



**MINUTES  
of the  
Meeting of the  
Board of Directors  
of the  
Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District  
A Public Agency**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2008  
8:30 AM  
Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District Auditorium  
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Britton, Chair; Dave Davis, Vice Chair; Dick Weinberg, Director; Roger Aceves, Director; Chuck McQuary, Director; Sharon Anderson, Director

**MEMBER NOT PRESENT:**

Brian Fahnestock, Secretary

**DISTRICT EMPLOYEES PRESENT:**

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager; Jerry Estrada, Assistant GM/Controller; Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board & General Manager; David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development & Community Relations; Gabriel Garcia, Human Resources & Risk Manager; Brad Davis, Assistant Controller; Senior Scheduler; Cynthia Boche, Assistant Planning Manager; Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning & Compliance

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Gerry Hesse, UCSB Governmental Relations Director; Marc Fisher, UCSB Associate Vice Chancellor, Campus Design and Facilities; Helene Schneider, City of Santa Barbara Councilmember/Council Liaison MTD; Fred Luna, SBCAG Transportation Engineer; Kirsten Ayars, Ayars & Associates

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Britton called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair Britton reported that all members were present, with the exception of Director Fahnestock, who would not be present for the meeting.

**3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA**

The General Manager reported that on Friday, June 13, 2008, the agenda for this meeting was posted at MTD's administrative headquarters, on MTD's website, mailed to all who have requested the agenda and sent to the media of general circulation.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**4. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Director Aceves moved to waive the reading of and approve the draft minutes for the meeting of June 5, 2008. Director Anderson seconded the motion. Vice Chair Davis abstained, due to his absence from that meeting. The motion passed.

**5. CASH REPORT**

Vice Chair Davis moved to approve the cash report from May 27, 2008 through June 9, 2008. Director Weinberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

In response to a question by Director McQuary, Mr. Estrada reported that the payment to GEM Equipment was for the purchase of software needed to upgrade the District's fare collection boxes. The change was needed order to accept the new \$5 bill. Director Weinberg expressed his concerns related to the Treasury Department's change, which has resulted in significant cost to the District.

In response to a question by Director McQuary, David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development & Community Relations reported that a Superstops update is scheduled for the July 1st MTD Board meeting.

In response to a question by Chair Britton, Mr. Estrada reported that MTD's current balance for capital costs will begin to come down during the next 11 months.

**THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Helen Schneider commented that by while watching the recent televised MTD Board meeting, she learned that the District had formed a Rail Committee. She stated that the City of Santa Barbara is supportive of MTD's interest in rail.

**7. PRESENTATION-SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SBCAG) 101 OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN AFTER ITEM #9 OF THE AGENDA)**

Fred Luna, SBCAG Transportation Engineer and Kirsten Ayars, Ayars & Associates provided the Board with a presentation of SBCAG's 101 Operational Improvements Plan. Ms. Ayers reported that the plan will begin during the second week of July 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2012. During the project two lanes will remain mostly open in each direction, with lanes closing at night, when staging is needed. She also outlined the community outreach conducted, project timeline, detours, incentive programs and milestone events contained within the plan.

During the presentation, Director Anderson expressed her concerns related to detours along Salinas Street.

Following the presentation, Board members expressed concerns related to the Milpas and Garden Street ramp closures and how the detours will impact MTD's service. Additionally, Director McQuary stated his concerns regarding possible "choke points" as a result of the closures.

In response, the General Manager reported that as part of the plan, the District was granted \$200,000 to be used towards service assistance during the project. At the General Manager's request, Mr. Damiano provided the Board with information regarding how the funding will and has been used to date. Mr. Damiano reported that in preparation, MTD's Planning & Development department conducted an extensive Origin Destination Survey throughout the areas of expected impact. As a result of the survey's findings, it was found that the most beneficial way of providing service throughout the impacted areas would be by adding six additional operational hours to the line #20 during the first year of the project.

Following the presentation and discussion, the Board thanked SBCAG staff for keeping MTD involved throughout the project's planning stages.

**8. PRESENTATION- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA BARBARA (UCSB) LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Marc Fisher, UCSB Associate Vice Chancellor, Campus Design and Facilities provided the Board with a presentation of UCSB's Long Range Development Plan.

Following the presentation, Vice Chair Davis complimented Mr. Fisher on the plan. With the plan's expected growth in residents and new housing located at Devereux, he suggested the idea of implementing a shuttle service (operated by MTD) that would provide service between Devereux and the campus. He added that the electric shuttles could be housed and charged by Photovoltaic stations located on the campus.

Vice Chair Davis also expressed his concerns related to difficulties in the District's previous funding requests for providing service throughout the IV/UCSB area.

