance, Budget \& Audit Standing Committee Meeting of April 9, 2021
Attachment C: Draft minutes for the Capital Projects Standing Committee Meeting of April 9, 2021

Attachment D: Draft minutes for the Personnel/HR Standing Committee Meeting of April 9, 2021

Prepared by: Gina Pye, Executive Assistant

Board of Directors.
April 23, 2021
Page 3 of 3

## IX. APPROVALS

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


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# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES* <br> MARCH 26, 2021 - 9:00AM MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE 

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) convened on Friday, March 26, 2021, via teleconference.
The Board Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.SCMTD.com. *Minutes are "summary" minutes, not verbatim minutes. Audio recordings of Board meeting open sessions are available to the public upon request.
This document was created with accessibility in mind. With the exception of certain third party and other attachments, it passes the Adobe Acrobat XI Accessibility Full Check. If you have any questions about the accessibility of this document, please email your inquiry to accessibility@scmtd.com.
1 CALL TO ORDER at 900AM by Board Chair Lind.
2 ROLL CALL: The following Directors were present via teleconference, representing a quorum:

| Director Jimmy Dutra | City of Watsonville <br> Director Aurelio Gonzalez |
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| City of Watsonville |  |
| Director Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson | City of Santa Cruz <br> Director Manu Koenig |
| County of Santa Cruz <br> Director Donna Lind | City of Scotts Valley |
| Director Bruce McPherson | County of Santa Cruz |
| Director Donna Meyers | County of Santa Cruz |
| Director Larry Pageler | City of Capitola |
| Director Kristen Petersen | County of Santa Cruz |
| Director Dan Rothwell | County of Santa Cruz |
| Director Mike Rotkin | UC Santa Cruz |
| Ex-Officio Director Dan Henderson | Cabrillo College |
| Ex-Officio Director Alta Northcutt |  |
| Additional METRO staff: | CEO/General Manager |
| Alex Clifford | General Counsel |
| Julie Sherman |  |

## 3 RECESS TO SCCIC MEETING

Director Rotkin explained the background and intended purpose of the Santa Cruz Civic Improvement Corporation (SCCIC) to the assembly. Chair Lind recessed the Board meeting at 9:02AM.

There were no public comments

## Attachment A

## 4 RECONVENE TO BOARD MEETING

Chair Lind reconvened the METRO Board meeting at 9:10AM.

## 5 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's meeting is being broadcast by Community Television of Santa Cruz County.
6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS
Hearing none, Chair Lind moved to the next agenda item.
7 ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD
7-1 Buzz Anderson March 9, 2021 email regarding bus stop service
7-3 Multiple video links were received from Buzz Anderson, Bill Cook \& Debby Molina (sent separately to the METRO Board members)

Debra Molina expressed her appreciation for bus services, believing that METRO is part of the solution to traffic in Santa Cruz County. She expressed concerns about the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) diverting funds into the train plan; she would prefer further investments in the bus system, routes, etc.

Brian Peoples, TrailNow, reminded the assembly of the vote scheduled for April 1, 2021 at the SCCRTC Meeting regarding the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor usage.

Buzz Anderson shared a YouTube video featuring Tyler Fox and referenced his recent commentary in the Watsonville Register Pajaronian newspaper.

Having nothing further, Chair Lind moved to the next agenda item.
8 LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS
Joan Jeffries, SEA Chapter President, expressed the Union's concerns regarding several positions proposed to be unfunded in the draft preliminary budget on today's agenda, stating that losing these positions and/or jobs will have a huge impact on METRO's ability to provide service.
At Chair Lind's suggestion, Ms. Jeffries opted to postpone her comments until Agenda item 16, when the preliminary budget is presented.
Having nothing further, Chair Lind moved to the next agenda item.
9 WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) James Von Hendy March 3, 2021 email regarding Bus Stop Sign Improvements.

Having nothing further, Chair Lind moved to the next agenda item.

## 10 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

Having nothing further, Chair Lind moved to the next agenda item.

## CONSENT AGENDA

11.1 ACCEPT AND FILE: PRELIMINARY APPROVED CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021

## Attachment A

11.2 ACCEPT AND FILE: MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2021 METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) MEETING, THE FEBRUARY 26, 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, AND THE MARCH 12, 2021 FINANCE, BUDGET \& AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
11.3 ACCEPT AND FILE: YEAR TO DATE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JANUARY 31, 2021
11.4 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF DECLARING VEHICLES AND/OR EQUIPMENT AS EXCESS FOR PURPOSES OF DISPOSAL OR AUCTION
11.5 ACCEPT AND FILE: QUARTERLY PROCUREMENT REPORT FOR $4^{\text {TH }}$ QUARTER OF FY21
11.6 APPROVE: CONSIDER A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CEO AS THE AUTHORIZED AGENT TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE FORMULA FUNDS FROM THE FY21 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM
11.7 APPROVE: CONSIDER A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CEO AS THE AUTHORIZED AGENT TO EXECUTE A MASTER AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANT AWARDS
11.8 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ATHENS ADMINISTRATORS FOR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS
11.9 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF DESIGNATION OF SAFETY, SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR TO THE CALIFORNIA TRANSIT INDEMNITY POOL (CALTIP) BOARD OF DIRECTORS
11.10 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO EXECUTE A $2^{N D}$ AMENDMENT EXTENDING THE CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR WITH CLEAN ENERGY FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LCNG FUELING STATION, INCREASING THE CONTRACT TOTAL BY \$215,000
11.11 APPROVE: RATIFICATION OF CHANGE IN FUNDING SOURCE FOR CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT'S (CTE) WORK ON METRO'S ZERO EMISSION BUS TRANSITION PLAN
11.12 ACCEPT AND FILE: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LONG-RANGE BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED
MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN
SECOND: DIRECTOR MEYERS
MOTION PASSED WITH 11 AYES (Directors Dutra, Gonzalez, Kalantari-Johnson, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Meyers, Pageler, Petersen, Rothwell and Rotkin)

## REGULAR AGENDA

12 PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS: JASON LoGIUDICE, 20 YEARS:
Chair Lind read a short bio and thanked Mr. LoGuidice in absentia.
There was no public comment.

## 13 RETIREE RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION: RUFUS FRANCIS, DEBBIE KINSLOW

 AND GILBERTO LIMASChair Lind read short bios and thanked the recipients in absentia.
There was no public comment.

## ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE RETIREE RESOLUTIONS AS PRESENTED

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

## SECOND: DIRECTOR PAGELER

MOTION PASSED WITH 11 AYES (Directors Dutra, Gonzalez, Kalantari-Johnson, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Meyers, Pageler, Petersen, Rothwell and Rotkin)

14 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OPERATIONAL PLAN UPDATE
Matt Machado, Deputy County Administrative Officer, Public Works Director, spoke to the presentation.
Board comment:
Signal prioritization projects were discussed briefly; e.g., cost per signal, connecting to METRO's Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) System, bus flow efficiency, etc. Mr. Machado noted that the County is addressing pedestrian safety at the impacted intersections.

Director Koenig informed the assembly that an RFP was issued for the SMART signal adapters and they are working to bring a contract to the Board of Supervisors in the near future.

Director Koenig asked if METRO is planning any improvements or changes to service in Routes 71, 69 and 69W. John Urgo, Planning \& Development Director, replied service will be evaluated as METRO works through the design with the County.
Director McPherson commended the County Public Works Department for their attention to the high priority projects and thanked METRO and the SCCRTC for their collaborative efforts which resulted in obtaining a financial grant.
Public comment:
Mr. Peoples thanked Mr. Machado for his presentation and public outreach. TrailNow is promoting Highway 1 widening near Aptos and a connection of the trestle to a dedicated bike trail from Soquel to Highway 1.

15 CEO ORAL REPORT / COVID-19 UPDATE
CEO Clifford read short bios and introduced:

- Chuck Farmer, Chief Financial Officer
- Curtis Moses, Safety, Security and Risk Management Director

Mr. Farmer and Mr. Moses thanked the Board and METRO for the opportunity and are looking forward to working with the team at METRO and the Board.

## Attachment A

He went on to provide the following:

- Funding updates from the various federal and state legislative bodies. President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan of 2021, which could result in approximately $\$ 26 \mathrm{M}$ in COVID relief for METRO.
- The imbalance between expenses and revenue sources would have resulted in a structural deficit without the receipt of COVID emergency funding.
- COVID updates -
o Effective March 15, 2021, transit workers now qualify for a vaccine. Thanks to the Board members, County Health Department, Sutter, Kaiser and the Monterey Bay Central Council who supplied numerous opportunities for transit workers in Salinas, Watsonville and Santa Cruz.
o METRO was hoping to reach an 80\% employee vaccination rate. To date, $55 \%$ of METRO's employees have opted to get the vaccine. We continue to educate and encourage employees to get the vaccine to achieve "herd immunity".
o A webinar by UCSC Professor Kirkpatrick and a link to a Kaiser video with additional COVID vaccination information were provided to all METRO employees.
o To date, there is no ethnic breakdown of the unvaccinated to target specific audiences.
o METRO continues to offer free rides to vaccination sites.
o An interactive map is available on the METRO website showing which routes will transfer to vaccination sites.
- Effective Monday, March $22^{\text {nd }}$, half price fares were put into effect. Customers who qualified for discount fares prior to this date now qualify for free fares for the duration of the program.
- We anticipate a new FlixBus contract, they operate an intercity/interstate concept similar to Greyhound and MegaBus.
- METRO's pilot on-demand service will go into effect on April $19^{\text {th }}$.
- METRO continues to move closer to implementation of a smart phone application and an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system that utilizes a GPS system.
- The second Proterra bus has been received.
- A new class of Bus Operators will begin mid-April.

There was no public comment.

## 16 APPROVAL OF FY22 AND FY23 PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGETS AND FY22 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR REVIEW AND TDAISTA CLAIMS PURPOSES

CFO Farmer spoke to the presentation, stressing this is a preliminary budget, subject to change. The intent behind this budget is to meet the TDA/STA deadline from the SCCRTC. A lot of work remains before the May 2021 Finance Committee and Board meetings.

Discussion regarding the authorized positions referenced on page 16A. 11 of the agenda ensued. CEO Clifford noted the implementation of the 2021 Rescue Act allowed METRO to reduce the initial number of positions. Of the positions proposed, two are provisional employees who are expected to exceed the minimum amount of time permitted in FY22.

CEO Clifford provided a brief verbal history of METRO's structural deficit. In 2014, METRO faced a structural deficit of $\$ 6.4 \mathrm{M}$; today's anticipated fiscal cliff is $\$ 11.4 \mathrm{M}$. METRO needs to begin looking for means and methods to reduce costs as revenues are outpacing expenses.

## Attachment A

The unions and METRO management will meet to review and discuss the budget in early May.
Director Koenig acknowledged the identification of an $\$ 11 \mathrm{M}+$ structural deficit, saying cost-cutting measures should not affect METRO's ability to adapt service needs. One of the challenges for organizations is basing staffing decisions on seniority rather than skill.

Director Dutra spoke of his experiences with METRO and the structural deficit. He asked how METRO can be a source of transportation that the public want to use.
CEO Clifford recalled difficult decisions were made in 2014 - 2016. In that timeframe, two important funding sources came to the rescue: SB1 and Measure D. Without that funding, METRO would have remained in a structural deficit. The return of in person classes will help increase ridership and funding. The great unknown is the remaining non-student 40\% of riders. How many riders will continue working remote; and, as the vaccination rate increases, will ridership increase?

Public comment:
Mr. Peoples urged the board members to support METRO, rather than the expensive train option proposed by the SCCRTC.

Speaking of the six positions proposed for elimination in the preliminary budget, Cayla Hill, Secretary/Treasurer of SEA, said the Union was informed of three positions only: IT support, provisional planning and the Planning/Grants intern. These employees fulfill important roles involved in critical projects and unfunding these projects will make the timely completion of these projects impossible. Measure D funding increased last year. UCSC has approached METRO to increase service. METRO received $\$ 20+\mathrm{M}$ in CARESAct funding; the purpose of which was to maintain staff. Without staff, we cannot improve service.

James Sandoval, SMART General Chairperson, said they stand in solidarity with SEA. Eliminating positions requires other employees to carry more weight.

## ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY22 AND FY23 PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGETS AND FY22 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR REVIEW AND TDAISTA CLAIMS PURPOSES AS PRESENTED

## MOTION: DIRECTOR DUTRA

## SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

## MOTION PASSED WITH 11 AYES (Directors Dutra, Gonzalez, Kalantari-Johnson, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Meyers, Pageler, Petersen, Rothwell and Rotkin)

17 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: APRIL 23, 2021
Chair Lind announced the next meeting on April 23, 2021 and reminded the assembly to check the SCMTD website for venue updates, as we remain dependent upon the public health orders in place at the time.

## 18 <br> ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lind adjourned the meeting at 11:00AM

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Pye
Executive Assistant

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO) FINANCE, BUDGET AND AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES* APRIL 9, 2021-8:00AM MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE 

A regular meeting of the Finance, Budget and Audit Standing Committee of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, April 9, 2021, via teleconference.
The Committee Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.SCMTD.com. *Minutes are "summary" minutes, not verbatim minutes. Audio recordings of Board meeting open sessions are available to the public upon request.
This document was created with accessibility in mind. With the exception of certain third party and other attachments, it passes the Adobe Acrobat XI Accessibility Full Check. If you have any questions about the accessibility of this document, please email your inquiry to accessibility@scmtd.com

1 CALL TO ORDER at 8:03AM by Chair Lind
2 ROLL CALL: The following Directors were present via teleconference, representing a quorum:


METRO EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER) WERE:

Chuck Farmer
METRO CFO
3 ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE FINANCE, BUDGET AND AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE
Hearing none, Director Lind moved to the next agenda item.
4 ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDAIADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS
Having none, Director Lind moved to the next agenda item.

## 5 MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Chuck Farmer, CFO, spoke to the presentation.
In response to Director Rotkin's suggestion, CFO Farmer will rename "fringe benefits" column to "benefits".

## Attachment B

Marketing safety suggestions and the aid of Committee Members to increase ridership were proposed; e.g., there has never been any transmission traced back to METRO.

Cabrillo students will begin a two-week voting period on Monday, April 12, with results anticipated in midMay. One ballot issue is the $\$ 40$ student transit fee. Director Rotkin, John Urgo and Eduardo Montesino met to discuss opportunities to provide factual information about the fee. Cabrillo's President has offered to meet if the vote fails. UCSC and Cabrillo students represent $60 \%$ of METRO's ridership. Director Rotkin noted UCSC is predicting near 100\% in person classes in the fall. In anticipation of UCSC returning to in person classes in the fall, METRO recruited and started a new Operator class to meet the increased ridership demand.

CFO Farmer explained expenses are running lower than prior years' due to a combination of vacant positions, reduced overtime and a lower number of service hours at the beginning of the pandemic. Service is slowly being restored. We are now at $80 \%$ of service.

There were no public comments.

## 6 UPDATES OF SCHEDULE OF RESERVE BALANCES AND OPEB AND UAL LIABILITIES

Chuck Farmer, CFO, provided brief commentary to the presentation, noting METRO is one of the few agencies currently offering OPEB to their employees.

The purpose and logistics of being self-insured were discussed. CEO Clifford and CFO Farmer will provide more detailed information about insurance under separate cover as requested by Director Rotkin. An updated slide will be presented at a future committee meeting.

METRO will return to the Committee and Board in August with OPEB and pension funding opportunities and recommendations.

Public comment:
In response to James Sandoval's questions, CFO Farmer explained METRO pays OPEB on a pay as you go method. With the Pension, METRO pays the current portion plus interest due to under funding. The actuarial view of the total value over time is $\sim \$ 124 \mathrm{M}$ for OPEB and $\sim \$ 64 \mathrm{M}$ for Pension. If METRO begins funding now, this amount could be dramatically reduced over time. It will take 10-20 years to reach balance.

## 7 REVIEW OF STRUCTURAL DEFICIT

Chuck Farmer, CFO, provided brief commentary to the presentation noting METRO is currently running down a path to become structural deficit unless additional funding or cost reductions occur.

Public comment:
Eduardo Montesino said the recent increase in retirees contributed to the higher pension rate. METRO's workforce today is younger; so, he does not see the current rate continuing which would result in lower costs.

CFO Farmer responded yes, the costs would go down, but the costs would continue to exceed revenue as shown. Pension is not about retirees; it is about the number of participants, their pay rate and their age.Overall costs will increase with additional participants.

CEO Clifford emphasized that the early retirements have some impact, but that does not affect the slope of the revenue and/or expenses as shown. Actuarial expenses show an increase in life longevity, expenses, etc.

# Attachment B 

Public comment:
Holly Alcorn asked if the $\$ 26 \mathrm{M}$ from the federal government assistance is included in the assumptions. CEO Clifford answered yes; this amount is depicted in the chart where expenses outpace revenues. CFO Farmer added this is one reason METRO is not facing a fiscal cliff until FY27. Director Rotkin noted METRO does not count on non-guaranteed revenue; e.g., Congressional plus-ups.

## 8 CEO ORAL REPORT / COVID-19 UPDATE

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager, provided a brief update on the following:

- METRO is focusing on increasing non-student ridership, which is $79 \%$ lower than the prior year. For the week ending April 4, 2021, there were 21 K riders; this is the highest increase since ridership plummeted in March 2020.
- METRO has not had a COVID-positive since March 15, 2021, and February $1^{\text {st }}$ before that.
- Staffing shortages due to METRO employees receiving second vaccines and taking advantage of California's new sick leave (SPSL), especially going "open-ended" or putting in for SPSL the day before their second vaccination, have resulted in cancelled service - numerous routes impacted; similar to that experienced at the end of CY2020 when FFCRA paid leaves were taken in the last few weeks of December 2020 because FFCRA was expiring December 31, 2020. It only takes a small increase in absenteeism to disrupt the delivery of service. For example, on Friday, April $9^{\text {th }}$, 15 Bus Operators were out on SPSL. A normal day's absenteeism for sick is 1-3 Bus Operators.
- Pass-ups are increasing as the county re-opens. Effective May 1, we will increase seating capacity to 25 seated passengers on a 40' bus and 17 seated passengers on a 35 ' bus.
- Governor Newsome announced a new green tier and planned re-opening of California on June 15. METRO may return to $100 \%$ bus capacity on June $15^{\text {th }}$.

Public comments:
James Sandoval asked that METRO continue physically blocking seats when bus capacity is increased. It is difficult for the Operators to enforce capacity limits when counting passengers with the barriers in place.

CEO Clifford responded that the seat blocks will come down on May1st and the between row plastic barriers may come down on June $15^{\text {th }}$.

## 9 ADJOURNMENT

Director Lind adjourned the meeting at 9:50AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Pye
Executive Assistant

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# Attachment C 



# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO) CAPITAL PROJECTS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES* APRIL 9, 2021- 10:30AM <br> MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE 

A regular meeting of the Capital Projects Standing Committee of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, April 9, 2021, via teleconference.

The Committee Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.SCMTD.com. *Minutes are "summary" minutes, not verbatim minutes. Audio recordings of Board meeting open sessions are available to the public upon request.
This document was created with accessibility in mind. With the exception of certain third party and other attachments, it passes the Adobe Acrobat XI Accessibility Full Check. If you have any questions about the accessibility of this document, please email your inquiry to accessibility@scmtd.com

1 CALL TO ORDER at 10:30AM by Director McPherson
2 ROLL CALL: The following Directors were present via teleconference, representing a quorum:

| Director Bruce McPherson | County of Santa Cruz |
| :--- | :--- |
| Director Donna Meyers | City of Santa Cruz |
| Director Larry Pageler | County of Santa Cruz |
| Alex Clifford | METRO CEO/General Manager |

METRO EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER) WERE:

Eddie Benson
Chuck Farmer Wondimu Mengistu

Maintenance Manager
METRO CFO
METRO Grants/Legislative Analyst

3 ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDAIADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS
Having none, Director McPherson moved to the next agenda item.
4 ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS STANDING COMMITTEE Having none, Director McPherson moved to the next agenda item.

With the consent of those present, the agenda order was changed.
5 CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO USE THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION (CALACT)/MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MBTA) PURCHASING COOPERATIVE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO CNG BUSES FROM GILLIG, LLC (former agenda item 7)
Eddie Benson, Maintenance Manager, provided a brief commentary to the staff report.
There was no public comment.

## Attachment C

MOTION: MOTION TO RECOMMEND AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO USE THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION (CALACT)/MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MBTA) PURCHASING COOPERATIVE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO CNG BUSES FROM GILLIG, LLC AS PRESENTED TO THE FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Motion: Director Pageler
Second: Director Meyers
Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FY22 APPROPRIATIONS AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION EARMARK REQUESTS
Wondimu Mengistu, Grants/Legislative Analyst, spoke to the staff report.
There was no public comment.

# MOTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE THE UPDATE ON FY22 APPROPRIATIONS AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION EARMARK REQUESTS AS PRESENTED 

Motion: Director Meyers
Second: Director Pageler
Motion passed unanimously.
7 CAPITAL PLANNING UPDATE (former agenda item 5)
Chuck Farmer, CFO, provided commentary to the presentation. The committee members expressed their appreciation for the updated format and transparency.

There were no public comments.
MOTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT I RECEIVE THE CAPITAL PLANNING UPDATE AS
PRESENTED
Motion: Director Pageler
Second: Director Meyers
Motion passed unanimously.
ADJOURNMENT
Director McPherson adjourned the meeting at 10:56AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Pye
Executive Assistant

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO) PERSONNELIHR STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES* APRIL 9, 2021 - 1:00PM <br> MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE 

A regular meeting of the Personnel/HR Standing Committee of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, April 9, 2021, via teleconference.

The Committee Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.SCMTD.com. *Minutes are "summary" minutes, not verbatim minutes. Audio recordings of Board meeting open sessions are available to the public upon request.
This document was created with accessibility in mind. With the exception of certain third party and other attachments, it passes the Adobe Acrobat XI Accessibility Full Check. If you have any questions about the accessibility of this document, please email your inquiry to accessibility@scmtd.com
1 CALL TO ORDER at 1:04PM by Director Lind.
2 ROLL CALL: The following Directors were present via teleconference, representing a quorum:

Director Jimmy Dutra City of Watsonville<br>Director Donna Lind, 2021 Board Chair<br>Director Bruce McPherson, 2021 Board Vice Chair<br>Director Kristen Petersen<br>Director Mike Rotkin, Immediate Past Board Chair<br>Alex Clifford<br>Julie Sherman<br>City of Scotts Valley<br>County of Santa Cruz<br>City of Capitola<br>County of Santa Cruz<br>METRO CEO/General Manager<br>METRO General Counsel

METRO EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER) WERE:

Monik Delfin
METRO HR Deputy Director
3 ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDAIADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS
Having none, Director Lind moved to the next agenda item.
4 ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PERSONNEL/HR STANDING COMMITTEE Having none, Director Lind moved to the next agenda item.

## 5 REVIEW METRO EXTERNAL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Julie Sherman, General Counsel, spoke to the agenda item stating this is a new policy intended to provide a basis for public comment stemming from METRO's presence on social media. Public agencies are allowed to place reasonable time, place and manner restrictions tailored to this forum, but the restrictions must be applied in a reasonable, consistent manner; similar to the advertising policy that allows and disallows certain terms of speech.

## Attachment D

In the absence of METRO's Marketing, Communications and Customer Service Director, the assembly briefly discussed their respective experience(s) and exposure to social media sites; e.g., job openings, timeliness and efficiency in providing evacuation, shelter and other pertinent information during the recent CZU Lightning Fires, etc.

Public comment:
Union representatives, Joan Jeffries and James Sandoval, expressed their support for the policy and the outreach to a younger generation through social media.

MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF METRO'S EXTERNAL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AS
PRESENTED PRESENTED

## MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

SECOND: DIRECTOR DUTRA

## MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6 ADJOURNMENT
Director Lind adjourned the meeting at 1:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Pye
Executive Assistant

DATE: April 23, 2021
TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Chuck Farmer, Chief Financial Officer

## SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE THE YEAR TO DATE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Board of Directors accept and file the Year to Date Monthly
Financial Report as of February 28, 2021

## II. SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- An analysis of Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's (METRO) financial status is prepared monthly in order to inform the Board of Directors (Board) regarding METRO's actual revenues and expenses in relation to the adopted operating and capital budgets for the fiscal year.
- This staff report is the web-accessible companion document to the attached PowerPoint presentation titled "Year to Date Monthly Financial Report as of February 28, 2021."
- Staff recommends that the Board accept and file the attached report.


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

Below are the written explanations of the various charts and graphs in the attached Year to Date Monthly Financial Report as of February 28, 2021. The fiscal year has elapsed 67\%.

Slide 1
(Cover) Year to Date Monthly Financial Report as of February 28, 2021
Slide 2
FY21 Operating Revenue and Expenses for the Month-to-Date February 28, 2021

- Operating Revenues for the month are unfavorable by \$483K
- Operating Expenses
- Labor Regular - favorable by $\$ 212 \mathrm{~K}$
- Labor OT - favorable by \$66K
- Fringe Benefits - favorable by $\$ 246 \mathrm{~K}$
- Non-Personnel - unfavorable by \$63K
- Total Operating Expenses - favorable by $\$ 461 \mathrm{~K}$
- Transfers - favorable by \$47K
- Operating Balance - unfavorable by \$69K


## Slide 3

FY21 Operating Revenue and Expenses for the Year-to-Date February 28, 2021

- Operating Revenues for the month are unfavorable by $\$ 2,072 \mathrm{~K}$
- Operating Expenses
- Labor Regular - favorable by $\$ 1,962 \mathrm{~K}$
- Labor OT - favorable by \$397K
- Fringe Benefits - favorable by $\$ 1,158 \mathrm{~K}$
- Non-Personnel - favorable by \$595K
- Total Operating Expenses - favorable by $\$ 4,112 \mathrm{~K}$
- Transfers - favorable by $\$ 176 \mathrm{~K}$
- Operating Balance - favorable by $\$ 1,864 \mathrm{~K}$


## Slide 4

FY21 Operating Revenue by Major Funding Source - Year to Date as of February 28, 2021

- Passenger Fares - actual is $\$ 3,135 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 6,811 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is unfavorable by $\$ 3,676 \mathrm{~K}$ primarily due to reduced ridership across all categories as a result of COVID-19
- Sales Tax Revenue (including Measure D) - actual is $\$ 18,678 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 17,765 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is favorable by $\$ 913 \mathrm{~K}$ primarily due to higher than anticipated receipts
- Other Revenue - actual is $\$ 461 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 779 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is unfavorable by $\$ 318 \mathrm{~K}$ primarily due to reduced advertising and rental revenue as a result of COVID-19
- Federal OP Assistance - actual is $\$ 4,580 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 4,583 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is unfavorable by $\$ 3 \mathrm{~K}$
- CARES Act FTA 5307/5311 - actual is $\$ 2,250 \mathrm{~K}$ related to the final reimbursements for operating expenses incurred in July and August 2021 which was not budgeted in FY21
- STA - OP Assistance - actual is $\$ 1,671 \mathrm{~K}$, while budget is $\$ 2,247 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is unfavorable by $\$ 576 \mathrm{~K}$ primarily due to reduced diesel fuel tax received at the state level
- STIC OP Assistance - actual and budget are both $\$ 2,703 \mathrm{~K}$, there is no variance
- TDA OP Assistance - actual is $\$ 3,152 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 3,814 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is unfavorable by $\$ 662 \mathrm{~K}$. The TDA allocation for METRO is based on the budget and TDA claim, adopted at the end of June 2020, which reflected a significant decline in sales tax based revenues. Actual cash receipts for the first five months (July - November) exceeded budget projections, which could result in revised apportionments to TDA recipients at year-end.


## Slide 5

FY21 Operating Expenses by Major Expense Category Year to Date as of February 28, 2021

- Labor - Regular - actual is $\$ 10,539 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 12,501 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is favorable by $\$ 1,962 \mathrm{~K}$, primarily due to vacant funded positions along with extended unpaid leaves of absence
- Labor - OT - actual is $\$ 641 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 1,038 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is favorable by $\$ 397 \mathrm{~K}$, primarily due to significant reduction of OT across the agency.
- Fringe Benefits - actual is $\$ 17,024 \mathrm{~K}$ (of which $\$ 4,782 \mathrm{~K}$ is the total Retirement Expense YTD which includes the prepayment of the CalPERS UAL of $\$ 4,434 \mathrm{~K}$ in FY21, which resulted in savings of $\$ 153 \mathrm{~K}$ ) while budget is $\$ 18,182 \mathrm{~K}$, overall variance is favorable by $\$ 1,158 \mathrm{~K}$
- Services - actual is $\$ 2,516 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 2,540 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is favorable by $\$ 25 \mathrm{~K}$ due to lower than anticipated spending for Professional \& Tech fees, Admin \& Bank fees, and Repairs to Revenue Vehicles, partially offset by increased spending on Temporary Help and Repair and Building Improvements.
- Mobile Materials \& Supplies - actual is $\$ 1,405 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 1,904 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is favorable by $\$ 499 \mathrm{~K}$ primarily due to lower spending on Fuels \& Lube Revenue Vehicles
- Other Expenses - actual is $\$ 1,906 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 1,978 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is favorable by $\$ 72 \mathrm{~K}$, primarily due to decreased interest expense, employee training, telecommunications, and travel, partially offset by unanticipated expenses related to COVID-19.


