



**SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES\*  
APRIL 22, 2022 – 9:00 AM  
MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) convened on Friday, April 22, 2022, via teleconference.

The Board Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at [www.SCMTD.com](http://www.SCMTD.com). \*Minutes are “summary” minutes, not verbatim minutes. Audio recordings Board meeting open sessions are available to the public upon request.

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- 1 CALLED TO ORDER** at 9:00 AM by Board Chair Pageler.
- 2 ROLL CALL:** The following Directors were **present** via teleconference, representing a quorum:

<b>Director Kristen Brown</b>	<b>City of Capitola</b>
<b>Director Rebecca Downing</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Jimmy Dutra</b>	<b>City of Watsonville</b>
Director Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson	City of Santa Cruz
<b>Director Manu Koenig</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Donna Lind</b>	<b>City of Scotts Valley</b>
<b>Director Bruce McPherson</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Donna Meyers</b>	<b>City of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Larry Pageler</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Ari Parker</b>	<b>City of Watsonville</b>
<b>Director Mike Rotkin</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Ex-Officio Director Dan Henderson</b> <i>AR 9:09</i>	<b>UC Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Ex-Officio Director Alta Northcutt</b>	<b>Cabrillo College</b>

Dawn Crummié  
Julie Sherman

Interim CEO/GM  
General Counsel

- 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
Today’s meeting is being broadcast by Community Television of Santa Cruz County. Chair Pageler added that METRO is providing free fares today to celebrate Earth Day.

**4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Director McPherson provided an update on the two-day legislative conference sponsored by the California State Association of Counties. The key focus was on housing the homeless and transportation.

Director Meyers said the City of Santa Cruz is beginning to operationalize the recently adopted Homelessness Response Action Plan. Part of that program is to move people out of the homeless encampments that are primarily unmanaged. We've closed the camps across the San Lorenzo River and along Hell's Trail. The San Lorenzo Park Benchlands camp will be closed over the next few months with the goal of placing those people in managed encampments with services and resources available to help them. Director Rotkin added that the public should be aware that there are three levels of encampments—unsanctioned (where people set up camps anywhere); sanctioned but not managed (e.g., the Benchlands); and sanctioned and managed (e.g., the 1220 River Street Camp).

Director Northcutt announced that Cabrillo College students are hosting their student senate elections and voting will happen the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion has begun on having a mobile app or eco-pass for students that is not the physical student ID card.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Pageler moved to the next agenda item.

**5 ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair Pageler spoke to Mr. Praxel's email regarding the new Measure D that will be on the June 2022 ballot and how it is different from the 2016 Measure D. He clarified the branding requirements by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for METRO's vehicles and services funded by the 2016 Measure D. On April 20, 2022, the RTC gave approval for existing decals to be covered up until after the November 2022 election to ease public confusion. Danielle Glagola, Marketing, Communications and Customer Service Director, let the assembly know that METRO decided to temporarily cover up the 2016 Measure D stickers with a "Dump the Pump" message (photos attached), which will be removed after the election. These stickers are being installed on all of METRO's fixed route and paratransit vehicles and should be completed by Monday, April 25, 2022. We will continue to refer to the 2016 Measure D on our website landing page so that METRO still supports our 2016 Measure D obligation to the RTC.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Pageler moved to the next agenda item.

**6 LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

James Sandoval, SMART Local 0023 Chairperson, mentioned that on April 7, 2022, the unions ratified the contract extension for one year. Our members are happy and we're looking forward to a smooth transition with the new CEO. I'm happy to report that he did meet with all the union leaders. We talked about a lot of ideas, goals, and ambitions. We are grateful and excited about the future of METRO.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Pageler moved to the next agenda item.