The General Manager informed the Board that the External Affairs Committee met on June 16th to discuss the plan and the Environmental Impact Report's (EIR) comment period which ends on June 23rd.

Vice Chair Davis reported that at the meeting, the Committee reviewed the plan and MTD's staff analysis of the service and funding required to accommodate the LRDP. He stated that UCSB will need to include local transit funding assistance into the EIR in order to accommodate UCSB's expected growth and transportation needs.

Director Aceves commented that MTD was not invited to participate in the EIR process until UCSB was instructed to do so by the Coastal Commission.

**9. DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMPONENT OF THE FARE POLICY CHANGE PROCESS (THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN AFTER ITEM #6 OF THE AGENDA)**

The General Manager and Director Aceves reported on the June 16th the External Affairs Committee, which met to begin a discussion regarding the public participation component of the Fare Policy Change Process.

Following the report, Director Aceves suggested that a Work Session/Preliminary Hearing be held by the full Board in order to discuss the District's public process and financial goals. Vice Chair Davis noted that the projected target date for the increase is scheduled for January 1, 2009. At the Work Session, staff will provide the Board with background information related to a fare increase and budgetary information related to Measure A. This will include information with the passage of Measure A and without Measure A funds if it does not pass.

Prior to the meeting, the committee members, along with MTD staff members will meet with local advocacy groups in order to inform them of the District's need for a fare increase and to gain their support and invite them to participate in a Work Session/Preliminary Hearing.

Chair Britton requested that State Assemblymember Pedro Nava also be informed of the discussions.

Additionally, the General Manager reported that staff would also discuss the fare policy change with UCSB and SBCC as it relates to current pass contracts that the District has with these schools.

The Board agreed that dates for evening Board meetings will be scheduled after the July 22nd meeting.

Following further discussion Director Aceves moved to hold the Work Session/Preliminary Hearing on

July 22, 2008 at 8:30 AM. Vice Chair Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **10. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

The General Manager reported that staff is in the process of creating a "white paper", which will contain information about MTD services currently funded by the current Measure D, which will be called Measure A during the November 2008 ballot). The fact sheet will also contain information about how the passage or rejection of Measure A will affect MTD.

MTD's operation of one Clean Air Express route from Lompoc will begin on June 30th. The General Manager reported that MTD's Operations Department has worked out logistics related to overnight and daytime parking, route, stops and drivers.

The Board was informed that if they needed assistance in obtaining their AB 1234 Ethics Training, that they could contact Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and the General Manager.

The General Manager reported that she had attended Amtrak's Coast Starlight train event last week.

MTD's telephone system upgrade is currently in process.

The Board received May 2008 City of Santa Barbara Assisted Services reports.

The General Manager read a letter to the Board that MTD had received from riders of the Valley Express service.

Director Aceves suggested that on an annual basis, the Board use a portion of its first meeting in December to regroup as far as committees and seat elections.

Mr. Damiano announced that the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) National "Dump the Pump" Day will take place on Thursday. The goal is to encourage riders to use public transportation. Additionally, the Santa Barbara City Council will present MTD with a Proclamation in conjunction with the event.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice Chair Davis reported that he and Director Aceves had recently been approached at a SBCC event by a transit rider, who requested that the District consider a Line #20 express route from Carpinteria to Santa Barbara at the end of the day. Additionally, the rider offered assistance in promoting the use of the service throughout the industrial area of Carpinteria.

Vice Chair Davis reported that after the televised Board meeting aired, he received emails expressing concern regarding the Board's discussion at the last meeting related to rail. His responses to the emails were that MTD is supportive and has officially endorsed the OnTRAC rail project. As currently envisioned that program would not affect the TDA allocations to MTD. In the future, however, the Board is concerned regarding the possibilities of expanding to new commuter rail service and the negative effect that might have on the availability of the District's TDA allocation.

Due to a lack of further discussion needed the External Affairs and Finance Committee meetings, scheduled to take place following today's Board meeting, were both canceled.

## **12. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION- ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Section 54956.9 (b))**

One case: Lonnie Williams and AAA vs. MTD

Upon returning from closed session, Chair Britton reported that staff had been authorized to continue negotiations for settlement of the claim.

**13. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION- ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Section 54956.9 (b))**

Due to an error in the claimant's name for this agenda item, Director Aceves moved to authorize an amendment to reflect the correct name of Dawn Zavala vs. MTD. Vice Chair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning from closed session, Chair Britton reported that staff had been authorized to continue negotiations for settlement of the claim.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Approved by the Board of Directors on July 1, 2008.

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Brian Fahnestock, Secretary of the Board