## Slide 6

FY21 Transfers to Capital Budget: Measure D Year to Date as of February 28, 2021

- FY21 Transfer to Capital Budget Commitment is \$2.3M (Measure D and STA) "Bus Replacement Program"; actual is $\$ 1,570 \mathrm{~K}$ while budget is $\$ 1,394 \mathrm{~K}$; variance to budget is favorable by $\$ 176 \mathrm{~K}$ primarily due to higher than anticipated receipts


## Slide 7

FY21 Capital Budget Spending Year to Date (by Funding Source) as of February 28, 2021

- Total Capital Spending year to date is $\$ 1,215 \mathrm{~K}$; FY21 budget is $\$ 27,629 \mathrm{~K}$
- Federal Capital Grants spending is $\$ 635 \mathrm{~K}$
- Operating and Capital Reserve Fund spending is $\$ 337 \mathrm{~K}$
- Transfers from Operating Budget (Measure D) spending is \$180K
- State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) spending is \$58K
- Transfers from Operating Budget (STA-SB1) spending is $\$ 0.2 \mathrm{~K}$
- Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) spending is $\$ 5 \mathrm{~K}$


## Slide 8

FY21 Capital Budget Spending Year to Date as of February 28, 2021

- Total Capital Projects spending year to date is $\$ 1,152 \mathrm{~K}$; FY21 budget is \$27,629K
o Construction Related Projects spending is $\$ 93 \mathrm{~K}$ for the following projects:
- New METRO-owned ParaCruz facility
- Pacific Station/METRO Center redevelopment, conceptual design
o Facilities Repair \& Improvements spending is $\$ 703 \mathrm{~K}$ for the following projects:
- Maintenance facility roof replacement
- Maintenance yard security/expanded parking/access control
- Fuel management system
- Bus stop improvements
- Golf Club Drive fire egress
- Awning at fueling station
- Asphalt Repair - Pacific Station
- Watsonville Bus Shelter
o Revenue Vehicle Replacement \& Campaigns spending is $\$ 245 \mathrm{~K}$ for the following projects:
- Principal lease payment on three new Flyer replacement buses
- AVL/ITS
- Completion of cameras on six buses
o Revenue Vehicle Replacement Electrification Projects spending is $\$ 86 \mathrm{~K}$ for the following projects:
- ZEB deployment and fleet planning
- FY18 STIP - 2 ZEBs, 2 Electric Buses (Watsonville Circulator \& Service)
o Non-Revenue vehicle replacement spending is $\$ 1 \mathrm{~K}$
- Replace custodial support vehicle
- Bus yard scrubber/sweeper
o Fleet \& Maintenance Equipment spending is $\$ 8 \mathrm{~K}$ for the following project:
- Transmission Jack - VTA Gillig buses
o Miscellaneous spending is $\$ 79 \mathrm{~K}$ for the following projects:
- Laptops for Marketing
- WTC Server and security cameras (3 new, 3 replacement)
- Four folding machines
- Four METRO ParaCruz cameras
- Furniture for Customer Service


## Slide 9 \& Slide 10

FY21 Top Nine Capital Projects Status Report Year to Date as of February 28, 2021

A list of the top Capital Projects with budgets of at least $\$ 1,000 \mathrm{~K}$, current Year-toDate spending and status of projects

- Electric Bus (3) + Infra \& Project Mgmt. (FTA 5339c Low-No FY16) - \$15K has been spent against a budget of $\$ 4,655 \mathrm{~K}$
o Waiting on RFP results
o Demo an MCI bus in April 2021; drive over HWY 17 and test with Proterra chargers
- FY18 STIP - 2 ZEBs (STIP, LPP, HVIP = \$300K) \& 2 Electric Buses (Watsonville Circulator \& Service) (FY15/16 \& 17/18 LCTOP) - \$10K has been spent against a budget of $\$ 4,371 \mathrm{~K}$.
o One bus arrived on Feb 19, 2021, second bus arrived March 23, 2021, other two buses expected in April
o Performing evaluation and corrections
o Ongoing training for mechanics and bus operators
- Replace Six (6) CNG Buses (PTMISEA) - nothing has been spent against a budget of \$4,136K.
o Purchase placed on Dec 10, 2020, anticipate delivery November 2021
- METRO-owned ParaCruz Facility FY20 LPP, Grant Match for 5339(b) - \$92K has been spent against a budget of $\$ 2,286 \mathrm{~K}$.
o County has accepted application on March 24, 2021. Fees to be paid, then county will commence review of documents.
o Developing reports for required for Grant application.
- Pacific Station/METRO Center Redevelopment with the City of Santa Cruz (Bus Replacement Funds - Board Commitment: \$4M (\$1M/year: FY20 FY23) - $\$ 1 \mathrm{~K}$ has been spent against a budget of $\$ 2,148 \mathrm{~K}$.
o Ongoing discussions with the City/Consultant.
o Identifying METRO needs for administrative space and bus tarmac logistics.
o Grant application delayed to June 2021.
- 14 CNG Buses, Lease to Buy; Capital Lease - Year 1 of 6 Principle Only (Bus Replacement Fund: SGR; Measure D) - nothing has been spent against a budget of $\$ 1,500 \mathrm{~K}$.
o Project is on hold pending re-evaluation after the pandemic.
- Two 35' CNG Buses (FY19 Caltrans Discretionary FTA 5339, Bus Replacement Fund) - nothing has been spent against a budget of $\$ 1,360 \mathrm{~K}$.
o Obtaining quotes for Bus Inspector services, to perform required PreAward Buy America Audit prior to making purchase.
o CalAct Funding to be released shortly.
- Maintenance Yard-Security Hardening/Expanded Parking/Access Control $\$ 37 \mathrm{~K}$ has been spent against a budget of $\$ 974 \mathrm{~K}$.
o Will post IFB in Bonfire in April
o Collaborating with Santa Cruz Fire Department for training
o Access Control - project in process, expected completion is mid-April 2021
- 7 Replacement ParaCruz Vans (FY19 LLP, Measure D); 3 ParaCruz Vans (STBG FY19 via RTC) - nothing has been spent against a budget of $\$ 863 \mathrm{~K}$.
o No update on the seven vans that were ordered; funds to be spent by Oct 2021
o Three vans arrived March 29, 2021. Will undergo final modifications and put in service May 2021

The top nine projects have spent a total of $\$ 155 \mathrm{~K}$ against a budget of $\$ 22,293 \mathrm{~K}$, or $0.7 \%$. All other smaller projects have spent $\$ 1,060 \mathrm{~K}$ against a budget of $\$ 5,336 \mathrm{~K}$, or $19.9 \%$, for a total spend of $\$ 1,215 \mathrm{~K}$ against a total budget of $\$ 27,629 \mathrm{~K}$ or $4.4 \%$.

## Slide 11

(Cover Sheet) - Additional Information

## Slide 12

Additional Information for the month of February 2021

- Unemployment Rate \%
- Santa Cruz County is $8.4 \%$
- State of California is $8.4 \%$
- National is $6.2 \%$
- \$ Gasoline per Gallon for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area is \$3.51;
\$ Diesel is \$3.61
- Ridership YTD as of February 2021 changed as follows, year-over-year (FY20 - FY21):
- $83.7 \%$ decrease in Total ridership
- 86.6\% decrease in Highway 17 ridership
- 83.5\% decrease in Local ridership
- $96.2 \%$ decrease in UCSC ridership - 2021 - 2021 school year is primarily online due to COVID-19
- 98.3\% decrease in Cabrillo ridership - 2021 - 2021 school year is primarily online due to COVID-19
- 63.4\% decrease in Non-Student ridership
- Ridership recovery is 67,409 total passengers in January 2021 compared to 36,113 total passengers at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020


## Slide 13

FY21 Operating Revenue, Expenses, and Transfers Year to Date as of March 31, 2021: Preliminary

- Revenue - unfavorable by $\$ 2,199 \mathrm{~K}$
- Operating Expenses:
- Personnel Expenses - favorable by $\$ 3,895 \mathrm{~K}$
- Non-Personnel - favorable by \$607K
- Total Operating Expenses - favorable by $\$ 4,502 \mathrm{~K}$
- Transfers to Capital Budget - favorable by \$141K
- Transfers from COVID Reserves - none
- COVID Reserve balance remains \$18M, as the Operating Balance remains positive
- Operating Balance - favorable by $\$ 2,162 \mathrm{~K}$


## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

This report pertains to METRO's Financial Stability, Stewardship \& Accountability.

## V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS/IMPACT

Unfavorable budget variances in Operating Revenues, offset by favorable Expenses contributed to higher than anticipated Transfer to Capital Budget and favorable budget variance in Operating Balance, Year to Date as of February 28, 2021.
VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

None.

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

There are no alternatives to consider, as this is an accept and file Year to Date Monthly Financial Report.

## VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Year to Date Monthly Financial Report as of February 28, 2021 Presentation

Prepared by: Cathy Downes, Sr. Financial Analyst

Board of Directors
April 23, 2021
Page 9 of 9

## IX. APPROVALS



Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


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Attachment A
Year to Date Monthly Financial Report
as of February 28,2021



\$20,000
\$18,000
\$16,000
\$14,000
$\$ 12,000$
\$10,000
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Attachment A
$\frac{\text { FY21 Transfers to Capital Budget: Measure D }}{\frac{\text { Year to Date as of February } 28,2021}{67 \% \text { of Fiscal Year Elapsed }}}$



Actual YTD

Attachment A

| $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{H} \\ & \mathbf{N} \\ & \mathbf{N} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\circ}{寸} \\ & \dot{寸} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\underset{\leftrightarrow}{M}$ | $\stackrel{N}{\stackrel{N}{母}}$ | $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \circ \\ & \otimes \end{aligned}$ | $\stackrel{\square}{6}$ | $\cdots$ | $\stackrel{9}{¢}$ |
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|  |  |  | Project Category: | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{\pi}{0} \\ & 0.0 \\ & 00 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0.0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | Facilities Repair \＆Improvements | Revenue Veh Replacement \＆Campaigns | Revenue Veh Replacement \＆Campaigns－Electrification Projects |  |  |  |


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Attachment A

Economic Indicators \＆Ridership：
Unemployment Rate \％



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FY20－FY21 Ridership：February YTD
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| FY20－FY21 Ridership：February YTD |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ridership | FY20 | FY21 | \％Change |
| Total | $3,205,838$ | 521,851 | $-83.7 \%$ |
| Hwy 17 | 184,923 | 24,973 | $-86.6 \%$ |
| Local | $3,020,915$ | 497,058 | $-83.5 \%$ |
| UCSC | $1,635,121$ | 61,758 | $-96.2 \%$ |
| Cabrillo | 204,367 | 3,468 | $-98.3 \%$ |
| Non－Student | $1,181,427$ | 431,832 | $-63.4 \%$ |



$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { FY21 Operating Revenue, Expenses, and Transfers: } \\
\frac{\text { Year to Date as of March } 30,2021: P R E L\|M\| N A R Y:}{75 \% \text { of Fiscal Year Elapsed }}
\end{gathered}
$$

Budget to
Actual
Favorable/
(Unfavorable)

Attachment A

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## DATE: April 23, 2021

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kristina Mihaylova, Deputy Finance Director

## SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY21 REVISED CAPITAL BUDGET

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

## That the Board of Directors adopt a resolution approving the FY21 Revised Capital Budget, as presented in Attachment B

## II. SUMMARY

- The Board of Directors (Board) adopted the FY21 Capital Budget on June 26, 2020.
- Periodic capital budget revisions may be required due to new grant awards, new projects, changes to the scope of existing projects, spending adjustments and removal of projects that are no longer active.
- Revisions to an adopted capital budget require Board approval and the adoption of a resolution.


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

The Board must adopt an Operating and Capital Budget by June $30^{\text {th }}$ each year. The Board adopted the FY21 \& FY22 Operating and FY21 Capital Budget on June 26, 2020.

Periodically, capital budget revisions are required to add new projects, revise project balances and funding sources, update project descriptions, etc. This will be the forth revision to the FY21 Capital Budget since adoption.

Staff requests that the Board adopt a resolution (Attachment A) to approve the FY21 Revised Capital Budget (Attachment B).

A Reconciliation by Project as of April 23, 2021 (Attachment C) is provided; this reconciles the (current) FY21 Revised Capital Budget against the (original) Final FY21 Capital Budget adopted on June 26, 2020.

This revision impacts multiple projects.

## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

This pertains to METRO's Financial Stability, Stewardship \& Accountability

## V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS/IMPACT

The original FY21 Capital Budget adopted June 26, 2020 totals \$29,136,935.

- Revision 1 - August 28, 2020 - This revision added four (4) projects, removed eight (8) projects; revised the available budget balances for twelve (12) existing projects; added additional funding to one (1) existing project, and revised the description on one (1) project. This revision resulted in a net decrease of $\$ 998,343$, for a Revised FY21 Capital Budget balance of $\$ 28,138,592$.
- Revision 2-October 23, 2020 - This revision added eleven (11) projects, removed one (1), revised the available budget balance for one (1) existing project; added additional funding to two (2) existing projects, and revised the description on two (2) projects. This revision resulted in a net decrease of $\$ 509,972$ for a Revised FY21 Capital Budget balance of $\$ 27,628,620$.
- Revision 3 - February 26, 2021 - This revision added three (3) projects and revised available budget balances for nine (9) projects. This revision resulted in a net increase of $\$ 1,131$ for a Revised FY21 Capital Budget balance of \$27,629,751.
- Revision 4-April 23, 2021 - This revision added two (2) projects, removed (3) projects and revised available budget balances for five (5) projects. This revision resulted in a net increase of \$159,616 for a Revised FY21 Capital Budget balance of $\$ 27,789,367$.

The Reconciliation by Project as of April 23, 2021 (Attachment C) lists the detail of all changes by project since adoption on June 26, 2020, and includes an explanation for the action. The year to date change is a net decrease of $\$ 1,347,568$.

The estimated balance of the Operating and Capital Reserve Fund after this revision is an accrued balance of approximately $\$ 728 \mathrm{~K}$. Reminder: The Operating and Capital Reserve Fund is comprised of Alternative Fuel Tax Rebates from prior years, and any excess revenues above actual expenses (carryover) transferred from the Operating Budget. Note that the estimate provided here includes deductions for approved capital projects and commitments (the required local match) against grants that may not yet have been awarded; those un-awarded projects are not included in the attached revised budget. If or when those grants are awarded, the capital budget will be revised accordingly.

## VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

N/A

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

There are no recommended alternatives at this time. If the revised budget is not approved, important capital improvements and capital projects could be delayed or cancelled.
VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: FY21 Capital Budget Resolution
Attachment B: FY21 Revised Capital Budget as of April 23, 2021
Attachment C: FY21 Revised Capital Budget - Reconciliation by Project as of April 23, 2021

Prepared by: Kristina Mihaylova, Deputy Finance Director

Board of Directors
April 23, 2021
Page 4 of 4

## IX. APPROVALS

Approved as to fiscal impact: Chuck Farmer, CFO


Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


# BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT 

Resolution No.
On the Motion of Director $\qquad$ Duly Seconded by Director $\qquad$
The following Resolution is adopted:

## A RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT AUTHORIZING A REVISION TO THE FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors approved the FY21 Capital Budget on June 26, 2020 with a total budget of $\$ 29,136,935$; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to revise the adopted FY21 Capital Budget by $\$ 1,347,568$;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District hereby amends the FY21 Capital Budget per Attachment B to this resolution for a total FY21 Revised Capital Budget of \$27,789,367.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of April 2021, by the following vote:
AYES: Directors -

NOES: Directors -
ABSENT: Directors -

ABSTAIN: Directors -
Approved
DONNA LIND, Board Chair

ATTEST
ALEX CLIFFORD
CEO, General Manager

## APPROVED AS TO FORM

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SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

| AS OF APRIL 23, 2021 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  | RESTRICTED |  | RESTRICTED | RESTRICTED | RESTRICTED | RESTRICTED | BUS REPLACEMENT FUND |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$3M PER YEA | (MEASURE D + | B1 STA\&SGR) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | RESTRICTED | RESTRICTED |  |  |  |
|  |  | PROJECT/ACTIVITY | FEDERAL FUNDS |  | PTMISEA (1B) | STIP | LCTOP | LPP | $\begin{aligned} & \text { STA-SB1 (XFR } \\ & \text { FROM OPER } \\ & \text { BUDGET) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { STA-SGR } \\ \text { (SB 1) } \\ \hline \hline \end{gathered}$ | MEASURE D (XFR FROM OPER BUDGET) | $\begin{gathered} \text { OPERATING \& } \\ \text { CAPITAL } \\ \text { RESERVE FUND } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  | TOTAL |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Construction Related Projects |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | 19-0001 | New METRO Owned Paracruz Facility-FY20 LPP (Grant Match for 5339(b)) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 2,285,539 | \$ | 2,285,539 |
| 2 | 19-0002 | Pacific Station/Metro Center Redevelopment w/ City of SC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 2,000,000 |  | \$ | 2,000,000 |
| 3 | 19-0003 | Pacific Station/Metro Center-Conceptual Design/MOU (5309) |  | \$ 118,634 |  |  |  |  | \$ 29,658 |  |  |  | \$ | 148,291 |
|  |  | Subtotal |  | \$ 118,634 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ | \$ | \$ 29,658 | \$ | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 2,285,539 | \$ | 4,433,830 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| IT Proiects |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | 19-0004 | ERP Consultant (\$50K Consulting) \& System |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 800,000 | \$ | 800,000 |
|  |  | Subtotal |  | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 800,000 | \$ | 800,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Facilities Upgrades \& Improvements |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | 19-0006 | Maint Yard-Security Hardening/Expanded Parking |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 910,570 | \$ | 910,570 |
| 6 | 19-0006a | Access Control for Maintenance Facility |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 63,262 | \$ | 63,262 |
| 7 | 19-0007 | Maintenance Facility Roof Replacement (FTA 5339a FY19) |  | \$ 300,119 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ | 300,119 |
| 8 | 19-0009 | Fuel Management System (FTA 5339a FY17 \& FY18) |  | \$ 94,156 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 8,054 | \$ | 102,210 |
| 9 | 19-0010 | Bus Stop Improvements (FTA 5339a FY18) |  | \$ 124,725 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ | 124,725 |
| 10 | 19-0011 | Gate Control at JKS Bus Entry (FTA 5339a FY18) |  | \$ 100,000 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ | 100,000 |
| 11 | 19-0012 | JKS Facility - Bus Wash Rehab (FTA 5339a FY19) |  | \$ 100,000 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ | 100,000 |
| 12 | 19-0013 | JKS Facility - Upper Security Gates |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 100,000 | \$ | 100,000 |
| 13 | 19-0017 | 138 Golf Club Fire Egress (FTA 5339a FY17 \& FY19, Reserves) |  | 214,466 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 54,902 | \$ | 269,368 |
| 14 | 19-0016 |  |  | \$ 128,659 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ | 128,659 |
| 15 | 19-0018 |  | Awning @ Fueling Station A\&E only (FTA 5339a FY18 \& Reserv | \$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 9,667 | \$ | 9,667 |
| 16 | 19-0020 | Admin Bldg. Engineering \& Renovations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 20,000 | \$ | 20,000 |
| 17 | 19-0021 | Asphalt Repair-Pac Station Layover (FTA 5339a FY18) |  | \$ 3,638 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ | 3,638 |
| 18 | 21-0001 | Watsonville Bus Shelter |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ 15,554 | \$ | 15,554 |
| 19 | 19-0018a | Awning @ Fueling Station - Construction Phase (FTA 5339a |  | \$ 238,908 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$ | 238,908 |
|  |  | Subtotal |  | \$ 1,304,671 | \$ | \$ - | \$ | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ | \$ 1,182,009 | \$ | 2,486,680 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Attachment B
SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Attachment B
9.4B. 2
SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT


Attachment B
SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT


## FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET

## RECONCILIATION BY PROJECT

 AS OF APRIL 23, 2021-4th REVISION

FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET

| CAPITAL PROJECT | PJT\# | SOURCE |  | AMOUNT | TOTAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Revise Project Budget Balance: Asphalt Repair-Pac Station Layover | 19-0021 | FTA | \$ | $(12,362)$ |  |
| Reason: Adjust available budget based on prior year spending |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove: Fencing Behind Diesel Tank | 19-0023 | FTA | \$ | (575) |  |
| Reason: Project Completed in prior year |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revise Project Budget Balance: FY18 STIP - AVL/ITS (STIP, Measure D) | 19-0027 | STIP | \$ | $(53,086)$ |  |
| $\underline{\text { Reason: Adjust available budget based on prior years spending }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove: VTA Bus Transfer - Decommission \& Retrofit 10 Electric | 19-0029 | MEASURE D | \$ | $(544,149)$ |  |
| Reason: Project Completed in prior year |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove: CNG Bus (1) "Bus 6" | 19-0030 | FTA | \$ | $(456,957)$ |  |
|  |  | MEASURE D | \$ | $(207,158)$ |  |
| Reason: Project Completed in prior year |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change Description Only: 3 New Flyer Repl. Capital Lease - Year 4 of 6 Prin Only | 19-0032 | MEASURE D | \$ | - |  |
| Reason: Title change |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove: Mid-Life Bus Engine Overhaul (4) | 19-0034 | FTA | \$ | $(7,966)$ |  |
| Reason: Project Completed in prior year |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revise Project Budget Balance: Completion of Cameras on Buses (6 buses) | 19-0035 | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | \$ | $(72,765)$ |  |
| Reason: Adjust available budget based on prior years spending |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove: Cameras on Buses \#2 | 19-0036 | MEASURE D | \$ | $(2,438)$ |  |
| Reason: Project Completed in prior year |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revise Project Budget Balance: Electric Bus (3) + Infra \& Proj Mgmt | 19-0037 | FTA | \$ | $(20,499)$ |  |
| Reason: Adjust available budget based on prior years spending |  |  |  |  |  |

## FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET

## RECONCILIATION BY PROJECT

AS OF APRIL 23, 2021-4th REVISION

| CAPITAL PROJECT | PJT\# | SOURCE |  | AMOUNT | TOTAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Revise Project Budget Balance: Completion of JKS Facility - ZEB Yard Charging Infrastructure | 19-0041 | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | \$ | $(2,603)$ |  |
| Reason: Adjust available budget based on prior years spending |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove: Workstation \& Cubicles (HR) | 19-0047 | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | \$ | $(10,768)$ |  |
| Reason: Project Completed in prior year |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revise Project Budget Balance: Misc Capital Contingency-\$800K 11/15/19 BOD | 19-0048 | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | \$ | $(120,211)$ |  |
| Reason: Adjust available budget based on prior years spending |  |  |  |  |  |
| Add project: Laptop - Marketing | 19-0048e | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | \$ | 3,200 |  |
| Reason: New equipment needed |  |  |  |  |  |


|  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Add project: Watsonville Bus Shelter | $21-0001$ | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE |  |  |
| Reason: New equipment needed |  | 15,554 |  |  |


| Add project: Drivers Barriers | 21-0002 | MEASURE D |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Add project: Transmission Jack (VTA Gillig buses, vehicles 42014210)

21-0003
MEASURE D
7,700

Reason: New equipment needed (remaining funding from project 19-
0029 VTA Bus Transfer - Decommission \& Retrofit 10 Electric Hybrids)

Change Description Only: ERP Consultant (\$50K Consulting) \& System 19-0004 OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE \$

Reason: Title change

Add Funds \& Change Project Description: Awning @ Fueling Station
A\&E only (FTA 5339a FY18 \& Reserves)
Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project

48
Misc. Capital Contingency
\$
2,000
Misc. Capital Contingency \$
$(2,000)$

Reason: Funds needed to finish project 19-0018

Add project: Awning @ Fueling Station - Construction Phase (FTA 5339a FY20)

18a
FTA
\$
238,908

Reason: METRO will install awnings around the Fueling and Wash Facility to protect employees against rain and direct sunlight when fueling buses.

## FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET

## RECONCILIATION BY PROJECT

AS OF APRIL 23, 2021-4th REVISION

| CAPITAL PROJECT | PJT\# | SOURCE |  | AMOUNT | TOTAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Change Project Category Only: FY18 STIP - 2 ZEBs (STIP, LPP, HVIP $=\$ 300 \mathrm{~K}$ <br> Reason: Project is moved to category Revenue Vehicle Purchases, Replacements \& Campaigns-Fleet Electrification Projects | 26 | STIP \& LPP \& Measure D | \$ | - |  |
| Revise Project Budget Balance: Refurb 4 Buses @ ~ \$254K (FY18 STIP, Measure D) <br> Reason: Adjust available budget based on prior years spending | 28 | STIP <br> Measure D | \$ | $\begin{aligned} & (900,000) \\ & (245,280) \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Add Funds: ZEB Deployment \& Fleet Planning (CTE) Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project <br> Reason: Funds needed to finish project 19-0018 | $\begin{aligned} & 42 \\ & 48 \end{aligned}$ | Misc. Capital Contingency Misc. Capital Contingency | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 60,700 \\ (60,700) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Add back: Bus Yard Scrubber/Sweeper (FTA 5339a FY18) <br> Transfer Funds: Replace Custodial Support Vehicle (1) (FTA5339a FY18) <br> Reason: Additional spending in FY21 | $\begin{aligned} & 44 \\ & 43 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { FTA } \\ & \text { FTA } \end{aligned}$ | \$ \$ | $934$ <br> (934) |  |
| Add project: Folding Machines (4) <br> Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project <br> Reason: Folding machines in Finance/Payroll, Customer Service, Operations and Paracruz will expedite the distribution of printed materials to employees and the public | $\begin{gathered} 48 f \\ 48 \end{gathered}$ | Misc. Capital Contingency Misc. Capital Contingency | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 12,500 \\ (12,500) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Add project: METRO ParaCruz Camera Additions Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project <br> Reason: Safety related request for surveillance at ParaCruz | $\begin{gathered} 48 \mathrm{~g} \\ 48 \end{gathered}$ | Misc. Capital Contingency Misc. Capital Contingency | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 13,450 \\ (13,450) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Add project: EOC Equipment <br> Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project <br> Reason: Funding needed for the new EOC project | $\begin{gathered} 48 \mathrm{~h} \\ 48 \end{gathered}$ | Misc. Capital Contingency Misc. Capital Contingency | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 10,400 \\ (10,400) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Add project: Vapor Compressor Replacement (at Fueling Station) Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project <br> Reason: New equipment needed urgently | $\begin{gathered} 48 j \\ 48 \end{gathered}$ | Misc. Capital Contingency Misc. Capital Contingency | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 160,000 \\ (160,000) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Add project: Furniture (Customer Service) <br> Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project | $\begin{gathered} 48 \mathrm{k} \\ 48 \end{gathered}$ | Misc. Capital Contingency Misc. Capital Contingency | \$ | $\begin{gathered} 4,300 \\ (4,300) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Reason: New furniture needed |  |  |  |  |  |

## FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET

| CAPITAL PROJECT | PJT\# | SOURCE |  | AMOUNT | TOTAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Remove project: Watsonville Transit Mural | 54 | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | \$ | $(3,600)$ |  |
| Reason: Project completed in prior fiscal year |  |  |  |  |  |
| Add project: Golf Club Part Washers (FTA 5339a FY20) | 21-0004 | FTA | \$ | 80,000 |  |
| Reason: METRO has a critical need to replace parts washers that have exceeded their useful lifespan of six years |  |  |  |  |  |


| Add project: Non-Revenue Electric Vehicles (FTA 5339a FY20) | $21-0005$ | FTA |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Reason: METRO has a need to replace non-revenue vehicles that |  | 100,000 |
| have exceeded their useful lifespan of eight years. |  |  |


| Add project: Service Truck (FTA 5339a FY20) | $21-0006$ | FTA |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Reason: METRO's service truck has exceeded its useful service life |  | 150,000 |
| and needs to be replaced. |  |  |


| Add project: Hardware for Bus Stop Redesign Project | 21-0007 | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | \$ | 70,000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reason: Funds needed for new project |  |  |  |  |
| Add project: Security Radios | 481 | Misc. Capital Contingency | \$ | 2,000 |
| Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project | 48 | Misc. Capital Contingency | \$ | $(2,000)$ |


|  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Add project: Zoom System for Conference Room | 48 m | Misc. Capital Contingency | $\$$ | 5,500 |
| Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project | 48 | Misc. Capital Contingency | $\$$ | $(5,500)$ |
| Reason: New equipment needed |  |  |  |  |

Add project: Radio Console Upgrade
Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project

Reason: New equipment needed urgently
2

| Add Funds: Access Control for Maintenance Facility | $19-0006 \mathrm{a}$ | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | $\$$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Transfer Funds: Maint Yard-Security Hardening/Expanded Parking | $19-0006$ | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | $\$$ |

Reason: Funds needed to complete the project

| CAPITAL PROJECT | PJT\# | SOURCE |  | AMOUNT | TOTAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Add Funds: Paint Exterior-Maint. Facility | 19-0016 | FTA | \$ | 29,551 |  |
| Transfer Funds: Maintenance Facility Roof Replacement | 19-0007 | FTA | \$ | $(29,551)$ |  |
| Reason: Funds needed to complete project 19-0016, excess funds available in project 19-0007 |  |  |  |  |  |


|  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Add Funds: 138 Golf Club Fire Egress | $19-0017$ | Misc. Capital Contingency | $\$$ | 11,950 |
| Transfer Funds: Funds needed | 48 | Misc. Capital Contingency | $\$$ | $(11,950)$ |

Reason: Funds needed to complete project 19-0017

|  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Add Funds: Vapor Compressor replacement (at Fueling Station) | 48 j | Misc. Capital Contingency | $\$$ | 2,134 |
| Transfer Funds: Funds needed | 48 | Misc. Capital Contingency | $\$$ | $(2,134)$ |
| Reason: Funds needed to complete project 19-0048j |  |  |  |  |


|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Add Funds: 7 Replacement Paracruz Vans | $20-0001$ | MEASURE D | $\$ 131$ |
| Reason: Funds needed to complete project 20-0001 |  |  |  |


| Add project: Maintstar Upgrade | 480 | Misc. Capital Contingency | $\$$ | 37,000 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Transfer Funds: Funds needed for new project | 48 | Misc. Capital Contingency | $\$$ | $(37,000)$ |  |

Reason: Maintstar Maintenace System Upgrade is needed

| Add project: 2 35' CNG Buses (Bus Replacement Fund: FY19 \& FY20 |  | SGR | $\$ 882,754$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SGR, PTMISEA, Measure D) | 21-0008 | PTMISEA | $\$$ |
|  |  | MEASURE D | $\$ 33,338$ |

Reason: Utilize available capital funding sources that could expire and purchase buses.
$\qquad$

| Add Funds: ZEB Deployment \& Fleet Planning (CTE) | 19-0042 | BRF: STA | $\$ 234,100$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Reason: Funds needed to complete project 19-0042

| Add Funds: Bus Yard Scrubber/Sweeper (FTA 5339a FY18) | $19-0044$ | FTA | $\$ 4$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Transfer Funds: Replace Custodial Support Vehicle (1) (FTA5339a |  | FTA | $\$ 8$ |
| FY18) | $19-0043$ | (430) |  |

Reason: Funds needed to complete project 19-0044

| Add Funds: 138 Golf Club Fire Egress | $19-0017$ | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | $\$$ | 20,368 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Transfer Funds: Fire Egress - (Design Only) | $19-0014$ | OP \& CAPITAL RESERVE | $\$$ | $(20,368)$ |

Reason: Funds needed to complete project 19-0017 and project 190014 is completed

FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET

| CAPITAL PROJECT | PJT\# | SOURCE | AMOUNT | TOTAL |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Remove project: 14 CNG Buses, Lease to Buy |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reason: Project is on hold | $20-0003$ | SGR | $\$$ | $(700,000)$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |



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FROM: Eddie Benson, Maintenance Manager

## SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT AWARDS FOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED $\mathbf{\$ 2 5 0 , 0 0 0}$

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

1) That the Board of Directors authorize the CEO/General Manager to:
2) Execute contracts with Ken's Autobody, North Bay Ford, Scott's Body Shop and Watsonville Ford for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services for a not to exceed (NTE) total for all contracts of \$250,000 for a threeyear period, with options to extend the contracts for total terms of seven years; and,
3) Execute future amendments with these four vendors (Ken's Autobody, North Bay Ford, Scott's Body Shop and Watsonville Ford) for the options to extend, increasing the contract totals for the option years as required, not to exceed (NTE) a total value for all four contracts of $\$ 583,334$ for the full seven years

## II. SUMMARY

- The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) requires the services of fully licensed and insured automotive repair companies to handle overflow maintenance and repairs on non-revenue and ParaCruz vehicles.
- A formal request for proposals (RFP) was conducted to solicit proposals from qualified firms. Five firms submitted proposals for METRO's review.
- A three-member evaluation team composed of METRO staff reviewed and evaluated the proposals, and is recommending that the Board of Directors (Board) award contracts to multiple vendors.


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

The Fleet Maintenance Department is responsible for all non-warranty maintenance and repairs for METRO's non-revenue/staff support and ParaCruz vehicles. Currently there are forty-nine (49) support vehicles and thirty-two (32) ParaCruz vehicles in service. METRO's maintenance shop is not large enough to accommodate this volume of vehicles in addition to buses, especially considering that maintaining and repairing fixed route buses is the priority. Therefore, in order to keep the maximum amount of mechanics working on buses, METRO has had contracts in place for both general maintenance and
repairs, and body repair and paint services going back several years. The most recent contracts for these services expired on April 14, 2021, with no further options to renew.

On January 29, 2021, METRO legally advertised and distributed notice of Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 21-09 to twenty (20) firms, including two Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), posted notice on its e-procurement portal, and sent email notices to all GovDelivery subscribers. This procurement was designed with the expectation that multiple contracts, with vendors that have different specialties and capabilities, would result. The advantages would include redundancy (in case a certain vendor did not have capacity at the time a specific service was needed) and flexibility of location.

On March 12, 2021, proposals were received and opened from five firms. A list of these firms is provided in Attachment A. A three-member evaluation team composed of METRO staff has reviewed and evaluated the proposals. The evaluation team used the following criteria as contained in the RFP:

| Evaluation Criteria | Points |
| :--- | :---: |
| Qualifications and recent experience | 30 |
| Understanding of and technical approach to service requirements | 30 |
| Experience with government agencies | 15 |
| References | 15 |
| Fee proposal | 30 |
| Total Points Possible |  |

One of the five firms did not provide enough information in their proposal to sufficiently evaluate their services and pricing. The other four proposals were all determined to fulfill the requirements of the RFP and included pricing that is fair and reasonable.

Staff is recommending that the Board authorize the CEO to execute the following three-year contracts on behalf of METRO, each with four one-year options to extend, for vehicle repair and maintenance services:

| Vendor | Specific Service | Amount |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| North Bay Ford | General Automotive Maintenance and Repairs | $\$ 120,000$ |
| Watsonville Ford | General Automotive Maintenance and Repairs | $\$ 30,000$ |
| Ken's Autobody | General Automotive Body Repair and Paint | $\$ 50,000$ |
| Scott's Body Shop | General Automotive Body Repair and Paint | $\$ 50,000$ |
| Total Amount for Initial 3-Year Terms: |  |  |

Staff is also recommending that the Board authorize the CEO to execute future contract extensions with these four vendors for four additional one-year options, for a total anticipated value not to exceed $\$ 583,334$ for all four contracts, with total terms not to exceed seven years. These vendors will provide all services meeting all METRO's specifications and requirements of the contracts. Eddie Benson, Maintenance Manager, will serve as the Contracts Administrator and will ensure contract compliance.

## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

These contracts align to the following strategic priorities:

- Service Quality and Delivery
- State of Good Repair


## V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS/IMPACT

The base value of these contracts total $\$ 250,000$ for the first three years. Should all of the options to extend be exercised for all four vendors, the total seven-year value of these contracts is anticipated to be $\$ 583,334$.

Funds to support these contracts are included in the current fiscal year's Fleet Maintenance Operating budget, within the Out Repair - Revenue Vehicles (503353) and Out Repair - Other Vehicles (503354) accounts. Since this is a multi-year contract, the Department Manager will be accountable for budgeting the cost in future years, including any options exercised.

## VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

N/A

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Do not award these contracts and perform this work in-house. For the reasons elaborated in this staff report, this option is not feasible and is therefore not recommended.

## VIII. ATTACHMENTS

## Attachment A: List of Responding Firms

Attachment B: Contracts with Ken's Autobody, North Bay Ford, Scott's Body Shop and Watsonville Ford

## Note: A full copy of the Contracts are available on request.

Prepared by: Joan Jeffries, Purchasing Agent

Board of Directors
April 23, 2021
Page 4 of 4

## IX. APPROVALS



Approved as to fiscal impact: Chuck Farmer, CFO


Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


## Attachment A



Responding Firms for RFP No. 21-09

## Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services

Received by March 12, 2021 at 5:00 PM

| Ken's Autobody \& Striping | Santa Cruz | CA |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| North Bay Ford | Santa Cruz | CA |
| Scott's Body Shop | Santa Cruz | CA |
| Specialized Auto, Inc. | Santa Cruz | CA |
| Watsonville Ford | Watsonville | CA |

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## Attachment B

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES (21-09)

THIS CONTRACT is made effective on April 23, 2021 between the SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT ("Santa Cruz METRO"), a political subdivision of the State of California, and KEN'S AUTO BODY \& STRIPING ("Contractor").

## 1. RECITALS

### 1.1 Santa Cruz METRO’s Primary Objective

Santa Cruz METRO is a public entity whose primary objective is providing public transportation and which has its principal office at 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060.
1.2 Santa Cruz METRO’s Need for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services

Santa Cruz METRO has the need for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services. In order to obtain these services, Santa Cruz METRO issued a Request for Proposals, dated January 29, 2021, setting forth specifications for such services. The Request for Proposals is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A.
1.3 Contractor's Proposal

Contractor is a firm/individual qualified to provide Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services and whose principal place of business is 1226 Brommer St. Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Pursuant to the Request for Proposals issued by Santa Cruz METRO, Contractor submitted a proposal for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit B.
1.4 Selection of Contractor and Intent of Contract

On April 6, 2021, Santa Cruz METRO selected Contractor as the Proposer whose proposal was most advantageous to Santa Cruz METRO to provide the Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services described herein. This Contract is intended to fix the provisions of these services.

Santa Cruz METRO and Contractor agree as follows:

## 2. INCORPORATED DOCUMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW

2.1 Documents Incorporated in this Contract

The documents listed below are attached to this Contract and by reference made a part hereof. This is an integrated Contract. This writing constitutes the final expression of the parties' Contract, and it is a complete and exclusive statement of the provisions of that Contract, except for written amendments, if any, made after the date of this Contract in accordance with Section 12.15 of the General Conditions to the Contract.

## Attachment B

## A. Exhibit A

Santa Cruz METRO’s "Request for Proposals" dated January 29, 2021, including Addendum No. 1 dated February 11, 2021.
B. Exhibit B (Contractor's Proposal)

Contractor's Proposal to Santa Cruz METRO for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services, signed by Contractor and dated February 5, 2021.
2.2 Conflicts

Where in conflict, the provisions of this writing supersede those of the above-referenced documents, Exhibits A and B. Where in conflict, the provisions of Exhibit A supersede Exhibit B.
2.3 Recitals

The Recitals set forth in Article 1 are part of this Contract.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 General

The terms below (or pronouns in place of them) have the following meaning in the Contract:
3.1.1 CONTRACT - The Contract consists of this document, the attachments incorporated herein in accordance with Article 2, and any written amendments made in accordance with Part IV, Section 12.15 of the General Conditions to the Contract.
3.1.2 CONTRACTOR - The Proposer selected by Santa Cruz METRO for this project in accordance with the Request for Proposals issued January 29, 2021.
3.1.3 CONTRACTOR'S STAFF - Employees of Contractor.
3.1.4 DAYS - Calendar days.
3.1.5 PROPOSER - Contractor whose proposal was accepted under the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals issued January 29, 2021.
3.1.6 PROVISION - Any term, agreement, covenant, condition, clause, qualification, restriction, reservation, or other stipulation in the Contract that defines or otherwise controls, establishes, or limits the performance required or permitted by either party.
3.1.7 SCOPE OF WORK (OR "WORK") - The entire obligation under the Contract, including, without limitation, all labor, equipment, materials, supplies, transportation, services, and other work products and expenses, express or implied, in the Contract.

## Attachment B

## 4. TIME OF PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 Term

The term of this Contract will be for a period not to exceed three (3) years and shall commence upon the execution of the Contract by Santa Cruz METRO. At the option of Santa Cruz METRO, this Contract agreement may be renewed for two (2) additional two (2)-year terms. Option terms may be exercised by METRO in single or multiple year periods.

## 5. COMPENSATION

### 5.1 Terms of Payment

Santa Cruz METRO shall compensate Contractor in an amount not to exceed the amounts/rates agreed upon by Santa Cruz METRO. Santa Cruz METRO shall reasonably determine whether work has been successfully performed for purposes of payment. Compensation shall be made within thirty (30) days of Santa Cruz METRO's written approval of Contractor's written invoice for said work.

It is understood that execution of this Agreement does not guarantee any amount of services and/or dollar expenditure to be provided under the Agreement to Contractor. However, the maximum compensation that Santa Cruz METRO has authorized to be expended for this Contract will not exceed $\mathbf{\$ 5 0 , 0 0 0}$.

### 5.2 Invoices

Contractor shall submit invoices with a purchase order number provided by Santa Cruz METRO on a monthly basis. Contractor's invoices shall include detailed records showing actual time devoted, work accomplished, date work accomplished, personnel used, and amount billed per hour. Expenses shall only be billed if allowed under the Contract.

Said invoice records shall be kept up-to-date at all times and shall be available for inspection by Santa Cruz METRO (or any grantor of Santa Cruz METRO, including, without limitation, any State or Federal agency providing project funding or reimbursement) at any time for any reason upon demand for not less than four (4) years after the date of expiration or termination of the Contract. Under penalty of law, Contractor represents that all amounts billed to Santa Cruz METRO are (1) actually incurred; (2) reasonable in amount; (3) related to this Contract; and (4) necessary for performance of the project.

## 6. NOTICES

All notices under this Contract shall be deemed duly given upon delivery, if delivered by hand, or three (3) days after posting if sent by registered mail, receipt requested, to a party hereto at the address hereinunder set forth, or to such other address as a party may designate by notice pursuant hereto.

## Attachment B

Santa Cruz METRO<br>Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District<br>110 Vernon Street<br>Santa Cruz, CA 95060<br>Attention: Alex Clifford, CEO<br>\section*{CONTRACTOR}<br>Ken's Auto Body \& Striping<br>1226 Brommer Street<br>Santa Cruz, CA 95062<br>Attention: Ken Heredia

## 7. ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES AND COUNTERPARTS

The parties agree that this Contract, agreements ancillary to this Contract, and related documents to be entered into this Contract will be considered executed when the signature of a party is delivered by facsimile or other electronic method by either of the parties, and each party agrees that the electronic signatures, whether digital or encrypted, of the parties included in this Contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Each party further agrees that this Contract may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, and all of which constitute one and the same instrument.

## 8. AUTHORITY

Each party has full power and authority to enter into and perform this Contract and the person signing this Contract on behalf of each has been properly authorized and empowered to enter into this Contract. Each party further acknowledges that it has read this Contract, understands it, and agrees to be bound by it.

## Attachment B

Signed on $4 / 9 / 21$

Santa Cruz METRO -
SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

Contractor-
KEN'S AUTO BODY \& STRIPING
Ken Heredia, Owner


Approved as to Form:
Julie A. Sherman, General Counsel


# PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES (21-09) 

THIS CONTRACT is made effective on April 23, 2021 between the SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT ("Santa Cruz METRO"), a political subdivision of the State of California, and NORTH BAY FORD ("Contractor").

## 1. RECITALS

1.1 Santa Cruz METRO's Primary Objective

Santa Cruz METRO is a public entity whose primary objective is providing public transportation and which has its principal office at 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060.
1.2 Santa Cruz METRO's Need for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services

Santa Cruz METRO has the need for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services. In order to obtain these services, Santa Cruz METRO issued a Request for Proposals, dated January 29, 2021, setting forth specifications for such services. The Request for Proposals is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A.
1.3 Contractor's Proposal

Contractor is a firm/individual qualified to provide Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services and whose principal place of business is 1999 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Pursuant to the Request for Proposals issued by Santa Cruz METRO, Contractor submitted a proposal for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit B.

### 1.4 Selection of Contractor and Intent of Contract

On April 6, 2021, Santa Cruz METRO selected Contractor as the Proposer whose proposal was most advantageous to Santa Cruz METRO to provide the Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services described herein. This Contract is intended to fix the provisions of these services.

Santa Cruz METRO and Contractor agree as follows:

## 2. INCORPORATED DOCUMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW

2.1 Documents Incorporated in this Contract

The documents listed below are attached to this Contract and by reference made a part hereof. This is an integrated Contract. This writing constitutes the final expression of the parties' Contract, and it is a complete and exclusive statement of the provisions of that Contract, except for written amendments, if any, made after the date of this Contract in accordance with Section 12.15 of the General Conditions to the Contract.

## Attachment B

## A. Exhibit A

Santa Cruz METRO's "Request for Proposals" dated January 29, 2021, including Addendum No. 1 dated February 11, 2021.
B. Exhibit B (Contractor's Proposal)

Contractor's Proposal to Santa Cruz METRO for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services, signed by Contractor and dated February 19, 2021.

### 2.2 Conflicts

Where in conflict, the provisions of this writing supersede those of the above-referenced documents, Exhibits A and B. Where in conflict, the provisions of Exhibit A supersede Exhibit B.
2.3 Recitals

The Recitals set forth in Article 1 are part of this Contract.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 General

The terms below (or pronouns in place of them) have the following meaning in the Contract:
3.1.1 CONTRACT - The Contract consists of this document, the attachments incorporated herein in accordance with Article 2, and any written amendments made in accordance with Part IV, Section 12.15 of the General Conditions to the Contract.
3.1.2 CONTRACTOR - The Proposer selected by Santa Cruz METRO for this project in accordance with the Request for Proposals issued January 29, 2021.
3.1.3 CONTRACTOR'S STAFF - Employees of Contractor.
3.1.4 DAYS - Calendar days.
3.1.5 PROPOSER - Contractor whose proposal was accepted under the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals issued January 29, 2021.
3.1.6 PROVISION - Any term, agreement, covenant, condition, clause, qualification, restriction, reservation, or other stipulation in the Contract that defines or otherwise controls, establishes, or limits the performance required or permitted by either party.
3.1.7 SCOPE OF WORK (OR "WORK") - The entire obligation under the Contract, including, without limitation, all labor, equipment, materials, supplies, transportation, services, and other work products and expenses, express or implied, in the Contract.

## Attachment B

## 4. TIME OF PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 Term

The term of this Contract will be for a period not to exceed three (3) years and shall commence upon the execution of the Contract by Santa Cruz METRO. At the option of Santa Cruz METRO, this Contract agreement may be renewed for two (2) additional two (2)-year terms. Option terms may be exercised by METRO in single or multiple year periods.

## 5. COMPENSATION

5.1 Terms of Payment

Santa Cruz METRO shall compensate Contractor in an amount not to exceed the amounts/rates agreed upon by Santa Cruz METRO. Santa Cruz METRO shall reasonably determine whether work has been successfully performed for purposes of payment. Compensation shall be made within thirty (30) days of Santa Cruz METRO's written approval of Contractor's written invoice for said work.

It is understood that execution of this Agreement does not guarantee any amount of services and/or dollar expenditure to be provided under the Agreement to Contractor. However, the maximum compensation that Santa Cruz METRO has authorized to be expended for this Contract will not exceed $\mathbf{\$ 1 2 0 , 0 0 0}$.

### 5.2 Invoices

Contractor shall submit invoices with a purchase order number provided by Santa Cruz METRO on a monthly basis. Contractor's invoices shall include detailed records showing actual time devoted, work accomplished, date work accomplished, personnel used, and amount billed per hour. Expenses shall only be billed if allowed under the Contract.

Said invoice records shall be kept up-to-date at all times and shall be available for inspection by Santa Cruz METRO (or any grantor of Santa Cruz METRO, including, without limitation, any State or Federal agency providing project funding or reimbursement) at any time for any reason upon demand for not less than four (4) years after the date of expiration or termination of the Contract. Under penalty of law, Contractor represents that all amounts billed to Santa Cruz METRO are (1) actually incurred; (2) reasonable in amount; (3) related to this Contract; and (4) necessary for performance of the project.

## 6. NOTICES

All notices under this Contract shall be deemed duly given upon delivery, if delivered by hand, or three (3) days after posting if sent by registered mail, receipt requested, to a party hereto at the address hereinunder set forth, or to such other address as a party may designate by notice pursuant hereto.

## Attachment B

Santa Cruz METRO<br>Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District<br>110 Vernon Street<br>Santa Cruz, CA 95060<br>Attention: Alex Clifford, CEO

## CONTRACTOR

North Bay Ford
1999 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Attention: Mark Elward

## 7. ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES AND COUNTERPARTS

The parties agree that this Contract, agreements ancillary to this Contract, and related documents to be entered into this Contract will be considered executed when the signature of a party is delivered by facsimile or other electronic method by either of the parties, and each party agrees that the electronic signatures, whether digital or encrypted, of the parties included in this Contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Each party further agrees that this Contract may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, and all of which constitute one and the same instrument.

## 8. AUTHORITY

Each party has full power and authority to enter into and perform this Contract and the person signing this Contract on behalf of each has been properly authorized and empowered to enter into this Contract. Each party further acknowledges that it has read this Contract, understands it, and agrees to be bound by it.

## Attachment B

Signed on

Santa Cruz METRO -<br>SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

Contractor -
NORTH BAY FORD
Mark Elward, Secretary Treasurer


Approved as to Form:
Julie A. Sherman, General Counsel


## Attachment B

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES (21-09)

THIS CONTRACT is made effective on April 23, 2021 between the SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT ("Santa Cruz METRO"), a political subdivision of the State of California, and SCOTT'S BODY SHOP ("Contractor").

## 1. RECITALS

1.1 Santa Cruz METRO's Primary Objective

Santa Cruz METRO is a public entity whose primary objective is providing public transportation and which has its principal office at 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060.
1.2 Santa Cruz METRO's Need for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services

Santa Cruz METRO has the need for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services. In order to obtain these services, Santa Cruz METRO issued a Request for Proposals, dated January 29, 2021, setting forth specifications for such services. The Request for Proposals is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A.
1.3 Contractor's Proposal

Contractor is a firm/individual qualified to provide Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services and whose principal place of business is 140 Center St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Pursuant to the Request for Proposals issued by Santa Cruz METRO, Contractor submitted a proposal for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit B.
1.4 Selection of Contractor and Intent of Contract

On April 6, 2021, Santa Cruz METRO selected Contractor as the Proposer whose proposal was most advantageous to Santa Cruz METRO to provide the Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services described herein. This Contract is intended to fix the provisions of these services.

Santa Cruz METRO and Contractor agree as follows:

## 2. INCORPORATED DOCUMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW

2.1 Documents Incorporated in this Contract

The documents listed below are attached to this Contract and by reference made a part hereof. This is an integrated Contract. This writing constitutes the final expression of the parties' Contract, and it is a complete and exclusive statement of the provisions of that Contract, except for written amendments, if any, made after the date of this Contract in accordance with Section 12.15 of the General Conditions to the Contract.

## Attachment B

## A. Exhibit A

Santa Cruz METRO's "Request for Proposals" dated January 29, 2021, including Addendum No. 1 dated February 11, 2021.
B. Exhibit B (Contractor's Proposal)

Contractor's Proposal to Santa Cruz METRO for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services, signed by Contractor and dated March 10, 2021.

### 2.2 Conflicts

Where in conflict, the provisions of this writing supersede those of the above-referenced documents, Exhibits A and B. Where in conflict, the provisions of Exhibit A supersede Exhibit B.

### 2.3 Recitals

The Recitals set forth in Article 1 are part of this Contract.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 General

The terms below (or pronouns in place of them) have the following meaning in the Contract:
3.1.1 CONTRACT - The Contract consists of this document, the attachments incorporated herein in accordance with Article 2, and any written amendments made in accordance with Part IV, Section 12.15 of the General Conditions to the Contract.
3.1.2 CONTRACTOR - The Proposer selected by Santa Cruz METRO for this project in accordance with the Request for Proposals issued January 29, 2021.
3.1.3 CONTRACTOR'S STAFF - Employees of Contractor.
3.1.4 DAYS - Calendar days.
3.1.5 PROPOSER - Contractor whose proposal was accepted under the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals issued January 29, 2021.
3.1.6 PROVISION - Any term, agreement, covenant, condition, clause, qualification, restriction, reservation, or other stipulation in the Contract that defines or otherwise controls, establishes, or limits the performance required or permitted by either party.
3.1.7 SCOPE OF WORK (OR "WORK") - The entire obligation under the Contract, including, without limitation, all labor, equipment, materials, supplies, transportation, services, and other work products and expenses, express or implied, in the Contract.

## Attachment B

## 4. TIME OF PERFORMANCE

## $4.1 \quad$ Term

The term of this Contract will be for a period not to exceed three (3) years and shall commence upon the execution of the Contract by Santa Cruz METRO. At the option of Santa Cruz METRO, this Contract agreement may be renewed for two (2) additional two (2)-year terms. Option terms may be exercised by METRO in single or multiple year periods.

## 5. COMPENSATION

5.1 Terms of Payment

Santa Cruz METRO shall compensate Contractor in an amount not to exceed the amounts/rates agreed upon by Santa Cruz METRO. Santa Cruz METRO shall reasonably determine whether work has been successfully performed for purposes of payment. Compensation shall be made within thirty (30) days of Santa Cruz METRO's written approval of Contractor's written invoice for said work.

It is understood that execution of this Agreement does not guarantee any amount of services and/or dollar expenditure to be provided under the Agreement to Contractor. However, the maximum compensation that Santa Cruz METRO has authorized to be expended for this Contract will not exceed $\underline{\mathbf{5 0 , 0 0 0}}$.

### 5.2 Invoices

Contractor shall submit invoices with a purchase order number provided by Santa Cruz METRO on a monthly basis. Contractor's invoices shall include detailed records showing actual time devoted, work accomplished, date work accomplished, personnel used, and amount billed per hour. Expenses shall only be billed if allowed under the Contract.

Said invoice records shall be kept up-to-date at all times and shall be available for inspection by Santa Cruz METRO (or any grantor of Santa Cruz METRO, including, without limitation, any State or Federal agency providing project funding or reimbursement) at any time for any reason upon demand for not less than four (4) years after the date of expiration or termination of the Contract. Under penalty of law, Contractor represents that all amounts billed to Santa Cruz METRO are (1) actually incurred; (2) reasonable in amount; (3) related to this Contract; and (4) necessary for performance of the project.

## 6. NOTICES

All notices under this Contract shall be deemed duly given upon delivery, if delivered by hand, or three (3) days after posting if sent by registered mail, receipt requested, to a party hereto at the address hereinunder set forth, or to such other address as a party may designate by notice pursuant hereto.

## Attachment B

Santa Cruz METRO<br>Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District<br>110 Vernon Street<br>Santa Cruz, CA 95060<br>Attention: Alex Clifford, CEO<br>\section*{CONTRACTOR}<br>Scott's Body Shop<br>140 Center Street<br>Santa Cruz, CA 95060<br>Attention: Robert D. Scott

## 7. ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES AND COUNTERPARTS

The parties agree that this Contract, agreements ancillary to this Contract, and related documents to be entered into this Contract will be considered executed when the signature of a party is delivered by facsimile or other electronic method by either of the parties, and each party agrees that the electronic signatures, whether digital or encrypted, of the parties included in this Contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Each party further agrees that this Contract may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, and all of which constitute one and the same instrument.

## 8. AUTHORITY

Each party has full power and authority to enter into and perform this Contract and the person signing this Contract on behalf of each has been properly authorized and empowered to enter into this Contract. Each party further acknowledges that it has read this Contract, understands it, and agrees to be bound by it.

## Attachment B

Signed on $4-12-2021$

Santa Cruz METRO -<br>SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

Contractor -
SCOTT'S BODY SHOP
Robert D. Scott, President


Approved as to Form:
Julie A. Sherman, General Counsel


## Attachment B

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES (21-09)

THIS CONTRACT is made effective on April 23, 2021 between the SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT ("Santa Cruz METRO"), a political subdivision of the State of California, and WCAF LLC d/b/a WATSONVILLE FORD ("Contractor").

## 1. RECITALS

### 1.1 Santa Cruz METRO’s Primary Objective

Santa Cruz METRO is a public entity whose primary objective is providing public transportation and which has its principal office at 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060.
1.2 Santa Cruz METRO’s Need for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services

Santa Cruz METRO has the need for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services. In order to obtain these services, Santa Cruz METRO issued a Request for Proposals, dated January 29, 2021, setting forth specifications for such services. The Request for Proposals is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A.

### 1.3 Contractor's Proposal

Contractor is a firm/individual qualified to provide Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services and whose principal place of business is 550 Auto Center Dr. Watsonville, CA 95076. Pursuant to the Request for Proposals issued by Santa Cruz METRO, Contractor submitted a proposal for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit B.
1.4 Selection of Contractor and Intent of Contract

On April 6, 2021, Santa Cruz METRO selected Contractor as the Proposer whose proposal was most advantageous to Santa Cruz METRO to provide the Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services described herein. This Contract is intended to fix the provisions of these services.

Santa Cruz METRO and Contractor agree as follows:

## 2. INCORPORATED DOCUMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW

2.1 Documents Incorporated in this Contract

The documents listed below are attached to this Contract and by reference made a part hereof. This is an integrated Contract. This writing constitutes the final expression of the parties' Contract, and it is a complete and exclusive statement of the provisions of that Contract, except for written amendments, if any, made after the date of this Contract in accordance with Section 12.15 of the General Conditions to the Contract.

## Attachment B

## A. Exhibit A

Santa Cruz METRO’s "Request for Proposals" dated January 29, 2021, including Addendum No. 1 dated February 11, 2021.
B. Exhibit B (Contractor's Proposal)

Contractor's Proposal to Santa Cruz METRO for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services, signed by Contractor and dated March 9, 2021.
2.2 Conflicts

Where in conflict, the provisions of this writing supersede those of the above-referenced documents, Exhibits A and B. Where in conflict, the provisions of Exhibit A supersede Exhibit B.
2.3 Recitals

The Recitals set forth in Article 1 are part of this Contract.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 General

The terms below (or pronouns in place of them) have the following meaning in the Contract:
3.1.1 CONTRACT - The Contract consists of this document, the attachments incorporated herein in accordance with Article 2, and any written amendments made in accordance with Part IV, Section 12.15 of the General Conditions to the Contract.
3.1.2 CONTRACTOR - The Proposer selected by Santa Cruz METRO for this project in accordance with the Request for Proposals issued January 29, 2021.
3.1.3 CONTRACTOR'S STAFF - Employees of Contractor.
3.1.4 DAYS - Calendar days.
3.1.5 PROPOSER - Contractor whose proposal was accepted under the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals issued January 29, 2021.
3.1.6 PROVISION - Any term, agreement, covenant, condition, clause, qualification, restriction, reservation, or other stipulation in the Contract that defines or otherwise controls, establishes, or limits the performance required or permitted by either party.
3.1.7 SCOPE OF WORK (OR "WORK") - The entire obligation under the Contract, including, without limitation, all labor, equipment, materials, supplies, transportation, services, and other work products and expenses, express or implied, in the Contract.

## Attachment B

## 4. TIME OF PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 Term

The term of this Contract will be for a period not to exceed three (3) years and shall commence upon the execution of the Contract by Santa Cruz METRO. At the option of Santa Cruz METRO, this Contract agreement may be renewed for two (2) additional two (2)-year terms. Option terms may be exercised by METRO in single or multiple year periods.

## 5. COMPENSATION

### 5.1 Terms of Payment

Santa Cruz METRO shall compensate Contractor in an amount not to exceed the amounts/rates agreed upon by Santa Cruz METRO. Santa Cruz METRO shall reasonably determine whether work has been successfully performed for purposes of payment. Compensation shall be made within thirty (30) days of Santa Cruz METRO's written approval of Contractor's written invoice for said work.

It is understood that execution of this Agreement does not guarantee any amount of services and/or dollar expenditure to be provided under the Agreement to Contractor. However, the maximum compensation that Santa Cruz METRO has authorized to be expended for this Contract will not exceed $\mathbf{\$ 3 0 , 0 0 0}$.

### 5.2 Invoices

Contractor shall submit invoices with a purchase order number provided by Santa Cruz METRO on a monthly basis. Contractor's invoices shall include detailed records showing actual time devoted, work accomplished, date work accomplished, personnel used, and amount billed per hour. Expenses shall only be billed if allowed under the Contract.

Said invoice records shall be kept up-to-date at all times and shall be available for inspection by Santa Cruz METRO (or any grantor of Santa Cruz METRO, including, without limitation, any State or Federal agency providing project funding or reimbursement) at any time for any reason upon demand for not less than four (4) years after the date of expiration or termination of the Contract. Under penalty of law, Contractor represents that all amounts billed to Santa Cruz METRO are (1) actually incurred; (2) reasonable in amount; (3) related to this Contract; and (4) necessary for performance of the project.

## 6. NOTICES

All notices under this Contract shall be deemed duly given upon delivery, if delivered by hand, or three (3) days after posting if sent by registered mail, receipt requested, to a party hereto at the address hereinunder set forth, or to such other address as a party may designate by notice pursuant hereto.

## Attachment B

Santa Cruz METRO<br>Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District<br>110 Vernon Street<br>Santa Cruz, CA 95060<br>Attention: Alex Clifford, CEO<br>CONTRACTOR<br>Watsonville Ford<br>550 Auto Center Drive<br>Watsonville, CA 95076<br>Attention: Chuck Dawson

## 7. ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES AND COUNTERPARTS

The parties agree that this Contract, agreements ancillary to this Contract, and related documents to be entered into this Contract will be considered executed when the signature of a party is delivered by facsimile or other electronic method by either of the parties, and each party agrees that the electronic signatures, whether digital or encrypted, of the parties included in this Contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Each party further agrees that this Contract may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, and all of which constitute one and the same instrument.

## 8. AUTHORITY

Each party has full power and authority to enter into and perform this Contract and the person signing this Contract on behalf of each has been properly authorized and empowered to enter into this Contract. Each party further acknowledges that it has read this Contract, understands it, and agrees to be bound by it.

## Attachment B

Signed on


Santa Cruz METRO -<br>SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

Contractor -
WCAF LLC d/b/a WATSONVILLE FORD
Chuck Dawson, Service Manager


Approved as to Form:
Julie A. Sherman, General Counsel


DATE: April 23, 2021
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Eddie Benson, Maintenance Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO USE THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION (CALACT) I MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MBTA) PURCHASING COOPERATIVE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO CNG BUSES FROM GILLIG, LLC

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

## That the Board of Directors:

1) Authorize the CEO to obtain and exercise two purchase options from the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CALACT) I Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) Purchasing Cooperative Contract to purchase two Gillig buses; and,
2) Authorize the CEO to execute a contract with Gillig, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$1,447,701

## II. SUMMARY

- The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) has budgeted for the purchase of two Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Plus low floor buses (35') to replace vehicles that have reached their useful life in METRO's fleet.
- On October 23, 2020, the Board of Directors (Board) approved the allocation of \$3,958,985 from the Public Transportation Modernization Improvement (PTMISEA) to purchase six CNG buses.
- Staff previously notified the Board of the intent to purchase two CNG buses utilizing the Bus Replacement Fund and leftover PTMISEA funds in the LongRange Bus Replacement Plan Report dated March 26, 2021.
- METRO staff located purchase options from the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CALACT) Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) Purchasing Cooperative Contract.
- Staff is requesting authorization to proceed with the purchase of two CNG buses from Gillig, LLC (Gillig) using the MBTA Contract as the most cost effective method to make the purchase.
- At the April 9, 2021 Capital Projects Standing Committee Meeting, the Committee members reviewed and recommended the Board authorize the CEO to use the CALACT/MBTA purchasing cooperative contract for the purchase of two CNG buses from Gillig, LLC.


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

METRO needs to purchase two CNG BRT Plus Low Floor buses to replace aging vehicles in its fixed route fleet. METRO's Transit Asset Management Plan (TAM) establishes the useful life of a bus as 14 years. METRO currently has 21 buses with an average of 19.7 years and over 750,000 miles that need to be replaced as soon as possible. Twelve of these are 20-year old diesels averaging 790,259 miles, two of which would be replaced by this purchase.
On October 23, 2020, the Board approved the allocation of $\$ 3,958,985$ from the PTMISEA to purchase six CNG buses. To maintain commitment to the Bus Replacement Plan, at the March 26, 2021 Board meeting, staff notified the Board of the intent to purchase two CNG buses utilizing the Bus Replacement Fund: one funded from FY19 State of Good Repair (SGR) funds that were originally programed to have been spent on a pandemic-delayed project and are due to expire, and another from leftover PTMISEA funds with the difference covered by FY20 SGR funds.

Utilizing cooperative purchasing agreements streamlines the procurement process and allows for better pricing than METRO would normally obtain due to the greater quantities requested. The CALACT Cooperative charges a contract usage fee of $1.5 \%$ based on the purchase order total before tax and any offered cash discounts.

Staff recommends that the Board award a contract to Gillig, LLC for the purchase of two CNG BRT Plus Low Floor buses in an amount not to exceed $\$ 1,447,700.59$, and that the Board also authorize the CEO to execute the contract with Gillig, LLC utilizing the CALACT/MBTA Cooperative Purchasing Contract to obtain and exercise the two bus purchase options.

On April 9, 2021, the Capital Projects Standing Committee met to review the staff proposal and unanimously recommended Board approval.

## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

METRO replacing two buses beyond their useful life is in alignment with the following strategic priorities:

- Service Quality and Delivery
- State of Good Repair


## V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS/IMPACT

Gillig, LLC two CNG BRT Plus low 35' floor buses - at a cost of \$658,045.71 per vehicle; plus $10 \%$ contingency of $\$ 131,609.17$ totaling $\$ 1,447,700.59$.

Funds to support this procurement are available in the FY19 State of Good Repair (GSR) grant in the amount of $\$ 687,360$, PTMISEA funds in the amount of $\$ 433,338$, Measure D funds in the amount of $\$ 131,609$ and FY20 State of Good Repair (GSR) funds in the amount of $\$ 195,394$. The table below outlines the matrix for grant funding allocations.

| Project | FY19 State of <br> Good Repair | PTMISEA <br> FUNDS | Measure D | FY 20 State of <br> Good Repair | Total Cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Two CNG Buses | $\$ 687,360$ | $\$ 433,338$ | $\$ 131,609$ | $\$ 195,394$ | $\$ 1,447,701$ |

## VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

At the April 9, 2021 Capital Projects Standing Committee Meeting, the Committee members reviewed and recommended the Board authorize the CEO to use the CALACT/MBTA purchasing cooperative contract for the purchase of two CNG buses from Gillig, LLC.

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board could direct the Purchasing Manager to conduct a standalone procurement for these Gillig CNG buses. This is not recommend as it would take approximately six months and would likely result in higher priced vehicles due to the small quantity that METRO would purchase.

## VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Gillig CNG Bus Quote Sheet
Attachment B: Price Variance

Prepared by: Margo Ross, Chief Operations Officer
Wondimu Mengistu, Grants/Legislative Analyst

Board of Directors
April 23, 2021
Page 4 of 4


Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


## 디닡

March 3, 2021
Mr. Eddie Benson
Maintenance Manager
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
110 Vernon Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## RE: PRICE QUOTE FOR TWO (2) 35' CNG BRT PLUS LOW FLOOR BUSES

Dear Mr. Benson,
Thank you for your interest to purchase two (2) 35' CNG BRT PLUS Low Floor Buses using options off the CalACT Consortium Contract (MBTA RFP \#18-01).

Attached you will find the Price Variance that would pertain to your next order. GILLIG is pleased to quote the following:

## TWO (2) 35’X102" CNG BRT PLUS LOW FLOOR BUS \$658,045.71 EA

These prices are valid for 30 days. Prices include registration and license fees, CA Sales Tax $(9.25 \%)$ and a $1 \%$ Spares Budget. The production of your buses can be scheduled within 12-15 months from receipt of purchase order. To maintain this production schedule, we will require a firm purchase order within 30 days.

We thank you for this opportunity and appreciate your interest in GILLIG and our products. We certainly look forward to working with METRO again and in so doing, continuing to build our long-term partnership. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

## Sean Solis

Sean Solis
Regional Sales Manager
cc: William F. Fay, Jr.
Javier Hernandez, Jr.

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# Attachment B 

## PRICE VARIANCE 3/31/2021 <br> SANTA CRUZ, CA OFF CaIACT CONSORTIUM CONTRACT <br> (2) 35 ' BRT+ CNG LOW FLOOR BUSES, SN: TBD

| ITEM | CalACT | SANTA CRUZ | VARIANCE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| BRT+ STYLING | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 20,147.00 |
| ENGINE (CNG) | CUMMINS L9N, 280 HP W/(5) TYPE IV TANKS | CUMMINS L9N, 280 HP W/(5) TYPE IV TANKS | - |
| AUXILIARY ENGINE OIL FILTER | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| COOLANT FILTER (FOR NON-HYBRIDS) | STD FLEETGUARD | STD FLEETGUARD | - |
| AIR RESTRICTION INDICATOR | DONALDSON INFORMER RBX00-2277 | DONALDSON INFORMER RBX00-2277 | - |
| RADIATOR | EMP GEN IV MH4 (ELECTRIC) | EMP GEN IV MH4 (ELECTRIC) | - |
| E-COAT RAD/CAC | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| RADIATOR TANK GUARD | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| ALTERNATOR | EMP P450 (450 AMP) | NIEHOFF C803 (525 AMP) | - |
| NIEHOFF SMART VOLTAGE REGULATOR | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 689.00 |
| ENGINE OIL EXTRACTOR PORT | NOT INCLUDED | TITAN PROBALYZER | 47.00 |
| TRANSMISSION | ALLISON B400R | ALLISON B400R | - |
| ALLISON FUEL SENSE SOFTWARE | INCLUDED | REQUIRED | - |
| TRANSMISSION OIL EXTRACTOR PORT | NOT INCLUDED | TITAN PROBALYZER | 47.00 |
| BRAKES | DRUM, W/S-CAM | DRUM, W/S-CAM | - |
| AXLE HUB SEALS | C/R OIL SEALS | C/R OIL SEALS | - |
| WHEEL MOUNTING | HUB PILOTED | HUB PILOTED | - |
| HUBODOMETER | STEMCO 610 | NOT REQUIRED | (50.00) |
| AUTO TRACTION CONTRO (ATC) | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| WHEELS | (7) STEEL | (7) FULL POLISHED ALUMINUM WHEELS | 2,354.00 |
| DURA-BRIGHT COATING ON (7) WHEELS | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 1,162.00 |
| DURA-FLANGE COATING ON (7) WHEELS | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 1,379.00 |
| TIRES | (7) GOOD YEAR B305/85R22.5 METRO MILER | (7) MICHELIN 305/85R22.5, X INCITY | 924.00 |
| ELECTRIC STEERING ASSIST | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| CNG FUEL GAUGE | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| OIL PRESSURE \& COOLANT TEMP GAUGES LOCATED IN ENGINE COMP'T | ELECTRICAL | ELECTRICAL | - |
| REAR HAND THROTTLE | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 153.00 |
| AIR DRYER | SKF HCT-2000, HEATED | SKF HCT-2000, HEATED | - |
| AUTO AIR DRAIN VALVE AT PING TANK | KINGSTON | KINGSTON | - |
| BRAKE VALVE | BENDIX E-8P | BENDIX E-8P | - |
| ELECTRICAL TOW CONNECTION | NOT INCLUDED | COLE HERSEY 7-WAY | 179.00 |
| EXTENDED REAR TOW EYES | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| ENGINE SKID PROTECTION | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| A-POST SKID PLATES | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 144.00 |
| INSULATION PACKAGE | LEVEL 2 | LEVEL 2 | - |
| BATTERIES | (2) DEKA 8D | (2) GROUP 31 ODYSSEY AGM | 905.00 |
| KBI KPOWER SUPERCAPACITOR STARTING SYSTEM | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 3,818.00 |
| FRONT JUMP START CONNECTOR | NOT INCLUDED | ANDERSON 350 | 178.00 |
| REAR JUMP START CONNECTOR | NOT INCLUDED | ANDERSON 350 | 178.00 |
| WHEELCHAIR RAMP | LIFT-U, LU-18 (6:1) | LIFT-U, LU-18 (6:1) | - |
| HVAC MOTORS (THERMO KING T14) | EBM BRUSHLESS | EBM BRUSHLESS | - |
| HVAC COMPRESSOR (THERMO KING) | X430 | X430 | - |
| REFRIGERANT | R407C | R407C | - |
| REFRIGERANT PRESSURE DISPLAY | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 356.00 |
| CLIMATE COMFORT TECHNOLOGIES CCT 24V-1 ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANER | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 2,250.00 |

# Attachment B 

## PRICE VARIANCE 3/31/2021 <br> SANTA CRUZ, CA OFF CaIACT CONSORTIUM CONTRACT <br> (2) 35 ' BRT+ CNG LOW FLOOR BUSES, SN: TBD

| ITEM | CalACT | SANTA CRUZ | VARIANCE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FRESH AIR MAKE-UP | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 428.00 |
| DRIVERS HEATER MOTORS | MCC BRUSH TYPE | MCC BRUSHLESS | 387.00 |
| AUXILIARY COOLANT HEATER | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| FRONT DOOR STEP HEATER | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| REAR DOOR STEP HEATER | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| STREETSIDE UNDERSEAT HEATER | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| REAR DOOR WARM WELCOME MAT | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| DASH MOUNTED DRIVERS FAN | NOT INCLUDED | (2) REQUIRED | 190.00 |
| FRONT \& REAR DOOR OPERATION | AIR POWERED | AIR POWERED | - |
| FRONT DOOR (VAPOR) | 40" SLIDE-GLIDE | 40" SLIDE-GLIDE | - |
| REAR DOOR (VAPOR) | 34" SWING OPEN | 34" SWING OPEN | - |
| REAR DOOR CONTROLS | FULL DRIVER CONTROL | VAPOR "CLASS" SYSTEM | 5,859.00 |
| SENSITIVE EDGE | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 650.00 |
| EXTERIOR FRONT DOOR VALVE | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT CABINET | 44" TALL, W/2 COOLING FANS | 44" TALL, W/2 COOLING FANS | - |
| INTERIOR AD FRAMES | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| EXTERIOR AD FRAMES | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| PASSENGER SEATS \& WHEELCHAIR RESTRAINTS | USSC CITISEAT, W/ V-PRO'S, \& STD Q'STRAINT BELTS \& RETRACTORS | USSC GEMINI, W/ (2) Q'PODS | 11,008.00 |
| RAISED REAR SEAT PLATFORM | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| DRIVERS SEAT | RECARO ERGO METRO, W/OUT HEADREST, W/LAP BELT \& DOCKET 90A | RECARO ERGO METRO, W/HEADREST \& LAP BELT | - |
| HEADREST FOR DRIVERS SEAT | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 119.00 |
| DRIVERS SEAT CUSHION ALARM | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| ARROW DRIVER'S BARRIER W/EXTENDED GLASS (MV3080-0139) | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 5,240.00 |
| PASSENGER SIGNALS | PULL CORDS | PULL CORDS | - |
| REAR DOOR STOP REQUEST SWITCH | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 67.00 |
| SCHEDULE RACKS | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| SCHEDULE HOLDER SLOTS IN SIDE OF DRIVER'S BARRIER | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 64.00 |
| STANCHIONS | SSTL | YELLOW POWDER COATED | 400.00 |
| OVERHEAD GRABRAILS | SSTL | SSTL | - |
| NYLON GRAB STRAPS | NOT INCLUDED | (6) REQUIRED | 126.00 |
| PASSENGER WINDOWS | STD FRAME/FULL FIXED | BONDED FRAME/UPPER TRANSOM | 6,566.00 |
| 3M SCOTCH GUARD FILM TO PASSENGER WINDOWS | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 2,876.00 |
| PASSENGER INFO STATION | NOT INCLUDED | OBIC 19/23 2DP 1T SANTA CRUZ | 435.00 |
| HEADLAMPS | (4) PETERSON LED | (4) PETERSON LED | - |
| CORNERING LAMPS | NOT INCLUDED | (3) REQUIRED | 969.00 |
| REAR YIELD SIGN | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 673.00 |
| INTERIOR LIGHTS | LED | LED | - |
| PASSENGER READING LAMPS | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 743.00 |
| PLEASURE RADIO \& ANTENNA | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| 2-WAY RADIO | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| 2-WAY RADIO ANTENNA | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 175.00 |
| DRIVERS SPEAKER | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| HAND MICROPHONE FOR P/A | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 65.00 |
| DESTINATION SIGNS (FRONT) | HANOVER, AMBER LED | LUMINATOR, COLOR LED | 5,875.00 |
| DESTINATION SIGNS (CURBSIDE) | HANOVER, AMBER LED | LUMINATOR, AMBER LED | 304.00 |

# Attachment B 

## PRICE VARIANCE <br> 3/31/2021 <br> SANTA CRUZ, CA OFF CaIACT CONSORTIUM CONTRACT <br> (2) 35 ' BRT+ CNG LOW FLOOR BUSES, SN: TBD

| ITEM | CalACT | SANTA CRUZ | VARIANCE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DESTINATION SIGN (STREETSIDE) | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| REAR RUN SIGN | NOT INCLUDED | LUMINATOR, AMBER LED | 1,480.00 |
| DASH MOUNTED FRONT RUN SIGN | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| HEATED FRONT DESTINATION SIGN GLAZING | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| FAREBOX PREWIRE, STANCHION \& LIGHT | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 300.00 |
| TRANSFER CUTTER | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| MECHANICAL PASSENGER COUNTER | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| FLOORING MATERIAL | ALTRO | ALTRO | - |
| FLOOR EDGING | VINYL | SSTL | 473.00 |
| ROOF HATCH | (1) MANUAL OPEN/CLOSE | (2) MANUAL OPEN/CLOSE | 300.00 |
| EXTERIOR MIRRORS | SAFE FLEET, 8X15, 2-PC, HEATED W/REMOTE | SAFE FLEET, 8X18, CLASS A, HEATED W/REMOTE | 693.00 |
| FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM | FOGMAKER | AMEREX V-25 | 329.00 |
| GAS DETECTION SYSTEM (CNG) | INCLUDED | REQUIRED | - |
| TRAFFIC LIGHT PREEMPTION | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM | NOT INCLUDED | LUMINATOR TECHNOLOGY 10-CAMERA SYSTEM, W/ ROADRUNNER HDR4K12 DVR, 10" MONITOR, WIFI, POWER LOSS DATA PROTECTOR \& (2) MOTION DETECTORS | 15,577.00 |
| PASSENGER INFO VIDEO MONITOR | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| PROTRAN SAFE TURN ALERT SYSTEM | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| SPORTWORKS BIKE RACK | NOT INCLUDED | MOUNTING BRKTS \& PIVOT PLATE | 391.00 |
| BIKE RACK LAMP | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 32.00 |
| BILE RACK MIRROR | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 30.00 |
| FIRE EXTINGUISHER | 5 LB, ABC RATED | 5 LB, ABC RATED | - |
| SAFETY TRIANGLE KIT | INCLUDED | REQUIRED | - |
| MEDICAL AID KIT | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 75.00 |
| BLOODBORN PATHOGEN KIT | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| DASH GAUGES | SPEEDOMETER AND AIR GAUGE | SPEEDOMETER AND AIR GAUGE | - |
| TOE SWITCHES | STD PLATFORM | TRANSTECH INNOVATIONS ELECTRONIC FOOT SWITCH ASSEMBLY | 486.00 |
| ADJUSTABLE PEDALS | NOT INCLUDED | KONGSBERG | 925.00 |
| MULTIPLEX SYSTEM | I/O CONTROLS G4 | I/O CONTROLS G4 | - |
| DRIVERS CUP HOLDER | NOT INCLUDED | BIG GULP | 37.00 |
| WASTE BASKET \& HOLDER | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 81.00 |
| ITS SYSTEM | NOT INCLUDED | SYNCHROMATICS SYSTEM, W/OPEN MDT 1100 (W/OUT CELLULAR MODEM), GPS/CELLULAR ANTENNA, VEHICLE GATEWAY (W/4G MODEM), AUTOMATIC VOICE ANNOUNCEMENT, INTERIOR SIGN, DESTINATION SIGN INTERFACE, FAREBOX INTERFACE \& IRMA APC PREWIRE (NO SENSORS) | 23,634.00 |
| EXTERIOR PAINT | 1-COLOR | 4-COLOR | 6,450.00 |
| CLEAR COAT | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |
| EXTERIOR GRAPHICS | NOT INCLUDED | SANTA CRUZ, CA CUSTOM GRAPHICS (SAME AS LAST ORDER) | 3,284.00 |
| ROOF NUMBERS | NOT INCLUDED | REQUIRED | 133.00 |

# Attachment B 

## PRICE VARIANCE 3/31/2021 <br> SANTA CRUZ, CA OFF CaIACT CONSORTIUM CONTRACT <br> (2) 35 ' BRT+ CNG LOW FLOOR BUSES, SN: TBD

| ITEM | CalACT | SANTA CRUZ | VARIANCE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WARRANTY (BASIC BUS) | 12 MONTHS / 50,000 MILES | 12 MONTHS / 50,000 MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (BODY STRUCTURE) | 36 MONTHS / 150,000 MILES | 36 MONTHS / 150,000 MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY DUE TO CORROSION) | 144 MONTHS / 500,000 MILES | 144 MONTHS / 500,000 MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (ENGINE L9N) | 24 MONTHS / UNLIMITED MILES | 60 MONTHS / 300,000 MILES | 7,600.00 |
| WARRANTY (EMISSION SYSTEM) | 60 MONTHS / 100,000 MILES | 60 MONTHS / 100,000 MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (ALTERNATOR) | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (AIR COMPRESSOR) | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (RADIATOR/CAC ASSEMBLY) | 36 MONTHS / UNL MILES | 36 MONTHS / UNL MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (TRANSMISSION B400R) | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | 60 MONTHS / 300,000 MILES | 2,815.00 |
| WARRANTY (AXLES) | 60 MONTHS / 300,000 MILES | 60 MONTHS / 300,000 MILES | - |
|  | 24 MONTHS / 100,000 MILES | 24 MONTHS / 100,000 MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (WHEELCHAIR RAMP) | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (HVAC) | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | 24 MONTHS / UNL MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (DESTINATION SIGNS) | 144 MONTHS / UNL MILES | 144 MONTHS / UNL MILES | - |
| WARRANTY (SUBFLOOR) | 144 MONTHS / 500,000 MILES | 144 MONTHS / 500,000 MILES | - |
| TRAINING | NOT INCLUDED | NOT REQUIRED | - |

TOTAL SANTA CRUZ, CA VARIANCES
143,204.00

## CURRENT BUS PRICE CALCULATIONS

TOTAL SANTA CRUZ, CA VARIANCES 143,204.00
CALACT CONSORTIUM 35' CNG LOW FLOOR BASE UNIT PRICE
449,973.00
SANTA CRUZ, CA 35' CNG BRT+ BASE UNIT PRICE
SPARES \& TOOLING BUDGET
593,177.00

DELIVERY COST (ZONE 3)
CURRENT SANTA CRUZ, CA 35' CNG BRT+ BASE UNIT PRICE, W/ DELIVERY
1\% CALACT FEE (UP TO MAX $\$ 20,000.00$ PER TRANSACTION)
5,932.00

SANTA CRUZ, CA 35' CNG BRT+ UNIT PRICE, W/ DELIVERY, SPARES \& CALACT FEE $(2 / 26 / 2021)$
9,752.00
5,998.00
605,750.00

## NON-TAXABLE ITEMS CALCULATIONS

| CALACT BASE NON-TAXABLE ADA EQUIPMENT | 20,868.00 |
| :---: | :---: |
| CHANGE WHEEL CHAIR RESTRAINTS TO Q'STRAINT Q'PODS | 8,465.00 |
| EXTENDED WARRANTY COVERAGE | 10,415.00 |
| DELIVERY COST (ZONE 3) | 643.00 |
| SANTA CRUZ, CA NON-TAXABLE ITEMS | 40,391.00 |
| CURRENT BUS PRICE CALCULATIONS INCLUDING CA SALES TAX |  |
| CURRENT SANTA CRUZ, CA 35' LOW FLOOR UNIT PRICE, W/ DELIVERY, SPARES \& CALACT FEE | 605,750.00 |
| SANTA CRUZ, CA NON-TAXABLE ITEMS | $(40,391.00)$ |
| CURRENT SANTA CRUZ 35' TAXABLE LOW FLOOR UNIT PRICE | 565,359.00 |
| ADD CALIFORNIA SALES TAX - SANTA CRUZ (9.25\%) | 52,295.71 |
| SANTA CRUZ, CA NON-TAXABLE ITEMS | 40,391.00 |
| GILLIG TO REGISTER VEHICLES AT DMV | - |
| SANTA CRUZ, CA 40' LOW FLOOR CURRENT UNIT PRICE, WI CA SALES TAX (3/31/2021) | 658,045.71 | intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this information in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited.

DATE: April 23, 2021
TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Wondimu Mengistu, Grants and Legislative Analyst
SUBJECT: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FY22 APPROPRIATIONS AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION EARMARK REQUESTS

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Board of Directors receive an update on Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's (METRO) FY22 Appropriations and Surface Transportation
Reauthorization Earmark requests

## II. SUMMARY

- In February 2021, Congressional lawmakers announced the reinstatement of the earmark process for local governments and nonprofits after a decade-long ban, ushering in the return of congressionally directed spending through a reformed process dubbed "Community Project Funding" (CPF). The U.S. House of Representatives will accept Congress member requests for CPF in appropriations bills for FY2022.
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T\&I) Committee also announced that it will accept Congress member requests for the expected reauthorization of federal highway and transit programs in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).
- The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) has submitted requests for $\$ 2.9$ million in the FY2022 transportation appropriations bill for the Bus Replacement Plan.
- In the coming weeks staff will also submit project requests for the members of Congress representing the Santa Cruz area to advocate for the inclusion of earmarks for METRO capital projects as part of the FAST Act.
- The Capital Projects Standing Committee met on April 9, 2021 to review and unanimously recommends these projects for Board approval.


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

## Community Project Funding

In the 117th Congress, lawmakers will reinstate the process of earmarking for local governments and nonprofits after a decade-long ban, ushering in the return
of congressionally directed spending through a reformed process dubbed "Community Project Funding" (CPF) with added oversight mechanisms.
The House will accept Member requests for CPF in appropriations bills for FY2022. Members will be allowed to request funding to support specific community projects as part of the annual appropriations process to fund the federal government. Eligible projects include transit capital projects included on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).
In order to maintain its rolling stock - over $25 \%$ of which is beyond its useful life in a state of good repair, METRO has submitted a request to Rep. Jimmy Panetta's office for an earmark of $\$ 505,750$ - $\$ 1.8$ million in the FY2022 transportation appropriations bill for the Bus Replacement Plan:

- CNG Bus Replacements:
o $\$ 1.84$ million of a $\$ 2.3$ million capital request to replace one diesel articulated bus and two 1998 diesel-fueled buses with new CNG buses, with METRO funding the required $20 \%(\$ 460,000)$ local match. These CNG vehicles, powered by recycled methane from landfills, will provide a clean fuel bridge as METRO transitions to $100 \%$ zero-emission vehicles by 2040.
- Paratransit Vehicle Replacement:
o An important but secondary ask would include $\$ 505,750$ to replace seven equivalent 2011 gasoline fueled paratransit vans supported by a local match of $\$ 89,250$. These vehicles are important to ensuring METRO's paratransit service for customers with disabilities is maintained in a state of good repair.
Staff also submitted a funding request for CPF to Rep. Anna G. Eshoo in the FY22 Appropriations Request.
- $\$ 1,105,000$ of a $\$ 1.3$ million capital request to replace a 201040 -foot CNG coach with one, 45 -foot over-the-road ZEB to operate on METRO's Highway 17 Express, with METRO funding the required $15 \%(\$ 195,000)$ local match.


## Surface Transportation Reauthorization Earmark requests

The House T\&I Committee also announced that it will accept Congress member requests for the expected reauthorization of the FAST Act. Member-designated projects funded through the surface transportation authorization will receive multi-year contract authority from the highway trust fund. These projects will receive dedicated obligation limitation under the overall provision of obligation limitation provided through the appropriations process, and will not require further Congressional action.
Federal highway and public transportation programs are funded through multiyear surface transportation authorization acts. The current surface transportation program authorization expires on September 30, 2021.

Eligible transit capital projects include constructing or rehabilitating a transit station or transit equipment; purchasing rolling stock, including zero-emission vehicles; transit-related intelligent transportation systems; project expenses related to a capital project including design and engineering; and, associated transit improvements including bus shelters. The federal share allowable under the transit program is typically 80 percent of the project cost.
In order to maintain its fleet and facilities in a state of good repair, METRO will be requesting:

- 21 Replacement Fixed-Route and Commuter Buses:
o If METRO purchases CNG buses, the total cost would be $\$ 12$ million
o If METRO purchases Zero Emission Buses (electric), the cost would be \$22 million
- New Paratransit Operating Facility: \$5 million
- Rebuild Pacific Station Bus Terminal: $\$ 10$ million

METRO needs an average of $\$ 20$ million a year over the next five years to bring its fleet and facilities/equipment into a state of good repair. METRO's combined funding needs to bring its fleet and facilities/equipment into state of good repair are shown below.

| Fiscal Year | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { TBC "Ask" } \\ & \text { (in } \\ & \text { billions) } \end{aligned}$ | \$1.24-\$2.3 | \$1.27-\$2.3 | \$1.31-\$2.37 | \$1.35-\$2.41 | \$1.39-\$2.45 | \$1.43-\$2.49 |
| METRO <br> "Needs" | \$10.8m | \$19m | \$3m | \$9.8m | \$72m | \$2m |

## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

The actions taken in this report tie to METRO's Financial Stability, Stewardship and Accountability, Service Quality and Delivery, and State of Good Repair Strategic Priorities.

## V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONSIIMPACT

If awarded, infrastructure grants from federal earmarks would provide capital revenue necessary to maintain METRO fleet, equipment and facilities in a state of good repair with 20\% local match available in the Bus Replacement Fund and operating and capital reserve fund. Staff will request a Capital Budget amendment if the grant is awarded.

## VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

The Capital Projects Standing Committee met on April 9, 2021 to review and unanimously recommends these projects for Board approval.

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Do not submit requests for the members of Congress representing the Santa Cruz area to advocate for part of the FY22 Appropriations and the surface transportation (FAST Act) reauthorization. The current federal earmarks present an opportunity to acquire buses and modernize facilities and infrastructure with a 20\% local share. Foregoing this opportunity will postpone METRO's return to a state of good repair and is therefore not recommended.

## VIII. ATTACHMENTS

None

Prepared by: Wondimu Mengistu, Grants/Legislative Analyst

Board of Directors
April 23, 2021
Page 5 of 5

## IX. APPROVALS

John Urgo, Planning and Development Director

Approved as to fiscal impact: Chuck Farmer, CFO


Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


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DATE: April 23, 2021

## TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Danielle Glagola, Marketing, Communications \& Customer Service Director

## SUBJECT: APPROVE METRO EXTERNAL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Board of Directors approve and file METRO's External Social Media Policy.

## II. SUMMARY

- To establish the Santa Cruz Metropolitan District (METRO) standards and operating procedures pertaining to the creation, maintenance and use of METRO's social media websites.


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

METRO recognizes that the internet provides unique opportunities to participate in interactive discussions and share information on particular topics with the public using a wide variety of social media, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and blogs. METRO may use social media when its use will further the business goals of the agency, support the mission of its departments, and enhance communications with members of the general public.

This policy applies to:

1. Members of the general public posting content and engaging with METRO on social media platforms; and,
2. Staff authorized to use social media on behalf of METRO, including employees, temporary employees, volunteers, paid and unpaid interns, consultants, vendors, and contractors, whether on or off duty, and whether on or off METRO property.

This policy applies to all social media websites that METRO maintains. The term "social media" refers to activities that integrate technology, social interaction and content creation through which users create or participate in online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (such as videos, blogs, podcasts, photo and video-sharing, and other web feeds).

METRO's Legal, Human Resources, and Marketing Departments coordinated the creation of this policy with the review and approval of SMART and SEIU Unions.

This Policy was reviewed and referred to the Board of Directors with no changes at the April 9, 2021 Personnel/HR Standing Committee Meeting.

## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

The actions taken in this report tie to METRO's Internal and External Technology, Strategic Alliances, and Community Outreach.
V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONSIIMPACT

None.

## VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

This Policy was reviewed and referred to the Board of Directors with no changes at the April 9, 2021 Personnel/HR Standing Committee Meeting.

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

METRO can continue to operate without a Social Media Policy but staff does not recommend this approach. A social media standard and practice should be outlined as posts are subject to the California Public Records Act and all posted content is owned by METRO.

## VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2020-10-12 METRO Social Media Policy (External)

Prepared by: Danielle Glagola, Marketing, Communications, Customer Service Director

Board of Directors
April 23, 2021
Page 3 of 3

## IX. APPROVALS

Danielle Glagola,
Marketing, Communications \& Customer Service Director

Approved as to fiscal impact: Chuck Farmer, CFO


Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


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## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT \& GUIDELINES

Policy \#: AP-3023 Origination Date: January 2021 Revised Date:

## I. PURPOSE

1.1. $\quad$ To establish the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) standards and operating procedures pertaining to the creation, maintenance, and use of METRO's social media websites.

## II. APPLICATION

2.1. This policy applies to all social media websites that METRO maintains. The term "social media" refers to activities that integrate technology, social interaction and content creation through which users create or participate in online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (such as videos, blogs, podcasts, photo and video-sharing, and other web feeds).
2.2. METRO uses various forms of social media, including but not limited to, social networking sites (e.g., Facebook), image and video sharing sites (e.g., Instagram), and microblogging sites (e.g., Twitter).

## III. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE POLICIES AND LAWS

3.1. All METRO social media sites shall adhere to applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and policies.
3.2. All of METRO's other existing policies that might apply to social media use remain in full force and effect.
3.3. METRO's social media sites shall also comply with METRO's conflict of interest rules and applicable ethics rules and policies.
3.4. Content on METRO's social media sites is likely subject to the California Public Records Act. Any content maintained in a social media format that is related to METRO business, including a list of subscribers and posted communication, may be a public record. Wherever possible, such sites shall indicate that any content posted or submitted for posting, including comments, may be subject to public disclosure upon request.
3.5. METRO shall preserve records required to be maintained pursuant to a relevant records retention schedule for the required retention period on a METRO server in a format that preserves the integrity of the original record and is easily accessible.

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT \& GUIDELINES

## IV. POLICY STATEMENT

4.1. METRO recognizes that the internet provides unique opportunities to participate in interactive discussions and share information on particular topics with the public using a wide variety of social media, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and blogs. METRO may use social media when its use will further the business goals of the agency, support the mission of its departments, and enhance communications with members of the general public.
4.2. This policy applies to: (1) members of the general public posting content and engaging with METRO on social media platforms; and (2) staff authorized to use social media on behalf of the METRO, including employees, temporary employees, volunteers, paid and unpaid interns, consultants, vendors, and contractors, whether on or off duty, and whether on or off METRO property.
4.3. The METRO Board of Directors supports and authorizes the secure use of approved and established social media tools to deliver information to the public.

## V. PROCEDURE

5.1. Social Media Website Management

The Marketing Director is responsible for the creation, administration, and deactivation of the METRO's social media accounts. Social media website accounts shall use an official METRO email account designated by the Marketing Department, if feasible. Social media websites shall provide a link to this policy, if feasible.

Whenever possible, METRO social media sites should link back to the official METRO website (www.scmtd.com) for forms, documents, online services, and other information necessary to conduct business with METRO.

### 5.2. Social Media Account Ownership

Any social media accounts created or used by employees or contractors on behalf of METRO or otherwise for any of METRO's business purposes belong solely to METRO, including any and all log-in information, passwords, and content associated with each account, including followers and contacts. METRO shall at all times retain sole ownership of all such accounts, including all log-in information, passwords, and associated content.

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT \& GUIDELINES

Policy \#: AP-3023
Origination Date: January 2021 Revised Date:

### 5.3. Social Media Website Content

The Marketing Department, via its Director, is responsible for establishing and maintaining content posted to the METRO's social media websites. METRO posts are the property of the METRO and may not be redistributed without crediting METRO. Comments or other content submitted by outside parties to METRO websites may not be redistributed without crediting the author. Outside parties should be contacted before their comments, photographs, or other content is redistributed.

### 5.4. Social Media Business Use Guidelines

For Marketing persons whose job responsibilities including posting to METRO's social media platforms and/or responding to the public inquiries via social media, the following guidelines shall be followed:

1. Employees engaging in METRO social media platforms in their official capacity must conduct themselves at all times as a representative of METRO and in accordance with all METRO policies.
2. Employees will refrain from disclosing non-public information, such as financial disclosure information, METRO personnel/employee information, legal information, or confidential information related to METRO.
3. Employees will not cite or refer to our customers, vendors, or business associates, identify them by name, or reveal any confidential information related to them without getting their explicit written permission in advance.
4. Employees will avoid endorsing or appearing to endorse any commercial products, services, entities, political parties, candidate or groups, or private interests.
5. Employees will refrain from posting any visual or audiovisual media that is vulgar, abusive, or offensive.
6. Employees will strive to be accurate in the social media communications about METRO. METRO encourages professionalism and honesty in social media and all other communications.
7. All persons who post content about METRO while interacting on social media in an individual and/or personal capacity shall state the opinion(s) expressed are their own and do not represent METRO positions, policies, views and/or opinions.

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT \& GUIDELINES

Policy \#: AP-3023
Origination Date: January 2021 Revised Date:

### 5.5. Content That May Be Removed From Social Media

For social media sites that allow comments, METRO prohibits content that is unrelated to the topic of the site. In addition, content (including articles, posts or comments) posted on METRO's social media sites by external and/or internal authorized users containing any of the following forms of content is prohibited and subject to removal by METRO:
(a) Information that may compromise public safety, public security or efficiency of METRO operations;
(b) Conduct or encouragement of illegal activity;
(c) Sexual content or links to sexual content;
(d) Profane language or content;
(e) Threatening, violent, hateful, or malicious statements concerning individuals, METRO operators, or METRO administrative employees;
(f) Content that is false, factually inaccurate, or materially misleading;
(g) Content that violates a legal ownership interest of any other party, such as trademark or copyright infringement;
(h) Content that violates a social media platform's policies or terms of use, as may be updated;
(i) Comments or content not germane to METRO or public transportation generally;
(j) Solicitations of commerce, such as product advertisements or personal marketing materials;
(k) Content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, uniformed service member status, marital status, pregnancy, age, medical condition, physical or mental disability (whether perceived or actual), and genetic information;
(I) Content that defames or threatens to defame METRO, any third party, any individual or any group of individuals;

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT \& GUIDELINES

Origination Date: January 2021 Revised Date:
(m) Uploading or attaching files that contain viruses, corrupted files, or any other similar software or programs that may damage the operation of METRO or another's computer;
(n) Unauthorized disclosure of confidential, sensitive, or proprietary information.

METRO reserves the right to deny access (e.g. "block") any individual who violates the METRO Social Media Guidelines, at any time and without prior notice. METRO will display on its social media sites what content is prohibited under this policy. It shall also display that METRO will remove any prohibited content pursuant to this policy.

## VI. POLICY LIFESPAN AND REVIEW

This policy, once approved by the METRO Board of Directors, will remain in force until amended or removed by the METRO Board of Directors.

The CEO, Human Resources Director, and IT Director will review this policy bi-annually and provide to the METRO Board of Directors a statement of policy legitimacy or request for amendments.

## VII. STANDARD GUIDELINE

Attached as Exhibit A to this policy is a standard guideline that staff should tailor to any METRO social media site and post on the same, when feasible.

## VIII. ADMINISTRATION OF POLICY

8.1. Each Department Manager is responsible for administering this policy and the procedures within their department in accordance with this policy.
8.2. METRO will integrate this policy and procedures into the agency's policies and procedures.

## IX. REVISION HISTORY

| Date | Action | Approved By |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| January 2021 | NEW Policy | Alex Clifford/Danielle Glagola |
|  |  |  |

## END OF POLICY

16660609.5

# SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT \& GUIDELINES 

Policy \#: AP-3023
Origination Date: January 2021 Revised Date:

## EXHIBIT A

## STANDARD GUIDELINES FOR POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

On any METRO social media site, the following should be posted, when feasible:
"This is an official [Facebook, Twitter, YouTube] page of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO). For more information about METRO, please visit www.scmtd.com. This site is intended to serve as a mechanism for communication between the public and METRO about the [describe topics] and as a forum to further METRO's mission. Any comment submitted to this page and its list of fans may be considered a public record, which is subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act. [INSERT LINK TO POLICY, IF FEASIBLE]

For Facebook or any site that allows comments, the page shall also include a Comment Policy Box with the following disclaimer:
"Comments posted to this page will be monitored and inappropriate content will be removed. Under METRO's Social Media Guidelines, METRO will remove any prohibited content, including: (1) information that may compromise public safety, public security or efficient METRO operations; (2) conduct or encouragement of illegal activity; (3) sexual content or links to sexual content; (4) profane language or content; (5) threatening, violent, hateful, or malicious statements concerning individuals, METRO operators, or METRO administrative employees; (6) content that is false, factually inaccurate, or materially misleading; (7) content that violates a legal ownership interest of any other party, such as trademark or copyright infringement; (8) content that violates a social media platform's policies or terms of use, as may be updated; (9) comments or content not germane to METRO or public transportation generally; (10) solicitations of commerce, such as product advertisements or personal marketing materials; (11) content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, uniformed service member status, marital status, pregnancy, age, medical condition, physical or mental disability (whether perceived or actual), and genetic information; (12) content that defames or threatens to defame METRO, any third party, any individual or any group of individuals; (13) uploading or attaching files that contain viruses, corrupted files, or any other similar software or programs that may damage the operation of METRO or another's computer; and (14) unauthorized disclosure of confidential, sensitive, or proprietary information.

METRO, however, disclaims any and all responsibility and liability for any materials that are prohibited under METRO's Social Media Guidelines, which cannot be removed in an expeditious and otherwise timely manner. METRO does not necessarily endorse, and is not responsible for, any content that has been submitted by any other party. [INSERT LINK TO POLICY, IF FEASIBLE]


$10.2$

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT 

Resolution No.<br>On the Motion of Director:<br>Duly Seconded by Director:<br>The Following Resolution is Adopted:

# RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF EDUARDO BIDDLECOME AS BUS OPERATOR FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT 

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was formed to provide public transportation to all of the residents of Santa Cruz County, and

WHEREAS, the provision of public transportation service requires a competent, dedicated workforce, and

WHEREAS, METRO, requiring an employee with expertise and dedication, appointed Eduardo Biddlecome to serve in the position of Bus Operator, and

WHEREAS, served as a member of the Operations Department of METRO for the time period of August 10, 1987 to April 23, 2021, and

WHEREAS, Eduardo Biddlecome provided METRO with dedicated service and commitment during the time of employment, and

WHEREAS, Eduardo Biddlecome served METRO with distinction, and
WHEREAS, the service provided to the residents of Santa Cruz County by Eduardo Biddlecome resulted in reliable, quality public transportation being available in the most difficult of times, and

WHEREAS, during the time of Mr. Biddlecome's service, METRO improved existing and built new operating facilities, converted the fleet to a CNG propulsion system, developed accessible bus stops, improved ridership, responded to adverse economic conditions, assumed direct operational responsibility for the Highway 17 Express service and the Amtrak Connector service, and assumed direct operational responsibility for the ParaCruz service, and

WHEREAS, the quality of life in Santa Cruz County was improved dramatically as a result of the exemplary service provided by Eduardo Biddlecome.
$\qquad$

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon his retirement as Bus Operator, the Board of Directors of METRO does hereby commend his efforts in advancing public transit service in Santa Cruz County and expresses sincere appreciation on behalf of itself, the METRO staff and all of the residents of Santa Cruz County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be entered into the official records of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this $23^{\text {rd }}$ Day of April 2021 by the following vote:
AYES: Directors -
NOES: Directors -
ABSTAIN: Directors -
ABSENT: Directors -

Approved:
Donna Lind, Board Chair

Attest:
Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

Approved as to form:
Julie Sherman, General Counsel

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT 

Resolution No.<br>On the Motion of Director:<br>Duly Seconded by Director:<br>The Following Resolution is Adopted:

## RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF WILLIAM DOVE AS DISPATCHERISCHEDULER FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was formed to provide public transportation to all of the residents of Santa Cruz County, and

WHEREAS, the provision of public transportation service requires a competent, dedicated workforce, and

WHEREAS, METRO, requiring an employee with expertise and dedication, appointed William Dove to serve in the position of Dispatcher/Scheduler, and

WHEREAS, served as a member of the Paratransit Department of METRO for the time period of December 10, 2009 to April 22, 2021, and

WHEREAS, William Dove provided METRO with dedicated service and commitment during the time of employment, and

WHEREAS, William Dove served METRO with distinction, and
WHEREAS, the service provided to the residents of Santa Cruz County by William Dove resulted in reliable, quality public transportation being available in the most difficult of times, and

WHEREAS, during the time of Mr. Dove's service, METRO improved existing and built new operating facilities, converted the fleet to a CNG propulsion system, developed accessible bus stops, improved ridership, responded to adverse economic conditions, assumed direct operational responsibility for the Highway 17 Express service and the Amtrak Connector service, and assumed direct operational responsibility for the ParaCruz service, and

WHEREAS, the quality of life in Santa Cruz County was improved dramatically as a result of the exemplary service provided by William Dove.
$\qquad$

## Page 2

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon his retirement as
Dispatcher/Scheduler, the Board of Directors of METRO does hereby commend his efforts in advancing public transit service in Santa Cruz County and expresses sincere appreciation on behalf of itself, the METRO staff and all of the residents of Santa Cruz County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be entered into the official records of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this $23^{\text {rd }}$ Day of April 2021 by the following vote:
AYES: Directors -
NOES: Directors -
ABSTAIN: Directors -
ABSENT: Directors -

Approved:
Donna Lind, Board Chair

Attest:
Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

Approved as to form:
Julie Sherman, General Counsel

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT 

Resolution No.<br>On the Motion of Director:<br>Duly Seconded by Director:<br>The Following Resolution is Adopted:

## RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF JOSE HERRERA AS BUS OPERATOR FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was formed to provide public transportation to all of the residents of Santa Cruz County, and

WHEREAS, the provision of public transportation service requires a competent, dedicated workforce, and

WHEREAS, METRO, requiring an employee with expertise and dedication, appointed Jose Herrera to serve in the position of Bus Operator, and

WHEREAS, served as a member of the Operations Department of METRO for the time period of August 10, 1999 to March 31, 2021, and

WHEREAS, Jose Herrera provided METRO with dedicated service and commitment during the time of employment, and

WHEREAS, Jose Herrera served METRO with distinction, and
WHEREAS, the service provided to the residents of Santa Cruz County by Jose Herrera resulted in reliable, quality public transportation being available in the most difficult of times, and

WHEREAS, during the time of Mr. Herrera's service, METRO improved existing and built new operating facilities, converted the fleet to a CNG propulsion system, developed accessible bus stops, improved ridership, responded to adverse economic conditions, assumed direct operational responsibility for the Highway 17 Express service and the Amtrak Connector service, and assumed direct operational responsibility for the ParaCruz service, and

WHEREAS, the quality of life in Santa Cruz County was improved dramatically as a result of the exemplary service provided by Jose Herrera.
$\qquad$

## Page 2

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon his retirement as Bus Operator, the Board of Directors of METRO does hereby commend his efforts in advancing public transit service in Santa Cruz County and expresses sincere appreciation on behalf of itself, the METRO staff and all of the residents of Santa Cruz County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be entered into the official records of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this $23^{\text {rd }}$ Day of April 2021 by the following vote:
AYES: Directors -
NOES: Directors -

## ABSTAIN: Directors -

ABSENT: Directors -

Approved:
Donna Lind, Chair

Attest:
Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

Approved as to form:
Julie Sherman, General Counsel

## VERBAL PRESENTATION

## CEO ORAL REPORT / COVID-19 UPDATE

Alex Clifford
12.1

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## DATE: April 23, 2021

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF BOARD SUPPORT OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS LEGISLATION AB 703 AND AB 361

## I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

## That the Board of Directors adopt a Resolution in support of proposed state legislation AB 703 and AB 361

## II. SUMMARY

- Under the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, certain provisions of the Brown Act have been suspended to allow public agencies to convene virtual meetings.
- Two pieces of legislation are moving through the state legislature that would extend and make permanent the virtual meetings option.
- The CEO is requesting the Board of Directors (Board) to authorize a Resolution of Support for AB 703 and AB 361 and that the Resolution be forwarded to the appropriate state legislators and to the California Transit Association (CTA).


## III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

Soon after the pandemic arrived in California, Governor Newsom issued two Executive Orders that provide a waiver of certain provisions of the Brown Act, thereby allowing public agencies to convene public meetings virtually, often referred to as "Zoom meetings." The two Executive Orders are in effect until the Governor terminates one or both Orders.

In general, AB 703 will allow the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) Board the option to continue the virtual meeting format and to choose when to do so. AB 361 would provide the METRO Board the same virtual meetings option as the current Executive Orders, but only if the purpose of the meeting is to declare a local emergency or if the meeting occurs during a period of a declared local emergency.

Supporting these two pieces of legislation, and if passed and signed by the Governor, would not mean that the METRO Board would necessarily take advantage of virtual meeting format when the pandemic is over. The legislation simply provides the Board with the option to do so.

## AB 703 and AB 361 Summary

Assembly Bill 703 would codify the Governor's Executive Orders with regard to the ability to hold, and process for holding, virtual meetings. The bill indefinitely allows for virtual meetings and removes the existing Brown Act rules that limit virtual meetings or require public notice, comment and ability to attend "teleconference" locations.

It would also remove the requirement that at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from within the boundaries of the local agency. Finally, the bill would renew requirements that legislative bodies make a procedure for handling and swiftly resolving Americans with Disabilities Act requests for virtual meetings.

Assembly Bill 361 would allow virtual meetings with streamlined procedures, but only if the purpose of the meeting is to declare a local emergency or if the meeting occurs during a period of a declared local emergency. Adoption of this bill would mean that the existing Brown Act procedures for "teleconference" meetings would be required to continue, except in instances of an emergency.

The CEO recommends that the Board authorize a Resolution of support for $A B$ 703 and AB 361 and that the Resolution be transmitted to the appropriate state legislators and to the California Transit Association (CTA).

## IV. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT

1. Safety First Culture
2. Internal and External Technology
3. Strategic Alliances and Community Outreach

## V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONSIIMPACT

There is no readily identifiable cost to METRO for supporting the two pieces of legislation.

However, if passed and signed into law, and should the METRO Board authorize virtual meetings after the pandemic has subsided, virtual meetings could result in expense reductions related to convening meetings at METRO Vernon and off-site at various cities. Staff savings in travel and meeting set-up will also be realized, resulting in the ability to reinvest those hours in other mission critical matters. Finally, virtual meetings can also lead to more community members attending meetings.

## VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE

N/A

## VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board could choose to not support one or both pieces of legislation or could identify certain aspects of the legislation that if modified, would achieve Board support.

## VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Authorizing Resolution
Attachment B: AB 703
Attachment C: AB 361

Prepared by: Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

## IX. APPROVALS

Approved as to fiscal impact: Chuck Farmer, CFO


Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager


# BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT 

Resolution No. $\qquad$
On the Motion of Director: $\qquad$
Duly Seconded by Director: $\qquad$
The Following Resolution is Adopted: $\qquad$

## RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY BILLS 703 and 361

WHEREAS, under the Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, certain provisions of the Brown Act have been suspended to allow public agencies to convene virtual meetings; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 703 (AB 703), introduced by Assembly Member Rubio, and Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), introduced by Assembly Member Rivas, are moving through the state legislature and would extend and make permanent the virtual meetings option; and

WHEREAS, AB 703 would allow the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) Board of Directors (Board) the option to continue the virtual meeting format and to choose when to do so; and

WHEREAS, AB 361 would provide the METRO Board the ability to hold virtual meetings, but only if the purpose of the meeting is to declare a local emergency or if the meeting occurs during a period of a declared local emergency; and

WHEREAS, having the option to hold virtual meetings could result in cost savings, increased efficiencies, and enhanced community participation; and

WHEREAS, the METRO CEO/GM recommends that the Board authorize this Resolution of support for $A B 703$ and $A B 361$ and that the Resolution be transmitted to the appropriate state legislators and to the California Transit Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District hereby supports the California Legislature to pass and Governor Newsom to sign into law California State Assembly Bill 703 and Assembly Bill 361; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District hereby authorizes staff to transmit this Resolution to the appropriate state legislators and to the California Transit Association.

## Attachment A

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District this $23^{\text {rd }}$ Day of April 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Directors -
NOES: Directors -
ABSTAIN: Directors -
ABSENT: Directors -

## APPROVED

DONNA LIND, Board Chair

## ATTEST

$\qquad$
ALEX CLIFFORD
CEO/General Manager

## APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JULIE SHERMAN
General Counsel

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE-2021-22 REGULAR SESSION

# Introduced by Assembly Member Blanca Rubio 

February 16, 2021

An act to amend Section 54953 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 703, as introduced, Blanca Rubio. Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.
Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act contains specified provisions regarding the timelines for posting an agenda and providing for the ability of the public to observe and provide comment. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined.

Existing law, Executive Order N-29-20, suspends the Ralph M. Brown Act's requirements for teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that notice requirements are met, the ability of the

## Attachment B

public to observe and comment is preserved, as specified, and that a local agency permitting teleconferencing have a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, as specified.

This bill would remove the requirements of the act particular to teleconferencing and allow for teleconferencing subject to existing provisions regarding the posting of notice of an agenda and the ability of the public to observe the meeting and provide public comment. The bill would require that, in each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the local agency also give notice of the means by which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment and that the legislative body have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, as provided.

This bill would declare the Legislature's intent, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, to improve and enhance public access to local agency meetings into the future, and considering the digital age, by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.
Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

## The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 54953 of the Government Code is amended to read:
54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.
(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for

## Attachment B

the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.
(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall-post agendas at all teleconference loeations and allow members of the public to observe the meeting and address the legislative body, and it shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter. The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3. In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the local agency must also give notice of the means by which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment. The legislative body shall conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. Each teleconference loeation shall be identiffed in the notiee and agenda of the meeting or proee ding, andeach teleeonferenee loeation shall be aeeessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from loeations within the boundaries of the territory over which the loeal ageney exereises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d). The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the publie to address the legislative body direetly purstant to Seetion 54954.3 at each teleeonferenee loeation. If the legislative body uses teleconferencing to hold a meeting, the legislative body must have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. The procedure for receiving and resolving

## Attachment B

requests for accommodation must be noticed each time notice of the means by which members of the public may observe the teleconference meeting and offer public comment is made.
(4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.
(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.
(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.
(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.
(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconferenee meeting, members who are outside the jurisdietion of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of $a$ quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 pereent of the number of members that would establish a quortm are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exereises jurisdietion, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated aceess codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the nember and aeeess eodes are identiffied in the notiee and agenda of the meeting. (2)-Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members of a legislative body from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the-authority local agency or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorm is

## Attachment B

established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this seetion. local agency.
(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created purstant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, $14087.35,14087.36,14087.38$, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority ereated pursuant to Article 1 (eommeneing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Instittutions Code, and any advisory eommittee to a county sponsored health plan lieensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (eommeneing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this measure to improve and enhance public access to local agency meetings into the future, and considering the digital age, by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options consistent with the Governor's Executive Order 29-20 dated March 17,2020 , permitting expanded use of teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of the Government Code, furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public participation in teleconference meetings.

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# Introduced by Assembly Member Robert Rivas 

February 1, 2021

An act to amend Section 54953 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST
AB 361, as amended, Robert Rivas. Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act contains specified provisions regarding the timelines for posting an agenda and providing for the ability of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public. The act generally requires all regular and special meetings of the legislative body be held within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, subject to certain exceptions. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The

## Attachment C

AB 361 -2 -
act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined. The act authorizes the district attorney or any interested person, subject to certain provisions, to commence an action by mandamus or injunction for the purpose of obtaining a judicial determination that specified actions taken by a legislative body are null and void.

Existing law, the California Emergency Services Act, authorizes the Governor, or the Director of Emergency Services when the governor is inaccessible, to proclaim a state of emergency under specified circumstances, and authorizes a specified legislative body or an official designated to proclaim a local emergency. Existing law allows a local health officer to declare a local public health emergency, which, after 7 days, must be ratified by the county board of supervisors, or city council, as applicable, in order to remain in place.

Executive Order No. N-29-20 suspends the Ralph M. Brown Act's requirements for teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic provided that notice and accessibility requirements are met, the public members are allowed to observe and address the legislative body at the meeting, and that a legislative body of a local agency has a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, as specified.

This bill would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting for the purpose of declaring or ratifying a local emergency, during a declared state of emergency or local emergency, as those terms are defined, when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and during a declared local emergency provided the legislative body makes certain determinations by majority vote. The bill would require legislative bodies that hold teleconferenced meetings under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures to give notice of the meeting and post agendas, as described, to allow members of the public to access the meeting and address the legislative body, to give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public-eomment, as provided, comment, including an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option, and to conduct the meeting in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body. The bill would require the legislative body to take

## Attachment C

no further action on agenda items when there is a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control which prevents members of the public from submitting public comments, until public access is restored. The bill would specify that actions taken during the disruption are subject to challenge proceedings, as specified. The bill would prohibit the legislative body from requiring public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and would specify that the legislative body must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time. When there is a continuing state of emergency, local emergency, or when state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, the bill would require a legislative body to make specified findings not later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting pursuant to these provisions, and to make those findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

This bill would declare the Legislature's intent, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, to improve and enhance public access to local agency meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and future emergencies by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.
Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 54953 of the Government Code is amended to read:
54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

## Attachment C

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.
(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e). The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference location.
(4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.
(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.
(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.
(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of

## Attachment C

fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.
(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.
(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.
(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, $14087.35,14087.36,14087.38$, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.
(e) (1) A local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of

## Attachment C

## AB 361

paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following circumstances:
(A) The legislative body holds a meeting for the purpose of proclaiming or ratifying a local emergency.
(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency or declared local emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
(C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a declared local emergency and the legislative body determines by majority vote that, as a result of the emergency, the attendance of one or more members of the legislative body in person is hindered, or meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:
(A) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.
(B) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3. In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option. This subparagraph shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.
(C) The legislative body shall conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.
(D) In the event of a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control which prevents members of the public from submitting public comments using the

## Attachment C

call-in option or internet-based service option, the body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.
(E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time. This subparagraph shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.
(3) If a state of emergency or local emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:
(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency or local emergency.
(B) Any of the following circumstances exist:
(i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.
(ii) The local emergency continues to present risks to the health or safety of members or the public if one or more members of the legislative body were to attend the meeting in person.
(iii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.
(3)
(4) For the purposes of this subdivision, the following definitions shall apply:
(A) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article-14 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title2. 2).
(B) "Local emergency" means an emergency proclaimed by the governing body of a county or city and county, or by an official designated by ordinance adopted by that governing body pursuant

## Attachment C

## AB 361

to Section 8630 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 14 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title -2 2) as a result of conditions existing in all or a portion of the jurisdiction of the local agency. Local emergency refers only to local emergencies in the jurisdiction in which the legislative body is located.

SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to improve and enhance public access to local agency meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and future applicable emergencies, by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options consistent with the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, permitting expanded use of teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of the Government Code, furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public participation in teleconference meetings during applicable emergencies.

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# NEWS CLIPS 

March 26, 2021 - April 23, 2021

## SANTA CRUZ METRO

 ARTICLES
## KGO

## Public Transit, Commute Issues Surface As Companies Bring Workers Back To The Office

By David Louie 4/19/21


Commute issues surface as offices reopen

SAN FRANCISCO (KGO) -- The Bay Area is going to face old and new problems as companies develop plans to bring back workers to the office. A new poll of Bay Area residents reflects how their sense of safety could play a big role in whether traffic congestion returns or not.

The Bay Area Council, supported by 350 employers, surveyed 1,000 people last month in English, Chinese and Spanish and discovered $51 \%$ consider working at the office is unsafe. An even higher number, $64 \%$, believe public transit is unsafe. That's a red flag.
"This region won't do well if folks aren't willing to get on transit, and according to the poll, they're not quite ready for that yet, and so we have to do a great job ensuring the safety of folks who are on transit," said Jim Wunderman, president and CEO of the Bay Area Council.

If six-foot distancing remains an accepted practice, that could take the mass out of
mass transit. The council's poll also indicates traffic congestion could resurface. In the months ahead, $74 \%$, or roughly 3 out of 4 commuters, expect to go back to driving alone, which matches pre-pandemic patterns. Twenty-seven percent will walk or ride bikes. Twenty percent will use public transit -- but that's down from 29 percent prepandemic. And $19 \%$ will carpool, rideshare or take taxis -- a $31 \%$ drop pre-pandemic.

Even with proposals for a hybrid model with workers splitting the week at home and at the office, a new strategy may be needed to manage commute traffic.
"Metering when those people come back so that they're not all there on the same day, so we don't have light traffic one day but intolerable traffic another day, is really important," said Wunderman.

Who will decide what's best for companies and for employees? David Niu, whose company TinyPulse tracks worker sentiment to guide executive leaders, says bosses will need to tread lightly.
"What's my competition doing and what type of parity or am I having because that is another benefit and obviously a criteria as people think about where do they want to spend their talent and their hours?" said Niu.

Forecasting can be challenging. Attitudes can change quickly as a result of vaccinations and what options workers are given.

# Vans On Demand: Santa Cruz Metro Bus Service Launches Uberpool-Like Ride Share Service 

\author{
By Mallory Pickett \}| Source: Lookout Santa Cruz

}

As of Monday, Santa Cruz Metro will offer an on-demand van service similar to UberPool. It's called Cruz On-Demand, and will offer rides for no more than \$3 within a three-mile radius.

Santa Cruz Metro is launching a new on-demand transit service today. The program, called Cruz On-Demand, allows riders to use an app, or call a phone number, to order a ride in a shared van.

Passengers can be dropped off anywhere within a three-mile radius of their starting point (as long as it's within the Metro service area).

Metro communications director Danielle Glagola said the service will be similar to UberPool. "We're trying to [attract] people who might not otherwise use the bus and public transportation," Glagola said.

Cruz On-Demand will use vans from ParaCruz, Metro's ride share service for people with disabilities. Glagola said part of the impetus for Cruz On-Demand was a lack of demand for ParaCruz services amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cruz On-Demand is effectively an expansion of the ParaCruz service to the general public. "Our ridership numbers are low right now, and we don't have too many people on these vans, so it's just using some space we currently have available," Glagola said.

## How to ride

Like Metro's fixed-route bus service, Cruz On-Demand is a shared-ride service. Expect stops along the way to pick up and drop off other customers before reaching your destination. To order a ride, download the Ecolane app or call METRO's ParaCruz Customer Service at (831) 425-4664.

Rides will cost $\$ 2$ for trips up to two miles and $\$ 3$ for trips between two to three miles through September 15, 2021, the same date that Metro discount fares are set to expire. Metro fares are currently reduced by about $50 \%$ (to $\$ 1$ for a single ride), so the Cruz On-Demand cost might increase along with them or at another point in the future.

The service, which is a pilot program estimated to last at least a year, is limiting trips to no more than three miles because it is intended for short neighborhood trips or to connect riders to a Metro Transit Center for longer journeys.
"It is not meant to replace trips that could be served by Metro's fixed-route bus system," according to the Cruz On-Demand information page. "Shorter trips also mean that more people will get to use the system."

Cruz On-Demand also isn't serving the UC-Santa Cruz campus. "The UCSC campus already benefits from very frequent fixed-route service and the demand on campus would be far too great for on-demand service," the information page says.

To order a ride, download the Ecolane app or call METRO's ParaCruz customer service line at (831) 425-4664.

## Santa Cruz Demandling Services in San Framcisco Bay Area

Chester's Blog
4/19/21

The Santa Cruz METRO (Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District) services agency in South Bay is offering door-to-door transit services on demand. The Santa Cruz METRO will provide therein identified demanding services effective Monday, April 19, 2021 as a pilot project countywide. The transit agency new pilot project will be in effect until Wednesday, September 15, 2021 and during the passengers fare reduction program for shorter trips. The Santa Cruz METRO agency will use ParaCruz transporting vans for their Cruz On-Demand project, and passengers can apply online using the Ecolane app for services. The passengers can also contact the agency Customer Services Office at 831-425-8600 between 8 AM and 5 PM during weekdays and weekends. The agency ParaCruz vehicle will pickup other Cruz On-Demand passengers along the transit routing areas - visit www.scmtd.com for more information and project services update.
"The short term trips can be helpful for passengers making essential trips when necessary for local community connections," said Ed Vallesquez, local commuter in Santa Clara County.
\#EliteLimousine driver's background is lawfully checked and cleared to operate passenger transporting vehicles, and drivers will wear face covering masks to protect passengers from therein COVID-19 virus. All fleet vehicles are always cleaned with eco-cleaning solutions without toxin, and environmental disinfectants to keep car interiors environmentally safe and healthy for passengers. All Elite Limousine fleet vehicles are maintained according to "current safety and healthy provisions" and monitored to be consistent with legal emission levels for our environment, keeping our environmental climate healthy based on surveys our international media network received.

## LATEST HEADLINES

# Coast Line | METRO introduces Cruz On-demand 

By DONALD FUKUI | dfukui@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz<br>Sentinel

April 17, 2021 at 12:30 p.m.

## SANTA CRUZ

## METRO introduces Cruz On-demand

The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District announced the launch of a new on-demand transit service, Cruz On-Demand, as part of a pilot project beginning Monday. Cruz On-Demand will be METRO's first effort into ondemand service and will allow for increased service coverage in Santa Cruz County, according to a release from METRO.

Cruz On-Demand is a shared-ride experience on smaller vans that can seat four to five passengers, operated by a METRO ParaCruz operator, extending METRO's service area three-quarters of a mile from any of METRO's fixed bus routes, excluding Highway 17 and the UCSC campus. Pick-up locations can be any address within METRO's service area and drop-off locations can be anywhere within a three mile radius of your pick-up address. Trips can be booked up to 24 hours in advance. The Ecolane app scheduler will display the next available pick-up time or you can schedule a future trip for later in the day.

To download a Cruz On-Demand trip download the Ecolane app on a smartphone, visit scmtd.com/apps or call 831-425-4664. For information on METRO's Cruz On-Demand service, visit scmtd.com/ondemand.

During METRO's temporary fare reduction program Cruz On-Demand fares are $\$ 2$ for trips up to two miles and $\$ 3$ for trips between two to three miles through Sept. 15.

Customers can also purchase and use a day pass in the METRO Splash Pass app or anywhere day passes are sold for use on Cruz On-Demand and transferring to METRO's fixed-route service.

If you have a news event or announcement for Coast Lines, email newsroom@santacruzsentinel.com and place "Coast Lines" in the email subject line. Coast Lines items are run at no charge. Please include contact information for questions. Information: 831-706-3252 Tuesdays to Saturdays.

Tags: Coast Lines, Newsletter

## Donald Fukui | Assistant City Editor



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# METRO Launches New Transit Service Pilot Program, Cruz On-Demand 

Santa Cruz METRO Transit District sent this bulletin at 04/16/2021 03:51 PM PDT


Santa Cruz METRO Launches New Transit Service Pilot Program, Cruz On-Demand
Santa Cruz, CA (Friday, April 16, 2021) - The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) announces the launch of a new on-demand transit service, Cruz On-Demand, as part of a pilot project beginning Monday, April 19, 2021. Cruz On-Demand will be METRO's first endeavor into on-demand service and will allow for increased service coverage in Santa Cruz County.

Cruz On-Demand is a shared ride experience on smaller vans that can seat four to five passengers, operated by METRO's trained ParaCruz operators, extending METRO's service area $3 / 4 \mathrm{~s}$ of a mile from any of METRO's fixed bus routes, excluding Highway 17 and the UCSC campus. Pick-up locations can be any address within METRO's service area and drop-off locations can be anywhere within a three mile radius of your pick-up address. Trips can be booked up to 24 hours in advance. The Ecolane app scheduler will display the next available pick-up time or you can schedule a future trip for later in the day.

Cruz On-Demand trips can be booked by downloading the Ecolane app on a smartphone or by calling METRO's ParaCruz Customer Service Department at (831) 425-4664. During METRO's temporary fare reduction program Cruz On-Demand fares are $\$ 2.00$ for trips up to two miles and $\$ 3.00$ for trips between two to three miles through September 15, 2021. Customers can also purchase and use a Day Pass in the METRO Splash Pass app or anywhere Day Passes are sold for use on Cruz On-Demand and transferring to METRO's fixed-route service.
"We are excited to launch our Cruz on-Demand pilot project that will allow METRO to increase our service coverage throughout the county, expanding convenient affordable access to addresses within a $3 / 4 \mathrm{~s}$ of a mile of METRO's fixed-route service area and dropping them off at their nearby requested location or connecting them to one of our Transit Centers for longer trips. Cruz On-Demand is a great add-on to the services METRO already provides to our community." - Alex Clifford, METRO CEO/General Manager.
"Whether running a neighborhood errand or connecting to the nearest METRO Transit Center for longer journeys, Cruz On-Demand will provide METRO customers with affordable accessible on-demand public transportation from any address within METRO's service area."- John Urgo, METRO Planning \& Development Director

During this estimated yearlong pilot project, METRO will gather customer feedback and make adjustments to this service as needed to increase efficiency and streamline the Cruz On-Demand transit service model.

Whether running a neighborhood errand or connecting to the nearest METRO Transit Center for longer journeys, a Cruz On-Demand vehicle will come to you when you schedule it for service, to any address within METRO's service area, up to a maximum distance of three miles.

METRO continues to follow public health guidelines from official sources such as CDC, State, and local guidance whenever possible to support safe travel. Including cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles frequently, requiring face coverings, and installing additional safety measures. In addition, METRO puts health first by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill.

METRO's Cruz On-Demand transit service is just another way METRO is showing our commitment to our community's recovery from the pandemic. METRO will continue to enforce physical distancing guidance onboard vehicles, and limit the number of passengers onboard at any given time.

For information on METRO's Cruz On-Demand service, visit scmtd.com/ondemand. For instructions on how to download, Ecolane, the Cruz On-Demand booking app, visit scmtd.com/apps.

## \#\#\#

## About Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District:

Established in 1968, Santa Cruz METRO provides fixed-route and Highway 17 commuter service throughout Santa Cruz County, with limited service connecting to Monterey Salinas Transit at our Watsonville Transit Center and Santa Clara County, transporting more than 5 million passenger trips a year. METRO also operates ParaCruz paratransit service to Santa Cruz County, providing about 73,500 trips per year. METRO's operating budget in FY21 is almost $\$ 55$ million and is funded through a combination of farebox revenue, sales tax, and state and federal sources. Today it operates a fleet of 94 buses on at least 24 fixed-routes. For more information, visit www.scmtd.com. Like METRO on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SantaCruzMETRO or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/SantaCruzMETRO.

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## TirPAJARONIAN

## City's State-Mandated Housing Goals Expected To Increase

Citywide survey a tool for upcoming budget talks
By: Tony Nuñez
March 24, 2021


The Sunshine Gardens housing development off Ohlone Parkway in Watsonville is still nowhere near completion despite breaking ground roughly five years ago. - Tarmo Hannula/The Pajaronian

WATSONVILLE-Although the city of Watsonville has made modest gains in its statemandated housing goals, it will need to nearly triple the number of units it has built over the past five years before 2023.

That sobering reality presented to the City Council at its virtual meeting on Tuesday was followed by another: the city's housing goals will likely increase significantly when the state hands local governments a new set of benchmarks in the near future.

As it stands now, 235 housing units have been completed in Watsonville since 2016. But in order to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation it will need for another 465 units to be completed over the next three years.

The good news? A handful of large housing developments already approved by the City Council could be completed by then, giving the city more than enough new units to meet that goal.

Those projected developments include two affordable apartment complexes off Freedom Boulevard from nonprofit developers Mid-Pen and Eden housing. But they also include another two projects off of Ohlone Parkway that have stalled for various reasons.

The Hillcrest Estates project is expected to return to City Council this summer with alterations to its overall plan, but the Sunshine Gardens project is still stuck in limbo because of a "significant backlog of construction and building challenges," according to City Manager Matt Huffaker.
"It has certainly been a challenging development," Huffaker said of the Sunshine Gardens project.

Of the 235 completed units, only 28 fall under the "very low" or "low" income level, and only 13 have been built for "moderate" income residents. Those numbers underscore the need for affordable housing in the city that has $73 \%$ of residents living below Santa Cruz County's median household income level.

Watsonville Housing Manager Carlos Landaverry said that many of those residents, however, do not know they fall below the city's low-income threshold-about \$77,000 for a family of four-and qualify for several of the city's mortgage assistance programs that help residents purchase market rate and affordable units.

Landaverry said the city will resume its community forums to educate residents about the resources available to them when the pandemic subsides.
"We still have to do a lot of work and we are committed to continue our outreach efforts as soon as we are able to," he said.

It is still unknown if the city will face any repercussions if it does not meet its current RHNA goal. Community Development Department Director Suzi Merriam said that the state has only required cities to adjust their zoning standards so that they have the potential to accommodate the number of units in their overall goal.

Watsonville, strapped for land and already densely populated, is trying to fit that bill with its Downtown Specific Plan, which could completely reimage the amount of housing units allowed in properties throughout the historic corridor.
"We can only do the best that we can do," Merriam said. "Across the entire state, everybody needs housing. In Watsonville, we're just doing our part."

In other action, the City Council saw the results of a community-wide survey conducted earlier this year by GreatBlue Research. A total of 770 people took part in the 60question survey- 500 online and 270 over the phone-between Jan. 8 and Feb. 16.

Some of the major takeaways from the survey were:
The majority of respondents ( $84.5 \%$ ) were satisfied with how the city was serving the community.

Respondents said that developing affordable housing units, reducing crime, increasing community policing and rebuilding infrastructure should be the city's top priorities.

The vast majority of respondents (87.4\%) said the city needed to develop more programs to reduce crime, drug use and gang activity.

Nearly all respondents (95.5\%) said the city should create additional jobs and housing near already existing infrastructure to help preserve natural and agricultural land. In addition, nearly the same number of respondents (94.5\%) said the city should do this by renovating its historic buildings.

The library was considered a major contributor to a positive "quality of life" by nearly all respondents (98.2\%).

Fewer respondents aged 18-34 (61.6\%) rated Watsonville Police Department positively than those 55 and older (71.7\%)

A majority of respondents (61.4\%) said they would support paying another tax to expand the city's recreation programs, parks and open spaces.

The results of the survey, Huffaker said, serves as a "rich data set" that the city will use as it approaches its two-year budget planning process in the coming months.

In the weeks leading up to those budget hearings, the city is asking for the community's input via a three-question open-ended survey. The results of that survey will be presented to the City Council sometime next month, and a draft budget will be available for the public on May 30.

The city is also holding community meetings about the budget process Thursday and Saturday.

The city's budget-related survey includes a question about how residents would want to spend so-called one-time funds. That question, Administrative Services Director Cindy Czerwin said, was directly related to the $\$ 18.8$ million that city will receive from the American Rescue Plan, the $\$ 1.9$ trillion stimulus recently signed into law by President Joe Biden.

It is still unknown what those funds can be spent on, Czerwin said, but early indicators are that it can be used to replace lost revenue and negative economic impacts from the pandemic, and fund infrastructure investments in the water, sewer and broadband systems.

The cash will be distributed to the city in two payments one year apart, Czerwin said.

## Council advocates for essential worker vaccinations

## SANTA CRUZ

## By Ryan Stuart

rstuart@santacruzsentinel.com
SANTA CRUZ >> After essential workers have worked since the first day of the pandemic, the Santa Cruz City Council is prepared to stand with them in the vaccination effort. "As we know, service workers and food service workers are at much higher risk of exposure to COVID," Councilwoman Sandy Brown said.

City Council voted 6-0 to advocate for the prioritized vaccination of grocery, food and agriculture, restaurant, frontline and retail workers. Councilwoman Renee Golder was absent for the vote.

The council doesn't have the authority to create vaccine sites specific to essential workers. However, it can advocate for them to the county health office which does have the ability to designate vaccination sites.

Vaccination clinics dedicated to farmworkers have been around since February. That was part of an effort by the county to vaccinate underserved populations within the county.

However, vaccine availability and language barriers made the effort difficult. That urged the council to include farmworkers into the group of people they want to advocate for prioritization.
"There are farmworker clinics already. All of them are in Watsonville and there is a pretty high level of effort already underway to carve out specific vaccine clinics for farmworkers," said Assistant to the City Manager Suzie O'Hara. "That being said, I think it would be good to engage with Watsonville on if there is an additional level of advocacy that should happen."

As for frontline workers, Councilman Justin Cummings specified the desire to get bus drivers
vaccination appointments to METRO workers, according to METRO Spokeswoman Danielle Glagola.

The Watsonville Fairgrounds site allotted 210 vaccines for METRO workers. Sixty of those vaccines were dedicated to Paracruz workers, while the remaining 150 were available to all transit employees.

METRO was also offered 100 vaccine appointments at the Sutter/PAMF drivethru site. Another 70 appointments were offered to the transit authority by the Monterey Bay Central Council at Natividad Hospital in Salinas.
Additionally, Kaiser Permanente offered vaccine appointments to METRO workers at Kaiser Permanente Arena with no specific allotment.
"METRO would like to thank everyone who championed for the vaccine prioritization of public transit workers," Glagola said in an email to the Sentinel. "METRO's front line essential workers have been working and supporting our community since the beginning of the pandemic, including transporting our riders to their vaccine appointments, so we are thrilled that so many agencies extended us vaccine opportunities once our prioritization came."

While transit and farmworkers have gotten their much-needed support, grocery, restaurant and retail workers have been left on the back burner. These groups have been made eligible for the vaccine, but appointments are still hard to come by. That is why the Santa Cruz City Council hopes to stand with the Watsonville City Council as advocates for essential workers.

The move is an effort to acknowledge the role essential workers played throughout the pandemic, councilwoman Martine Watkins said. Grocery workers continued to work and support society, even during the harshest restrictions throughout the
vaccinated. However, there has already been a large effort to get bus drivers within the county vaccinations.

School bus drivers were offered the vaccine in February when the Santa Cruz County Office of Education began offering vaccines to all teachers and essential staff.

The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District was recently the recipient of dedicated vaccine allotments. Public transit workers were added to the vaccine eligibility list on March 15. Since then, clinics throughout Santa Cruz and Monterey counties have offered
last year.
"We want the acknowledgement and the awareness that this population has continued to be on the front lines and standing with them," Watkins said. "Hopefully they can be identified on the radar for priority of vaccinations."

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## Good Times

## METRO Rolling Out Electric Buses, New Downtown Watsonville Route

Route will connect to retail and medical destinations
By Tarmo Hannula
March 22, 2021


A new electric bus pulls out of the Watsonville Transit Center. PHOTO courtesy Santa Cruz METRO
Four new battery-electric buses will be ready to roll through the county by fall 2021 as part of METRO's public transportation fleet.
The first two electric buses of the quartet will be used for the Zero-Emission Watsonville Circulator Operating Project. Through the project, those buses will run on a new route in downtown Watsonville in the fall, METRO spokesperson Danielle Glagola said.

The new route is designed to reduce the number of riders using intercity buses for local trips, and increase the number of transit passengers by providing more frequent service to desirable destinations in Watsonville, Glagola said. They will run between 10am and 8 pm daily.

Watsonville Mayor Jimmy Dutra, who is also on the board of directors at METRO, said he is charged up about the additions. He said the project has been in the works since 2015.
"This included searching for funding and we eventually were able to garner enough funding to purchase these buses from the company Proterra," he said. "It's been a long journey, and I've been on this ride from the beginning. I've been a big voice pushing for clean energy buses. We're excited."

The buses have been painted and are in their final testing phase, Dutra said.
The route for the first two electric buses will connect the Watsonville Transit Center with retail and medical destinations in Watsonville, Glagola said. Stops will include:

Watsonville Transit Center (WTC)
Beach/Lincoln-Lincoln/Freedom
Freedom/Airport-Airport/Green Valley
Main/Rodriguez-WTC
These stops will connect commuters with existing local and intercity bus routes 69A, $72 / 72 \mathrm{~W}, 74 \mathrm{~S}, 75$, and 79.

Funding for the $\$ 5.2$ million project, Glagola said, stemmed from a variety of sources.
Dutra said the METRO board hopes to add more such buses in the future.
METRO staff is still working on route, charge and rate analysis for the other two buses, Glagola said.

## METRO Magazine

## How Santa Cruz Metro Prepares for the Road to Zero Emissions

By: Sadiah Thompson



Using its four Proterra ZX5 electric buses, Santa Cruz Metro is focused on creating a new circulator service in downtown Watsonville. Photo courtesy Proterra

The agency is working on collecting data and feedback on the feasibility of its new Proterra zero-emissions battery-electric buses as it powers through the impacts of the pandemic.

TRANSIT AGENCIES IN CALIFORNIA have largely been considered frontrunners in the race to adopt zero-emission vehicles and technologies. In Santa Cruz, Calif., the Metropolitan Transit District (Santa Cruz Metro) has shown over the years its longtime commitment to sustainability - beginning in the early 2000s when the agency committed to a fully compressed natural gas (CNG) fleet, and more recently with the agency's adoption of its first 100\% zero-emission fleet transition plan and their first purchase of zero-emission electric buses (ZEBs) from Proterra.

With the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation requiring all public transit agencies in the state to gradually transition to a full ZEB fleet by 2040, and the Biden Administration's drive towards clean energy, Santa Cruz Metro is looking to its adoption of four 40-foot Proterra ZX5 zero-emission electric buses as a starting point in collecting valuable data and feedback on the feasibility of electric buses for its operations.


Equipped with 660kwh of energy storage, the 40-foot Proterra ZX5 can deliver up to 329 miles of drive range. Photo courtesy Santa Cruz Metro
"To be clear, we're not jumping in with both feet yet with battery-electric buses," says Alex Clifford, CEO of Santa Cruz Metro. "We're are following the CARB mandate, and we're going to be zero-emission compliant with the state in 2040. But how we get there, for this agency, will be a slower, more methodical, and more thoughtful path to ensure that we don't spend millions of dollars on a product that won't serve our needs. Electric buses are a big investment that we have to be prepared to keep for 12 to 14 years."
"Public transit is at the forefront of the switch to zero-emission, electric transportation. It was a little more than 10 years ago that Proterra delivered its first battery-electric bus to Foothill Transit in Southern California. Now, building on the
innovative spirit of public transit agencies, California is on a path to transition to $100 \%$ zero-emission fleets by 2040," adds John Walsh, Proterra's Sr. VP. "As more cities and states make the commitment to $100 \%$ zero-emission fleets, Proterra is introducing new vehicle and battery technology to meet the needs of our customers, including the new Proterra ZX5 electric bus, which is designed to tackle the toughest routes and terrains across North America. We are excited to partner with Metro, which shares our common vision of clean, quiet transportation for all, as we support them in the deployment of their first electric buses."


As Santa Cruz Metro looks to ramp up to its pre-COVID revenue service hours and attract its customers back, the agency is confident in its efforts to continue improving the rider experience. Photo courtesy Santa Cruz Metro

## PROCEEDING WITH CAUTION

Under CARB's ICT regulation, Santa Cruz Metro is considered a small transit agency, meaning it operates less than 100 buses in an urbanized area with a population of less than 200,000 people. The ZEB purchasing requirements listed in the ICT regulation for small transit agencies requires them to make $25 \%$ of its vehicle purchases ZEBs starting in 2026, and then $100 \%$ of its purchases ZEBs starting in 2029 and thereafter.
"This is an interesting juggling act for us because we invested several million dollars - since 2000 - in a CNG fueling facility that has not yet reached its expiration," Clifford explains. "We have our fleet almost fully transitioned to CNG, so we need to get a full life expectancy out of the facility, which included federal investment, before we advance to a full zero-emission fleet."

In addition to its CNG vehicles, Santa Cruz Metro operates 10 diesel-electric hybrid buses, which it added to its fleet almost two years ago.

Clifford says the agency wants to see more improvements in electric vehicle (EV) technology - increased vehicle ranges, greater battery-energy capacity, and increased battery lifespan - before moving toward widespread EV adoption.
"We want to operate on a model that will charge all night and run all day," he says. "We don't want to conduct en-route charging or mid-day charging; we want a bus that can run on any route, all day on a single charge overnight. While I understand that technology is not fully there today, I'm confident we will learn a lot from our Proterra electric buses."

## TESTING PHASE

Using its four Proterra ZX5 electric buses, Santa Cruz Metro is focused on creating a new circulator service in downtown Watsonville, with hopes of improving ridership in South County.

Two of the electric buses will specifically go through an exhaustive pre-revenue process of working around different routes, to see how the different features of each route affect the range of the bus.


Alex Clifford, CEO of Santa Cruz Metro, says the agency will use its Proterra buses as a starting point in collecting data and feedback on the feasibility of electric buses for its operations. Photo courtesy Proterra ")

Part of the challenge, Clifford says, is the different characteristics of how each bus operator drives the bus. For example, he says, if a bus operator leaves the bus stop and just smashes their foot on the accelerator every time, they will tend to drain that batteries faster than another bus operator who might be more sensitive to driving an electric bus.
"The other thing we have to learn is what are the effects of the geography of our routes - some routes are in rural, hilly areas, and some routes are on pretty much flat areas," Clifford points out. "So, we need to collect data on the effects of the different terrain that we operate in."

## POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

Santa Cruz Metro currently operates with a space-constrained bus yard, approximately 91,234 square feet. The size of the yard has raised concerns about EV charging space as the agency potentially transitions to a fully battery-electric fleet.

Prior to the delivery of the Proterra buses, the agency completed construction of a small charging facility at its Judy K. Souza Operations Facility. The charging facility is equipped with four chargers, with a capacity of 10 chargers.
"We have to think through that as we design what our future looks like because you start losing vehicle spaces when you have to install a large amount of EV chargers," Clifford explains. "Vehicle range limitations can become more and more complicated and result in 'dedicated fleets,' when you can only use certain vehicles on certain routes, and such limitations can cause delays in the morning rollout."

Additionally, with the COVID-19 pandemic putting a strain on operations, Clifford says one of the biggest challenges that lies ahead for the agency is ensuring its survival. Like many other transit agencies, Santa Cruz Metro experienced unprecedented ridership losses within the last year. The agency's pre-COVID ridership typically falls around five million trips per year. However, in the last fiscal year - with four months of COVID impact in FY20 - Santa Cruz's ridership was down $30 \%$, with the agency delivering close to 3.5 million trips.

In the current fiscal year, which began July 1, 2020, Santa Cruz's year-over-year average trips delivered through January were down $84 \%$. The biggest portion of that (about 60\%) Clifford says, is the agency's student ridership from the University of California Santa Cruz, Cabrillo College, and public schools, which have been operating under remote learning since COVID hit last March.
"We're optimistic that students are returning in fall of this year, and we're hopeful that the full 60 percent associated with student ridership, or most of it, will return to our service," he says.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As the agency looks to ramp up to its normal revenue service hours and attract its customers back, Santa Cruz Metro is confident in its efforts to continue improving the rider experience and being a leader in sustainability.
"We need to work hard to make sure that as we come out of this COVID crisis we do everything possible to improve the rider experience and to get people to return to the bus," Clifford says. "Some of that is in helping the customer understand that riding a bus is a safe place to be, and that some of the safety and sustainability measures that we've put in place today will probably remain in the future, maybe forever."

In a rider survey about the agency's COVID response, Clifford says some riders expressed the need to improve frequency of service, specifically on some of the agency's trunk lines.
"Another tool in the tool bag is microtransit," he says. "METRO's board of directors approved our microtransit pilot in February that we are hoping to launch soon."

Additionally, Santa Cruz is evaluating contactless, touchless technology through its recent partnership with Masabi. The METRO Splash Pass, powered by Masabi's

Justride platform, gives riders the option of purchasing local and Highway 17 Express tickets including full or discounted options. Once purchased, riders can activate their tickets on their phones and present them to the driver when boarding for visual validation.

## A CLOSER LOOK: PROTERRA'S 5TH-GENERATION BATTERY-ELECTRIC TRANSIT BUS

In September 2020, Proterra introduced its latest battery-electric transit vehicle, the Proterra ZX5 electric bus, featuring a new streamlined vehicle design and maximized vehicle energy storage designed to increase power and range.

Equipped with 675 kWh of energy storage, the 40-foot Proterra ZX5 MAX can deliver up to 329 miles of drive range. The ZX5+ is currently available to customers as a 35 -foot or 40 -foot bus and in models featuring 450 kWh and 225 kWh of energy storage capacity.

With a more streamlined body design, the ZX5 buses offer a lower vehicle height that enables greater route access, as well as new shocks and enhanced ergonomics to provide riders and drivers with a smoother riding experience. The ZX5 is also equipped with an additional front port for vehicle charging.

The ZX5 offers faster acceleration and greater horsepower than earlier Proterra electric vehicle models, and hill-climbing abilities to tackle steep terrain. The ZX5 can also be configured with Proterra's standard ProDrive drivetrain or a DuoPower drivetrain, which features two electric motors that deliver 550 horsepower, accelerating a ZX5 bus from zero to 20 mph in under six seconds.

# SANTA CRUZ METRO FARE DISCOUNTS IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA 

Chester's Blog: 3/26/21
The Santa Cruz METRO (Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District) services agency in South Bay is offering 50\% fare reductions countywide. The Santa Cruz METRO fares discount is temporary between Monday, March 22, 2021 and Wednesday, September 15,2021 . The transit agency discounting fares for passengers will take effect for all local transit services and Highway 17 Express routes. Including ParaCruz base fares with Extended Fares for registered customers in the transit services system as necessary. The Santa Cruz METRO discounting fares project for passengers is to help local customers during the recovery effort for our communities. It also helps our local community passengers and/or essential workers relying on transit services for transportation when necessary. The transit agency continues to offer free services for passengers going and/or returning from their vaccination appointments - visit www.scmtd.com for more information and transit services discount updates.
"The METRO wants to help our community recovery by offering temporary fare reductions, and thanking our riders for being with us during the pandemic," said Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager, Santa Cruz METRO. \#EliteLimousine driver's background is lawfully checked and cleared to operate passenger transporting vehicles, and drivers will wear the face covering masks to protect passengers from therein COVID-19 virus. All fleet vehicles are always cleaned with eco-cleaning solutions without toxin, and environmental disinfectants to keep car interiors environmentally safe and healthy for passengers. All Elite Limousine fleet vehicles are maintained according to "current safety and healthy provisions" and monitored to be consistent with legal emission levels for our environment, keeping our environmental climate healthy based on surveys our international media network received.
"We are on the way with Elite Limousine Inc. and nice bus with professional driver, and larger than the pic shows and comfortable," said Jay Flint, local business customer. \#EliteLimousine performs authentic face-to-face questionnaire surveys with customers, and $97 \%$ of customers sharing very satisfied with transportation services provided by \#EliteLimousine, per evidence-based information our survey department received!

## Other Transit

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## The 甽asthington 根ast

The Pandemic Changed The Workday, But Will Transit Riders Return?


Metro users wear masks while riding the train in Washington. (Amanda Voisard/for The Washington Post)
By Justin George, Kate Rabinowitz, Maria Aguilar and John D. Harden
4/16/21

Public transit demand during the pandemic has shifted to neighborhoods with high numbers of Black, Hispanic and lower-income workers, flattening peak travel periods and forcing transit agencies to respond to new patterns before more workers return to offices this fall, a Washington Post analysis of national transit data shows.

No longer does the 9-to-5 work schedule hold as much sway, with telework on the rise and office workers less bound to rigid daily commutes. Waves of commuters have dwindled to a trickle in the morning and evening hours - the commuting tides that transit schedules were built around.

Transit agencies are watching the emerging trends as they seek to lure riders after Labor Day, when offices are calling back workers who will decide whether to stick with early 2020 commuting habits or find new ways to get to work. Schedules are modified and studies on lower fares are underway - the first steps as agencies brace for years of reduced ridership.

In Washington, the Metro station in the dense Columbia Heights neighborhood - home to the city's largest Latino population - has emerged as the subway system's busiest. Passenger trips at Union Station, which typically had Metro's highest passenger counts, have tumbled as business travelers cancel in-person plans.

Rail travel dropped significantly at large transfer stations in Washington's core, while Metro stations in D.C.'s predominantly Black neighborhoods and the city's eastern suburbs carry a larger proportion of passengers than before the pandemic.

In New York, income was a bigger factor than race, with subway stations in workingclass neighborhoods seeing less of a decline than those in and around majority-White Wall Street, according to New York transit officials.

While disparities aren't expected be as stark this fall when many companies begin reopening offices, peak demands on public transportation during the Monday-throughFriday rush are likely to be lower. Transit agencies already are shifting service in response to telework while becoming more attuned to the various start times of retail, restaurant, health and service occupations.
"Back when it was built in the 1960 s, Metro was about getting federal workers from the suburbs of Virginia and Maryland into the District and back again in time for dinner," said Stewart Schwartz, executive director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth and a member of MetroNow, a regional group of business and nonprofit leaders pushing to make Metro more accessible. "Today, a lot of those people are working from home and it's grocery store workers, nurses, restaurant staff and others who depend on Metro."

The transit agency took a first step in February to de-emphasize traditional "rush hour" times by decreasing train frequency during peak hours. At the same time, it shortened waits at other times in response to flatter demands for service.

Passenger counts on Metrorail, which averaged 626,000 weekday trips in 2019, nosedived during the pandemic, plummeting as much as 95 percent. Ridership has been slow to recover even as vaccinations become widespread, with counts now about 85 percent lower than pre-pandemic levels.

## A shift in who uses transit

The bus has emerged as transit's workhorse, dutifully carrying mostly people of color and lower-income passengers unable to perform their jobs remotely. Across the nation, the pandemic acted like a sieve, separating riders with transportation alternatives from those with no other options.

In the Washington region, changes in rail ridership correspond with the demographics of the surrounding neighborhood, according to The Post's analysis.

For stations in neighborhoods where at least two-thirds of the community is Black or Hispanic, trips declined 78 percent, compared with 88 percent for other stations. Thirteen of the 15 Metro stations that saw ridership declines of less than 80 percent during the pandemic were in neighborhoods where more than 8 in 10 residents were Black or Hispanic.

Stations in the city's core, such as Metro Center, saw the largest drops. The most drastic ridership declines were at tourist and workplace destinations, such Smithsonian and Judiciary Square. Stations that lost the fewest users often were located on the edges of Metro's system or in predominantly Black neighborhoods, such as Prince George's Plaza, West Hyattsville, Fort Totten, Deanwood and Benning Road.

One station bucked the trend: Medical Center in Bethesda. The station primarily serves the National Institutes of Health and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, major medical facilities in the fight against the pandemic.

In Chicago, stations in neighborhoods that are at least two-thirds Black or Hispanic saw ridership declines of 57 percent, compared with 77 percent for all other stations.

In New York, stations in heavily Black and Hispanic neighborhoods saw ridership decline 60 percent, compared with 64 percent for other stations. The nation's largest transit system saw a stronger correlation between income and ridership, rather than race. Residents in neighborhoods with lower median incomes used their local station more than those with higher median incomes, according to Metropolitan Transportation Authority data.

In the nation's capital, Columbia Heights was Metro's 14th-busiest station, out of 91, over the five years before the pandemic, according to Metro data. As the coronavirus pandemic ravaged the city and the nation, it moved to No. 1.

The station is surrounded by D.C.'s largest Latino population. According to a study by the Urban Institute, Latinos made up about 7 percent of D.C.'s labor force between 2012 and 2016 while 52 percent of them worked in jobs that required a commute, such as maintenance, landscaping, restaurant work and construction.

Columbia Heights also boasts D.C. USA, an 890,000-square-foot retail complex anchored by Target, Best Buy, Marshalls and Petco. Dozens of small stores, fast-casual restaurants, coffee shops and grocery stores surround it.

The station has been buoyed by workers like Zabrine Ishmell, who has ridden buses and trains throughout the pandemic from her home in Southeast Washington to her job at Target.

Over the past five years, she has gone from a stockroom worker to cash assistant, counting the results of the day's sales at the store for a corporation that saw revenue increase nearly 20 percent in 2020 . The retail giant and similar businesses thrived with
the help of people like Ishmell, whose work required a daily commute during a public health crisis.

Prepared both for rain and the pandemic after a recent workday, Ishmell, 43, wore a Washington Football Team mask over her mouth and pulled the hood of a red sweatshirt over her dreads. Just her brown eyes were exposed.

She climbed aboard a Green Line Metro train and carefully selected an empty seat far from other passengers. Strapped to her back was a tan backpack containing extra masks. An umbrella the size of a cane rested by her knees.
"The whole time the pandemic's been going on, l've been working," Ishmell said as the southbound train left the station. "Some people are saying I'm lucky to be working. I'm like, I'm not lucky because I can get ill just like anybody else can get ill."

## 'Essential workers ride the bus'

Metrobus ridership tumbled about 80 percent after D.C. implemented citywide restrictions early in the pandemic. Since then, it has inched up as businesses reopened and some residents returned to work. Buses serve about 180,000 passenger trips each weekday compared with more than 300,000 trips pre-pandemic - and now carry about twice as many daily trips as the much larger rail system.

A handful of bus routes have recorded higher ridership during the pandemic, including 23A, which stretches from Crystal City to Tysons Corner in Virginia; and Route Q5, which leads into a commercial area in Derwood from Wheaton in Maryland. The increases, in part, came after Metro cut service on parallel routes when the transit agency drastically reduced service during the pandemic. The busiest routes typically serve bustling commercial centers filled with shoppers and essential workers, while those stretching from downtown to the suburbs have suffered as fewer workers need a ride to the city's core.

A Metro survey found that 18 percent of its rail customers continued to ride during stay-at-home orders, while nearly half of Metrobus customers kept riding, often for work. The survey found that 82 percent of Black Metro customers continued to ride Metrobus during the pandemic. Of regular Metrobus users, 70 percent of those who earn less than $\$ 30,000$ a year kept riding during the pandemic.

The survey found that 49 percent of Metrobus riders were Black and 16 percent were Latino.

Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld said the agency should make bus routing decisions based on improving service in lower-income communities.
"One important lesson of the pandemic this year is that essential workers ride the bus," he said. "Rather than continue to make small adjustments to decade-old bus routes,
should we identify neighborhoods that are underserved and restructure routes? To what extent should we ensure bus service directly links underserved communities to job centers, even if such service may not be as productive as other services?"

Smaller regional bus systems - such suburban Maryland's Ride On service in Montgomery County - saw similar trends. Lower-income residents stuck with buses during the pandemic as more-affluent riders stayed home or found other means of travel.
"We also, within that universe of bus ridership, found that our bus routes that serve our lowest-income neighborhoods experienced even less of a drop," said Montgomery County Council President Tom Hucker (D-District 5).

In New York, the MTA last year suffered its greatest passenger loss in modern history. The subway lost about 13 percent of its ridership in 1933 during the Great Depression, compared with a low of 95 percent last year, although it has slowly rebounded.

Patrick J. Foye, the MTA's chief executive, said the transit agency is bracing for a significant and indefinite drop in commuters as companies make permanent telework arrangements.

Service, health and emergency workers who have relied on public transportation during the pandemic remain the system's most dependable base. The Wall Street station on Lexington Avenue, for instance, lags in use while the Junction Boulevard station in Queens sees a steady flow of customers.
"Other stations in Brooklyn and in Queens, where there are a lot of first responders and essential employees, also are punching above their weight in terms of the usage by customers at their home stations and in terms of getting to work or school, and then returning in the afternoon," Foye said.

Mirroring a trend in Washington, subway demand is especially weak during traditional peak commuting times, but increasingly spread over more hours of the day, Foye said.
"The rush-hour timing has changed," he said. "It starts earlier than it used to in the morning and begins earlier in the evening." Foye attributed it to "changes in our riders."

Construction workers, first responders and essential employees fill rail cars, including those who labor in grocery stores and pharmacies and others "who don't have the ability to Zoom into work."

Purchases of monthly fare packages - a staple for New York office workers - lag so low that the MTA is considering altering its fare packages. In Washington, Metro is considering discounted fares to lure workers back this fall.

One segment of steady riders who never left transit are people who live in New York but work outside the city. The MTA has increased service on its Metro North line, which Bronx riders use to get to suburban Westchester County, N.Y., and elsewhere, where they work in service, retail or construction jobs, Foye said.
"On the commuter rails, reverse commutation has held up better than the peak [time trips] coming into New York City from Nassau or Suffolk on Long Island or Westchester or Connecticut on Metro North," he said. "Certainly a significant portion of those riders now are people who don't have the ability to Zoom work."

What the trend portends for the future, Foye said, is unknown. He said he expects more office workers to return in the coming months. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) has indicated he wants city workers back in their offices by May, while the city is negotiating with union leaders to get many workers back into workplaces by Labor Day, Foye said.

## Lessons learned for the future

Ishmell said trends have emerged during her daily Washington commute: Weekend trains are more full, while the weekday rush seems less frenzied. Metro officials say the shift in commuting patterns tilts demand away from times that correspond with typical white-collar office schedules and more toward the varying start-and-stop times of the service industry.

Some buses are as full as they had been before the pandemic.
In mid-March, Metro boosted service on 59 Metrobus routes to help alleviate crowding and provide more space for social distancing. On Metrorail, the transit system said it would reduce service during peak commuting periods and increase frequencies at other times.

Before the pandemic, 28 percent of weekday Metrorail rides started during the 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. hour, according to a Post analysis. That number has dropped to 16 percent as a larger share of people ride outside typical commuting hours.

Business advocates in the region say they approve of Metro's shifting of resources toward service workers and lower-income riders.
"[Metro] can serve the 9-5 commuter, the late-night worker and the daytime traveler," said Julie Coons, president and chief executive of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce and also a member of the rider-advocacy coalition MetroNow. "Our regional economy will need to innovate to ensure our recovery, and [Metro] will be central to that innovation."

Metro's own projections show rail ridership recovery will take years. The transit agency has based next year's operating budget on rail ridership growing only to about 35 percent of pre-pandemic levels by June 2022.
"Going forward, the expectation is that folks are going to be working perhaps one or two days in the office and the rest from home," said Metro Chief Financial Officer Dennis Anosike. "We're currently seeing that shift."

According to a survey last fall of 2,400 residents by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Transportation Planning Board, 16 percent of people in the region said they telecommuted at least once a week before the pandemic. That number increased to 60 percent during the pandemic. Thirty-three percent said they expected to telecommute at least once a week after the pandemic.

Nearly 40 percent of residents said they would use public transportation less that before the pandemic.

Among Metro users, about the same percentage of pre-pandemic bus riders indicated they would continue riding. The survey reported 24 percent of residents rode Metrorail before the pandemic - a number the survey indicated will drop to 19 percent after the pandemic.
"This region has always had a high level of telework even prior to the pandemic," Anosike said. "What the pandemic has done is highlight the fact that most of our rail ridership - which are folks going to work - those that can, actually work from home."

While Metro tries to shift service levels to meet lower demand, it's also having to plan for a service expansion early next year that has been in motion for more than a decade. The nearly 11-mile Silver Line extension to Loudoun County via Dulles International Airport is nearing completion, built to shuttle thousands of workers to new office buildings along a burgeoning Northern Virginia tech corridor.

But tech companies have been among the most flexible employers with telework some granting the option to stay home permanently. Michael Rocks, owner and developer of Innovation South - a 1.67 million-square-foot mixed-use complex at Innovation Station along Phase Two - said developers have faith that commuters will return.
"The growth in Northern Virginia, the growth of Dulles Airport pre-covid - which we expect to return - the impact Metro has had all over the Washington metropolitan area, continues to impress upon us that that same success will be repeated on Phase Two of the Silver Line," Rocks said.

Ishmell, approaching her stop at Southern Avenue after a long day at work, said her friends who abandoned Metro also will return. She said fear of contracting the coronavirus was a large factor that drove them away.
"I think they're going to come back once it's over with," she said.
She's just not sure when.

## Mass Transit

## CA: Less Than 1 In 4 Workers Has Gone Back To The Office As Businesses Plot A Wider Reopening

Employers and landlords are betting that workers will want to return as vaccinations increase and virus fears recede, even though demand to rent space in Los Angeles office buildings continues to shrink.

Roger Vincent | Los Angeles Times (TNS)
Apr 16th, 2021
People had started showing up to the office again in greater numbers, but fled for home as the recent coronavirus surge shook the region, fresh data show.

Still, employers and landlords are betting that workers will want to return as vaccinations increase and virus fears recede, even though demand to rent space in Los Angeles office buildings continues to shrink.
"By the stats, it's not that encouraging," said broker Todd Doney of real estate services company CBRE. "We certainly have work ahead of us to get through this. ... But when the governor announced no more COVID restrictions on June 15, that's light at the end of the tunnel for me."

An average of $24 \%$ of employees in 10 major U.S. cities were back to the office as of April 7, down nearly a full percentage point from the week before, according to Kastle Systems, which provides keycard entry systems used by many companies and tracks patterns of workers' card swipes.

In Los Angeles, the average at Kastle's 148 buildings was $22.1 \%$ and, like the national average, took a significant dip during the winter COVID surge, but had been rising again before the latest virus resurgence. Although beneath the U.S. average, L.A.'s offices were more full than five other cities tracked by Kastle, including San Jose at $16.7 \%$ and San Francisco at 13.4\%.

As employees were trickling back to some offices, other workplaces were turning off the lights and turning over the keys.

Overall non-rented office space in Los Angeles County reached 17.2\% in the first quarter, the highest vacancy level since early 2012, CBRE reported. That reflected a net loss of 1.6 million square feet of leased space, nearly matching the worst quarterly loss during the Great Recession.

Signings of office leases have been falling for about a year as companies sent employees home to work or laid them off in the face of a sharp economic downturn
spurred by the virus. Many tenants reduced their office footprints as their leases rolled over, while others put their unused space on the market for sublease.

Tenants looking to get some money for offices they were not using had 7.3 million feet available for sublease in the first quarter, about $15 \%$ of the total space available for rent - high by historic standards.

The number of leases being signed remained low, as tenants avoided long-term decisions in favor of short-term renewals when their leases expired.

Despite the economic headwinds, the average asking rate climbed slightly to $\$ 3.90$ per square foot per month in the first quarter, reflecting higher quality space coming available and the reluctance of landlords to drop their rates. Instead, landlords offered tenants inducements to sign leases such as months of free rent or generous allowances to build out their offices.

Uber, Google, Facebook and Microsoft are among the companies that have reopened offices or are on the verge of doing so, according to media reports. And recent surveys have shown that many companies and their workers are eager or at least willing to get back to the office.

A February survey commissioned by software company Eden Workplace found $85 \%$ of office workers are looking forward to being back at work, with many of them saying that they miss socializing with their colleagues. A customer poll by marketing data provider ZoomInfo in February found that more than half plan to be back in the office by June, with IT firms leading the way.

The worry for landlords is how much space tenants think they need going forward and whether they still want to work in city centers that many can reach only by long commutes.

It is a given among industry observers that remote work has been normalized to the point that white-collar companies will commonly allow their employees to work from home a few days a week in the future. Some workers may no longer have to come to the office at all.

That's a substantial change in the office world from previous recessions, which also produced dramatic cutbacks in space leasing as companies went under or contracted their staffs. Recovery from this downturn will look different as companies reevaluate their needs.

A big unknown is how businesses will configure their office space in a post-pandemic world.

Will companies need less room if people are working at home sometimes, or must they have a devoted desk waiting for each worker when they do come in? Will workers still
be seated close to each other as they have been in many offices in recent years, or must they have more elbow room to feel safe from viruses?
"Most of our tenants are making some changes to their physical office layouts," landlord Bert Dezzutti said, but the long-term impacts of those changes on building occupancy "haven't sorted themselves out yet."

Flexible work schedules "are here to stay," said Dezzutti, head of Southern California operations for Brookfield Properties, the dominant office landlord in downtown Los Angeles. Many bosses, nevertheless, remain keen on preserving the office footprints they have.

A recent survey by consulting firm KPMG found that only 17\% of chief executives are looking to downsize their office space as a result of the pandemic, a steep drop from August, when $69 \%$ said they planned to shrink their offices.

Before they return to the office, though, the majority of chief executives would like to see more than $50 \%$ of the general population vaccinated. They especially want to see their own employees get COVID-preventing shots - $90 \%$ of bosses said they are considering asking employees to report to them when they have been vaccinated, which may guide decisions on when companies return to their offices.

For the last six months or so, tenants in Brookfield's high-rises have been inhabiting about $12 \%$ to $16 \%$ of their space, Dezzutti said. He expects that number to climb now that local officials have doubled office population allowed for nonessential businesses to $50 \%$ as part of easing COVID restrictions.

Doney predicted that many companies will reduce the size of their offices in the future as remote labor becomes routine, but that they will return to working together for the most part.
"As more people get vaccinated and get more comfortable, they will do more things, including going to the office," he said. "Zoom meetings are terrific, but sometimes that magic occurs in person before a meeting starts or after it ends."

People will come back to the office over the summer, he said, but the return will be substantial after Labor Day when the working-age population is largely inoculated and children are back in school.

An autumn renaissance of office attendance is also expected by Kastle Systems Chairman Mark Ein.
"You're going to see an increase of some magnitude starting at the beginning of the summer," Ein said. Then, "barring something unforeseen, there should be a huge surge coming back in the fall when virtually everyone is vaccinated."

Cities where workers commute more by car than by public transit tend to have the most people in the office these days, Ein said. Offices in Houston and Dallas are the fullest in the country at close to $40 \%$ inhabited.

Having your COVID shots will become mandatory for many, he said, potentially enforced by voiding the keycards of the unprotected.
"There are going to be a lot of companies who are going to decide that they only want people to come back to the office who are vaccinated," Ein said.

Human beings have not been fundamentally changed by the coronavirus, Dezzutti said, and will again seek each other's company in busy metropolises.
"In history, there has been no pandemic or plague or natural disaster that's killed off the city," he said. "Our need to live and work in urban clusters, and the concentration of people and economic activity that occurs there, is just too strong."

## 

## America Has Long Favored Cars Over Trains and Buses. Can Biden Change That?

The president's infrastructure plan tries to break from the past by shifting spending away from new roads and toward public transit. It won't be easy.

April 2, 2021


President Biden has proposed spending $\$ 165$ billion to encourage the use of mass transit and rail.Credit...Matt Rourke/Associated Press

If America is dominated by car culture and the call of the open road, there is a big reason for that: Over the past 65 years, the United States has spent nearly $\$ 10$ trillion in public funds on highways and roads, and just a quarter of that on subways, buses and passenger rail.

But President Biden's $\$ 2$ trillion infrastructure plan, unveiled this week, represents one of the most ambitious efforts yet to challenge the centrality of the automobile in American life, by proposing to tilt federal spending far more toward public transportation
and coax more people out of their cars. Experts say that transformation is necessary to tackle climate change, but could prove extremely difficult in practice.

As part of his plan, Mr. Biden wants to spend $\$ 85$ billion over eight years to help cities modernize and expand their mass transit systems, in effect doubling federal spending on public transportation each year. There's also $\$ 80$ billion to upgrade and extend intercity rail networks such as Amtrak. That would be one of the largest investments in passenger trains in decades.

And, while Mr. Biden's plan offers $\$ 115$ billion for roads, the emphasis would be on fixing aging highways and bridges, rather than expanding the road network. That, too, is a shift in priorities: In recent years, states have spent roughly half of their highway money building new roads or widening existing ones, which, studies have found, often just encourages more driving and does little to alleviate congestion.
"There's no question that the share of funding going toward transit and rail in Biden's proposal is vastly larger than in any similar legislation we've seen in our lifetime," said Yonah Freemark, a senior research associate at the Urban Institute. "It's a dramatic shift."

## Historically, Money Flowed to Highways

Mass transit and rail got a fraction of the funds at both the federal and state levels.


When Congress writes new multibillion-dollar transportation bills every few years, typically about four-fifths of the money goes to highways and roads, a pattern that has held since the early 1980s. To many, that disparity makes sense. After all, roughly 80 percent of trips Americans take are by car or light truck, with just 3 percent by mass transit.

But some experts say this gets the causality backward: Decades of government investment in roads and highways - starting with the creation of the interstate highway system in 1956 - have transformed most cities and suburbs into sprawling, carcentered environments where it can be dangerous to walk or bike. In addition to that, other reliable transit options are scarce.
"We're almost forcing everyone to drive," said Catherine Ross, an expert on transportation planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology. "The choices that individuals make are deeply shaped by the infrastructure that we have built."

Transportation now accounts for one-third of America's planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, with most of that from hundreds of millions of gasoline-burning cars and S.U.V.s. And, while Mr. Biden is proposing $\$ 174$ billion to promote cleaner electric vehicles, experts have said that helping Americans drive less will be crucial to meeting the administration's climate goals.
"Far too many Americans lack access to affordable public transit, and those who do have access are often met with delays and disruptions," Mr. Biden said on Wednesday. "We have the power to change that."

But Mr. Biden, a longtime Amtrak rider and proponent, will face hurdles in trying to make the United States more train- and bus-friendly.

His plan still needs to get through Congress, where lawmakers in rural and suburban districts often prefer money for roads. Nationwide, new transit projects have been plagued by soaring costs. The coronavirus pandemic has also led many Americans to avoid subways and buses in favor of private vehicles, and it remains unclear when or whether transit ridership will bounce back.

The Biden administration may also have limited ability to sway the actions of state and local governments, which still account for the vast majority of transportation spending. Many key urban planning decisions - such as whether to build dense housing near light-rail stations - are made locally, and they can determine whether transit systems thrive or struggle.
"States are the emperors of transportation," said Beth Osborne, director of Transportation for America, a transit advocacy group. "But so much of the culture of our current program is based on what has come out of the Department of Transportation, so it's an important statement if the Biden administration is saying it's time to pivot."

Analysts cautioned that the White House still has not revealed key details of the plan. Its effectiveness may hinge on how the proposal gets integrated with transportation bills currently being worked on in Congress, which could adjust the balance of funding between highways and transit or impose conditions on how states can use federal funding.

Still, some transit agencies say a large infusion of federal money could be transformative. Many urban transit systems are more than a half-century old and struggle to secure enough funding to address their growing backlog of needed repairs. That typically leaves little money left over to consider major new expansions.

In Philadelphia, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority needs federal aid to move forward on a $\$ 2$ billion plan to extend rail service to King of Prussia, a fastgrowing job center, as well as a $\$ 1.8$ billion plan to modernize the city's aging trolleys, said Andrew Busch, a spokesman for the agency.

In the Bay Area, federal funding would be necessary to extend the Bay Area Rapid Transit rail system to San Jose and create a regional network of car-pooling lanes, said Randy Rentschler, director of legislation and public affairs at the region's Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Mr. Biden has also proposed spending $\$ 80$ billion to upgrade and expand intercity rail service such as Amtrak. Right now, the busiest Amtrak route is the Northeast Corridor between Washington, D.C., and Boston, which Amtrak says needs $\$ 38$ billion for upgrades and repairs.

Other cities have infrequent and often inconvenient connections. For instance, to travel from Cincinnati to Chicago by rail, there is just one train per day. The trip takes nine hours and the train departs at 1:41 a.m.

Amtrak has suggested that, with $\$ 25$ billion, it could greatly expand its network by 2035, adding 30 routes to cities currently unserved by intercity rail, like Las Vegas and Nashville, and improve service along 20 routes to cities like Houston and Cincinnati. Amtrak claimed that annual ridership would increase from 32 million today to 52 million, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by displacing car and air travel.

Yet attempts to expand America's transit and rail systems may run into pitfalls.
Building infrastructure in the United States has become notoriously expensive and difficult compared with other countries. In California, a plan for high-speed rail between Los Angeles and San Francisco that received federal funding from the Obama administration has struggled with repeated delays and cost overruns, and it remains unclear whether even a partial segment will be finished before 2030. The Biden proposal mentions this cost problem, but is vague on ideas for how to fix it.

Another challenge will be ensuring that funding goes to the most effective projects. "When a lot of money is raining down from the top, states and localities will do whatever they can to get that money," said Paul Lewis, vice president for policy and finance at the Eno Center for Transportation, a nonpartisan research center in Washington. "Sometimes, that money may go to projects that aren't the best projects."

Mr. Lewis noted that improving the nation's transportation system isn't always a question of laying down new cement and steel. Often, the most effective changes may be operational, such as charging people more to drive during rush hour to alleviate congestion, lowering speed limits to improve traffic safety or increasing the frequency of bus routes to make them more useful to riders.

Some experts have also questioned whether the Biden administration will try to rein in local governments' preference for major highway-expansion projects that, critics say, continue to deepen the nation's reliance on automobiles.

The administration has signaled a more skeptical stance toward highways. On Thursday, the Federal Highway Administration took the unusual step of pausing a planned expansion of Interstate 45 near Houston, amid concerns over increased air pollution and the displacement of Black and Hispanic communities. Separately, the Biden administration's infrastructure proposal includes $\$ 20$ billion to improve road safety, including for pedestrians, as well another $\$ 20$ billion to "reconnect neighborhoods" that were harmed by past highway projects.

But it remains to be seen how these programs will work. For instance, without strict conditions from the federal government, some states could simply take federal money intended for road repair and safety and then use their own state funds for further highway expansion.
"If this money isn't accompanied by real policy changes," said Kevin DeGood, director of infrastructure policy at the Center for American Progress, "then states will just keep doing what they've always done, which isn't equitable or green."

Correction: April 5, 2021
An earlier version of this article described incorrectly the Bay Area Rapid Transit system. It is a heavy-rail system, not a light-rail system.

## Mass Transit

## VaxTransit: 450+ Agencies in 41 States Provide Free Rides for Vaccines

Vaccine access helps transit agencies build a bridge to a brighter post-pandemic future.


Left, an AC Transit vaccine shuttle, right, BART representatives speak with a rider about the vaccine. Stewart Mader supplied images

A free ride to get the COVID-19 vaccine. It's a simple promise as powerful as the core purpose of transit. Providing access to the vaccine via public transit gives communities a fair shot at getting shots in arms. For transit agencies who have kept the world going by ferrying people before and during the pandemic, VaxTransit is a bridge to brighter future after the pandemic.

When I began leading advocacy efforts for VaxTransit at the start of the year, just fifteen transit agencies in nine US states offered free rides for vaccines. Now, more than 450 agencies in 41 U.S. states are providing free transit to vaccine appointments and mass vaccination centers. Eight transit agencies in Canada are offering free VaxTransit, and options are appearing throughout the United Kingdom.

Since Mass Transit magazine published my call-to-action, "Getting the COVID Vaccine Shouldn't Require a Car," l've encouraged agency leaders and elected officials throughout the U.S. and Canada to provide free rides for vaccines. Here are best practices from a growing effort to ensure equity for millions of transit riders.

## Get Shots in Frontline Arms

Get frontline workers vaccinated to keep them safe as they help their communities get protected. "Transit employees need to be prioritized to be vaccinated before they can start safely moving larger crowds to vaccination sites," said Alicia Trost, chief communications officer for Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).

When California changed its vaccination distribution plan in January, moving transit workers back in line, the industry spoke up. "They will play a vital role in in the recovery - transporting millions of Californians to get vaccinated" said the California Transit Association and the Amalgamated Transit Union in a joint message to state officials. In March, the state changed course, and announced that transit workers would be prioritized for the vaccine.

## Make a Good Impression

Coordinate with vaccine clinics, hospitals, and health officials to deliver a streamlined experience.
"Ask for a dedicated bus lane so your bus doesn't have to wait in line with the cars" said BART's Trost.

She also suggests that "staff do a site survey to ensure the location is truly accessible."
VaxTransit begins when people book a vaccine appointment, so Trost advises agencies to work with vaccine site organizers to make sure the reservation process encourages transit as an option.
"We made sure there were step by step directions on what to expect and where to go," said Trost.

This coordination is underway elsewhere, too. In Ohio, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) partnered with the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County to provide free all-day transit passes. RTA is not distributing the passes. Instead, passes are provided by the county when people register for vaccination. This strengthens awareness of transit as an option and simplifies vaccine access.
"We are providing all day passes to make it as easy as possible for the community to access whatever vaccination site they prefer," said Linda Scardilli Krecic, spokesperson for GCRTA.
"Transit systems," noted Trost, "have robust media teams and communication channels to be able to get notifications out to the public." She advises agencies to "provide good communication so people feel confident in opting for transit instead of a car."

BART and its peer agencies throughout the San Francisco Bay Area built Healthy Transit Plan to highlight their shared safety protocols, provide a standard metrics dashboard for pandemic procedures, and list VaxTransit options.
"Instead of disjointed information and needing to go to each website to find out what is offered by each agency, we've compiled the information all together," said Trost.

In Southern California, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and North County Transit District (NCTD) jointly announced free rides to vaccines on their systems that serve the San Diego metro area. They created consistent graphics and messages on their websites, posted together on social media, and shared a tool to plan VaxTransit trips using both systems.

## Think Like a Customer

Getting a COVID-19 vaccination can be stressful, so keep VaxTransit simple. Niagara Region Transit in Ontario, Canada offers an experience that is customer-friendly and easy for employees to administer. Free VaxTransit is available from all eight transit providers in Niagara. Customers present their vaccine appointment confirmation to the operator when boarding and show proof-of-vaccination for a return trip.

In California, Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) provides free rides to "all vaccination sites in Sacramento County within SacRT's service area, including hospitals, pharmacies, and other immunization locations." To ride free, SacRT simply requires an appointment confirmation email, text, or vaccine card with a date matching the date you ride.
"When boarding a bus, show the operator either a printout or screenshot on a smartphone, or have ready to show a fare inspector when riding light rail," said SacRT.

Cleveland RTA's VaxTransit day passes can be used throughout the system. A customer can display their pass to a driver when boarding a bus, carry the pass as proof-of-payment on light rail and the bus rapid transit Health Line, and use it to access Red Line trains at stations with fare gates, like the downtown Tower City Station.
"In the event they need to transfer between modes or bus routes, they can easily do that with an all-day pass. It also allows riders the latitude to make additional trips that same day, should they need to stop at the grocery store or pharmacy," said GCRTA's Krecic.

## Double-Down on Equity

Go the extra mile to make sure your most vulnerable communities are able to use free VaxTransit. Kansas City's transit agency, housing authority, and a local health system created the Cares Connect partnership to strengthen equity in vaccine access. The Housing Authority of Kansas City identifies residents eligible for the vaccine. Then, three days a week, Ride KC buses pick them up and give them free VaxTransit to Truman Medical Centers/University Health for COVID-19 vaccines. Cares Connect helped 40 people get vaccinated on its first day.

Because some people live far from a bus stop, Richmond, Virginia's GRTC Transit is providing free on-demand VaxTransit in addition to free VaxTransit on regular bus routes.
"This new reach will give more accessible connections and free on-demand mobility beyond our normal service area!" said GRTC CEO Julie Timm.
"We are so grateful to our partners who are thinking intentionally about the transportation needs of our communities," said Jackie Lawrence, director of Health Equity at Richmond and Henrico Health Districts.

## Go Wide. Statewide.

Make sure funding Is available to provide VaxTransit in every community. North Carolina's Department of Transportation and Department of Health and Human Services teamed up to distribute $\$ 2.5$ million in COVID relief funding to 99 local transit systems. This enables free VaxTransit throughout the state by offsetting "operating costs associated with transit rides to and from vaccination sites."

Kentucky announced free or reduced-fare transit for vaccines in 90 counties, covering 75 percent of the commonwealth.
"We want all Kentuckians who wish to get vaccinated to be able to do so, and transportation should not be a barrier," said Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman.

Ohio's Rides for Community Immunity program is providing $\$ 7$ million to 88 counties to fund free VaxTransit. The Ohio Department of Transportation is directly funding transit agencies in 70 counties. In the remaining 18 counties, health departments will use the funding to purchase transportation services.

## Build New Ridership

Providing free rides to vaccines can help build new post-pandemic ridership at a time when agencies need to think beyond the nine-to-five commute. Dayton RTA is reaching new riders who had not used transit before the agency started offering VaxTransit.
"Most of the customers that booked rides had never used our services before," said Chief Customer Officer Brandon Policicchio.

He also says the agency supplied buses in "two instances to transport groups." That gave RTA another "opportunity to help folks who had never used our service before."

Utah Transit Authority began offering free VaxTransit on March 11, and officials are already seeing increasing ridership. Depending on how many people use VaxTransit, the service could cost UTA between $\$ 190,000-\$ 750,000$, according to Business Development Manager Kensey Kunkle. That's a worthwhile investment, according to UTA board member Jeff Acerson.

He said, "The more people that are vaccinated, the safer our communities are going to be, and they'll be more inclined to come back to transit, which is exactly what we need."

## Every Trip Equals a Vaccination

Track use of VaxTransit, "even if it is just a hand count of each person you carried each day. Even better if you can track origin-destination pairs so you can measure what communities people are traveling to and from," says BART's Trost.

She reports 1,800 people have used BART's free VaxTransit rides home since the service started in early February.

During its first week of providing free VaxTransit, Sacramento Regional Transit gave 180 people peace of mind in getting their vaccines. According to paratransit customer Melanie Castile, the free ride was one less thing to worry about when getting vaccinated.

More than 500 people benefited from free VaxTransit in the first days of Jacksonville Transportation Authority's Rides to Health program, according to CEO Nathaniel P. Ford. Learning from riders' use of the service, the agency also reconfigured routes to move a bus stop closer to the entrance to Regency Square Mall. That way, people no longer have to cross traffic to reach the vaccination site.

In Guilford County, N.C., use of free VaxTransit nearly doubled from February through the first half of March. Guilford County Transportation \& Mobility Services reported providing 66 free VaxTransit rides in February, rising to 113 free rides in the first half of March. The county has spent $\$ 5,000-7,000$ of the $\$ 73,318$ in COVID-19 relief funding provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Department of Health \& Human Services through the statewide VaxTransit strategy. Statewide, North Carolinians have taken 3,600 free VaxTransit trips to get vaccinated.

## Build Back Better with VaxTransit

Even as transit agencies cope with the financial strain of reduced ridership, this is precisely the time to provide free rides for vaccines. It's an opportunity for transit agencies to support their communities, dispel early viral misconceptions about transit, and gather insight to guide post-pandemic service.

Buses and trains keep people connected to family, friends, jobs, and communities. VaxTransit offers an opportunity to reshape the narrative from fear of transmission to support for transportation and invest in a better tomorrow.

To see which transit agencies are providing free rides for vaccines, visit stewartmader.com/vaxtransit. If you're aware of a free transit option that should be added to the list, please share details at stewartmader.com/contact.


## Updated October 21, 2020

Significant ridership and fares revenue declines buffet public transit agencies due to the coronavirus pandemic, as most Californians responsibly shelter in place; these fiscal impacts today threaten the viability and availability of transit services in the near- and long-term.

Transit Watch is intended to provide key stakeholders with up-to-date information about COVID19 and its impact on public transit services and our communities that rely on transit.

The information below is a running, real-time summary list of latest impacts to local agencies, culled from each day's headlines and agency press releases.

## Central Coast

*Note - For the latest information, click the name of the agency to visit the agency's dedicated COVID-19 update page.

## City of San Luis Obispo

- Current Ridership Decline:
- Current Weekly Revenue Decline:
- Reductions in Service:
- Other Operational Impacts:


## Monterey-Salinas Transit

- Current ridership decline: -67.8\% as of 4/14
- Current revenue decline: $\$ 7,000 /$ day average from fares
- Service suspensions:
- Effective March 28th, operating a Sunday schedule with modifications
- Partnership services suspended to colleges, universities, and others
- Other Operational Impacts
- MST reinstated fare collection on 8/1/20
- Boarding from the rear door when available
- Operating supplemental service with more than 10 passengers onboard larger buses and more than 4 onboard minibuses
- Administrative staff working from home when able
- Passengers required to wear masks 4/30. (Source)
- Approved to purchase 96 protective barriers for drivers $5 / 20$. (Source)


## Morro Bay Transit

- Current Ridership Decline:
- Current Weekly Revenue Decline:
- Reductions in Service:
- Other Operational Impacts:
- Zero-fare collection 3/23. (Source)
- Passenger limit, no more than 4 passengers in a vehicle $4 / 15$. (Source)


## Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District

- Current Ridership Decline:
- Current Weekly Revenue Decline:
- Reductions in Service:
- Other Operational Impacts:


## Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

- Current Ridership Decline:
- March
- 50\% (Local: -49\% / Commuter: -62\%)

April
" -93\% (Local: -93\% / Commuter: -95\%)

- May
- $-92 \%$ (Local: -92\% / Commuter: -96\%)
- July
- -77\%
- Current Weekly Revenue Decline:
- March Weekly Farebox Revenue Decline: -\$20,350.11
- April Weekly Farebox Revenue Decline: - $\$ 50,089.33$
- May Weekly Farebox Revenue Decline: -\$50,179.57

July Weekly Farebox Revenue Decline -69.4\%

- Reductions in Service:
- Highway 17 commuter service reduced to 7 daily trips 4/9. (Source)
- All METRO services Monday-Sunday reduced to weekend schedule service $3 / 23$. (Source)
- School Term Service suspended 3/18. (Source)
- March Vehicle Service Hours Decline: -12\%
- April Vehicle Service Hours Decline: -36\%
- May Vehicle Service Hours Decline: -44\% (Local: -44\% / Commuter: 70\%)
- Other Operational Impacts:
- We've decided to not print a summer schedule guide (Headways), as we would normally do, in consideration of the potential to spread illness through contact with paper schedules.
- We are continuing to practice social distancing on our buses by limiting onboard passengers to 5-8, at a time.
- In an attempt to reduce operational costs, we have altered our Crew Schedules to reduce the length of shifts and lower overtime costs. For summer service, beginning $6 / 25$, we are maintaining service reductions and intend to respond on-demand with the need for additional service by utilizing a very large Extra Board to send out "trippers", as needed.


## San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority

- Current Ridership Decline:
- Current Weekly Revenue Decline:
- Reductions in Service:
- Other Operational Impacts:


## Santa Maria Area Transit

- Current Ridership Decline: -70\% (Source)
- Current Weekly Revenue Decline:
- Reductions in Service:
- Other Operational Impacts:
- No fares will be collected 4/9. (Source)


## 

# COVID: Valley Transportation Authority Fined \$16,200 By State For Health Violations 

A second VTA employee passed away from COVID-19 in early March, an official said
By Joseph Geha | Bay Area News Group
March 22, 2021

SAN JOSE - The state's workplace safety watchdog has fined the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority a total of $\$ 16,200$ for COVID-19 health and safety violations, months after the death of a bus ...

California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, often referred to as Cal/OSHA, issued two citations to VTA on March 2, claiming the transportation agency failed to "effectively implement and maintain its Injury and Illness Prevention Program" during the pandemic.

VTA "did not require or ensure the use of face coverings at all times by employees at the facility and while operating the buses," the citations allege.

The agency also "did not provide effective training and instruction to employees," the state said, including about "how the virus is spread and measures to avoid infection, the signs and symptoms of infection, and the employer's procedure to control transmission in the workplace."

The citations, each with a fine of $\$ 8,100$ attached, were the result of inspections Cal/OSHA conducted between early September, and late February. The state agency categorized both violations as "serious."

The fines were first reported by KTVU.
In October, 53 -year-old Audrey Lopez, a San Jose resident and VTA operator for more than 13 years, passed away after a lengthy battle with COVID-19, becoming the first VTA employee to die from the virus. She contracted it in late August, officials said.

Jon Finister, 63, of San Jose, a mechanic for VTA, died on March 1, after calling off of work with Covid symptoms in February. A tribute to Finister on the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 website said he was known as a hard worker with a great sense of humor. (Image courtesy of ATU Local 265)

While the VTA contends Lopez did not contract coronavirus on the job - noting that she followed safety protocols and wore protective equipment - John Courtney, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265, told this news organization previously he disputed that claim.

Bus operators such as Lopez interact with countless passengers each day, Courtney said, and "all she did was go back and forth from work."

Another VTA employee, 63-year-old Jon Finister of San Jose, a mechanic, died on March 1, after calling off of work with Covid symptoms in February, Courtney said Monday in an interview.
"Jon was known as a hard worker with a great sense of humor and he will be sadly missed by all," a tribute on the union's website said.

Finister and Lopez were both among "the most diligent when it came to following safety protocols," Courtney said.
"I'm not surprised that they got fined," Courtney said of the agency.
Brandi Childress, a spokesperson for VTA, said in an emailed statement to this news organization that she couldn't comment on the specifics of the allegations in the citations because the agency is appealing them.
"However, VTA is confident in the comprehensive actions it has taken to date to keep its employees and customers safe and informed during this very challenging time," Childress said.
"Losing members of our work family to this pandemic has been extremely difficult. We remain committed to maintaining our vigilance and doing all we can to slow the spread of this virus," she said.

Courtney said he thinks VTA "dropped the ball" with Covid because they were slow to alert employees and the unions about new cases, and he claims they didn't use properly trained contact tracers to follow the possible path of inspection when people fell ill.
"The contact tracing that VTA did was absolutely horrible," he said.
"They just used internal supervisors....they never took it any further than that," he said.
He said Monday that between the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, through early February of this year, there have been about 180 VTA employees who fell ill with the virus.
"They like to blame employees for not wearing our masks, or say maybe we weren't social distancing in the yard, but the bottom line is, it took VTA a long time to do the right thing with Covid," he said. "Without the proper training you can't blame the folks for not doing the right thing,"

Courtney noted that the relationship between his union and the administration of VTA has improved in recent weeks, with more collaboration and communication around vaccination plans and schedules.

## The flercury

## Manjoo: We Need Buses, Buses Everywhere

By Farhad Manjoo
March 21, 2021


Just throwing a lot of money at buses might sound like too easy an answer. But it's also something we haven't ever really tried. Nhat V. Meyer/Bay Area News Group

In America, nobody loves the bus. Lots of people ride the bus - we took about 4.6 billion trips by bus in 2019, more than by any other mode of public transportation. But at least 4.5 billion of them must have begun with a deep, dejected sigh of resignation.

Buses are hard to love. Bus systems across the country are chronically underfunded, leading to slow, inconvenient and unreliable service. In New York, America's most transit-friendly city with by far the nation's most-used bus system, terrible service regularly causes people to lose jobs, miss medical appointments and squander many hours, sometimes in rain or snow, just waiting.

People have said for years that the bus could be the next big thing in transportation. Now we can make that a reality. With the proper investment, city buses might be transformed into the sort of next-generation transportation service that technology
companies and car companies have spent billions over the past decade trying to build - a cheap, accessible, comfortable, sustainable, reliable way to get around town.

How might we come upon this transportation nirvana? Not through some great technological innovation or a grand infrastructure project. The holy grail is right there in front of us; it has been right there for decades. All we have got to do is buy more buses, hire more bus drivers and, in some places, give buses special privileges on the road. All we have got to do is care enough to build bus systems that work.

And now is the time to do it. The pandemic has altered Americans' commuting habits, and there is a sudden political opportunity to remake American transportation. The Biden administration and Democrats in Congress are drawing up a giant infrastructure plan with lots of big projects on the menu - a multibillion-dollar tunnel under the Hudson, an electric car charging network, perhaps high-speed rail.

These may be worthy projects, but it could be years before we realize their benefits. Adequately funding American buses is one of the simplest, cheapest ways to meaningfully improve the daily lives of millions of Americans right now.
"Every major city in America has streets where, if the bus were made more convenient, transit agencies would reap a bumper crop of new riders," writes transportation researcher Steven Higashide in his book "Better Buses, Better Cities." With improved bus service, Higashide adds, "cities would instantly take a step toward becoming more inclusive and sustainable."

America's neglected buses are inextricably linked to its larger collective ills. Bus riders wield little political or economic clout; a disproportionate number are people with low incomes.

Like all forms of transit, buses must also contend with America's addiction to automobiles. About $80 \%$ of federal spending on transportation is devoted to highways; the sliver that is left goes to public transit.

It's likely that few policymakers ride the bus, and many see the world through caraddled eyes, creating quirks in the law unfair to mass transit. For example, much more federal money goes toward building and maintaining transportation projects than to operating them, which tends to be the costliest part of public transit.

Then there is the bus' image problem. Buses are old and boring. They rarely attract champions in the media or in government. Even among riders, a kind of hopelessness clings to them. "We've lived with subpar service for so long that it's hard for people to rally around improving it," an advocate told The Los Angeles Times in 2019.

Until recently, I was of similar mind. Then, on a weeklong visit to London just before the pandemic, I challenged myself to spend my time in the city without ever stepping inside a car. It wasn't much of a challenge: In addition to a fantastic transit system, London has a congestion-pricing plan that keeps cars from jamming up the entire city.

What I did find surprising, though, was how often I used London's iconic double-decker buses in addition to, and sometimes instead of, its Underground trains.

For many of my trips, the bus was my best option. In London, buses are given priority on the roads, and traffic signals can detect approaching buses to extend green lights. As a result, I could get to my destination faster by bus than in a taxi or a train.

The buses were clean, comfortable and easy to use. Many of them are either fully electric or powered by hydrogen. I liked that I could pay for my ride with the same card I used for the city's other modes of transit. And I appreciated that bus stops displayed real-time route information.

But the major innovation in London's buses is less technological than numerical. The magic is one of scale - there are simply enough buses in London to allow for frequent, reliable service to the parts of the city that people want to travel to.

It wouldn't take much money to bring high-quality transit service to American cities. The Urban Institute estimates that for about $\$ 17$ billion annually, every American city with at least 100,000 people could more than double its transit capacity. (By comparison, the federal government spends nearly $\$ 50$ billion a year on infrastructure meant mainly for cars.)

According to TransitCenter, a transit advocacy organization, this sort of increase would dramatically improve people's livelihoods. In Atlanta, for example, a $40 \%$ increase in transit service would give bus passengers access to tens of thousands more jobs within a 30 -minute bus ride.

Just throwing a lot of money at buses might sound like too easy an answer. But it's also something we haven't ever really tried.
"For my whole career there's always been a reason transit agencies were spending money on something other than bus service," said Jarrett Walker, a transit expert who has worked with many cities to improve buses.

But this might be the bus' big moment. "We can do buses in a way that's attractive," Beth Osborne, the director of the advocacy group Transportation for America, told me. "We just have to choose to do it."

Farhad Manjoo is a New York Times columnist.

## 

## The Holy Grail of Transportation Is Right in Front of Us

Better bus service would improve millions of Americans' lives.
By Farhad Manjoo | Opinion Columnist
3/18/2021


Credit...Florian Buettner/laif, via Redux
In America, nobody loves the bus. Lots of people ride the bus - we took about 4.6 billion trips by bus in 2019, more than by any other mode of public transportation. But at least 4.5 billion of them must have begun with a deep, dejected sigh of resignation.

Buses are hard to love. Bus systems across the country are chronically underfunded, leading to slow, inconvenient and unreliable service. In New York, America's most transit-friendly city with by far the nation's most-used bus system, terrible service regularly causes people to lose jobs, miss medical appointments and squander many hours, sometimes in rain or snow, just waiting.

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How might we come upon this transportation nirvana? Not through some great technological innovation or a grand infrastructure project. The holy grail is right there in front of us; it's been right there for decades. All we've got to do is buy more buses, hire more bus drivers and, in some places, give buses special privileges on the road. All we've got to do is care enough to build bus systems that work.

And now is the time to do it. The pandemic has altered Americans' commuting habits, and there is a sudden political opportunity to remake American transportation. The Biden administration and Democrats in Congress are drawing up a giant infrastructure plan with lots of big projects on the menu - a multibillion-dollar tunnel under the Hudson, an electric car charging network, perhaps high-speed rail.

These may be worthy projects, but it could be years before we realize their benefits. Adequately funding American buses is one of the simplest, cheapest ways to meaningfully improve the daily lives of millions of Americans right now.
"Every major city in America has streets where, if the bus were made more convenient, transit agencies would reap a bumper crop of new riders," writes the transportation researcher Steven Higashide in his book "Better Buses, Better Cities." With improved bus service, Higashide adds, "cities would instantly take a step toward becoming more inclusive and sustainable."

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For many of my trips, the bus was my best option. In London, buses are given priority on the roads, and traffic signals can detect approaching buses to extend green lights. As a result, I could get to my destination faster by bus than in a taxi or a train.

The buses were clean, comfortable and easy to use. Many of them are either fully electric or powered by hydrogen. I liked that I could pay for my ride with the same card I used for the city's other modes of transit. And I appreciated that bus stops displayed real-time route information.

But the major innovation in London's buses is less technological than numerical. The magic is one of scale - there are simply enough buses in London to allow for frequent, reliable service to the parts of the city that people want to travel to.

It wouldn't take much money to bring high-quality transit service to American cities. The Urban Institute estimates that for about $\$ 17$ billion annually, every American city with at least 100,000 people could more than double its transit capacity. (By comparison, the federal government spends nearly $\$ 50$ billion a year on infrastructure meant mainly for cars.)

According to TransitCenter, a transit advocacy organization, this sort of increase would dramatically improve people's livelihoods. In Atlanta, for example, a 40 percent increase in transit service would give bus passengers access to tens of thousands more jobs within a 30 -minute bus ride.

Just throwing a lot of money at buses might sound like too easy an answer. But it's also something we haven't ever really tried.
"For my whole career there's always been a reason transit agencies were spending money on something other than bus service," said Jarrett Walker, a transit expert who has worked with many cities to improve buses.

But this might be the bus's big moment. "We can do buses in a way that's attractive," Beth Osborne, the director of the advocacy group Transportation for America, told me. "We just have to choose to do it."


[^0]:    $\begin{array}{ll}71420 & 03 / 01 / 21 \\ 71421 & 03 / 01 / 21 \\ 71422 & 03 / 01 / 21\end{array}$

[^1]:    

[^2]:    JULIE A. SHERMAN
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