- 7 WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Having none, Chair Pageler moved to the next agenda item.
- 8 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS**  
Having none, Chair Pageler moved to the next agenda item.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 9.1 ACCEPT AND FILE: PRELIMINARY APPROVED CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022  
Chuck Farmer, CFO
- 9.2 ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF:  
A. MARCH 25, 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
B. APRIL 8, 2022 FINANCE, BUDGET & AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING  
Dawn Crummié, Interim CEO/General Manager
- 9.3 ACCEPT AND FILE THE YEAR-TO-DATE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2022  
Chuck Farmer, CFO
- 9.4 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY22 REVISED CAPITAL BUDGET/PORTFOLIO  
Chuck Farmer, CFO
- 9.5 ACCEPT AND FILE: UPDATE ON CRUZ ON-DEMAND MICROTRANSIT SERVICE AND END OF PILOT  
John Urgo, Planning and Development Director
- 9.6 APPROVE: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE FY23 APPROPRIATIONS AND CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUESTS  
Wondimu Mengistu, Grants and Legislative Analyst
- 9.7 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DIRECTING THAT THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE  
Dawn Crummié, Interim CEO/General Manager
- 9.8 APPROVE: RECOMMENDED ACTION ON TORT CLAIMS  
Curtis Moses, Safety, Security & Risk Management Director
- 9.9 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT TO MANSFIELD OIL COMPANY FOR FUEL AND FUELING SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$2,150,320  
Eddie Benson, Maintenance Manager

There were no public comments.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN**

**SECOND: DIRECTOR KOENIG**

**MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Brown, Downing, Dutra, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Meyers, Pageler, Parker, and Rotkin). Director Kalantari-Johnson was absent.**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### **10 APPROVE: THE USE OF FY22 FTA 5307 FUNDS TOWARDS FUTURE BUS PURCHASES AND RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LONG-RANGE BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN**

John Urgo, Planning and Development Director, spoke to the item and provided some background on the establishment of the bus replacement plan. Entering FY22, METRO has reduced the number of buses needing replacement by 17. However, due to the age of the fleet, by FY23, the number of buses needing to be replaced will jump back to 35 and by FY28, it will reach 61. Because of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation, future bus purchases will be more expensive as we transition to zero-emission technology. Staff is recommending we commit FY22 FTA 5307 funding, which METRO usually uses for operational expenses, but is eligible for capital expenses, towards funding the bus replacement fund.

Director Rotkin mentioned that he gets emails from the public asking why is METRO purchasing buses that are not electric. The reason is that a CNG bus costs about \$700K and an electric bus costs about \$1.2 million. METRO doesn't have the money to simply buy all electric buses. However, this plan allows METRO to move towards electric to meet the state guidelines before its deadline and allows METRO to keep operating while achieving that goal. Director McPherson requested the amount that is to be committed to this fund for the public's knowledge. Mr. Urgo said it was \$11 million.

There were no public comments.

### **ACTION: APPROVE THE USE OF FY22 FTA 5307 FUNDS TOWARDS FUTURE BUS PURCHASES AND THE UPDATE ON THE LONG-RANGE BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN**

**SECOND: DIRECTOR MCPHERSON**

**MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Brown, Downing, Dutra, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Meyers, Pageler, Parker, and Rotkin). Director Kalantari-Johnson was absent.**

### **11 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF ISSUING A FORMAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SOUTH COUNTY ZERO-EMISSIONS OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY PLAN, PHASE I: PLANNING PROJECT**

John Urgo, Planning and Development Director, requested the Board authorize the Purchasing Manager to issue a formal request for proposals for the South County Zero-Emissions Operating and Maintenance Facility. The existing Judy K. Souza Operations Facility is not big enough to accommodate future zero-emission buses and charging or fueling technology that is needed to fully meet the CARB ICT regulation. Staff is requesting \$1 million to conduct this planning phase, identify potential sites, conduct environmental clearances, and design a preliminary plan. This will put METRO in an excellent position to pursue federal grant funding for final construction.

Director Dutra expressed support for this project and thinks this is an opportunity to capitalize on the grant funding that METRO could receive for the facility. It would be nice to have this facility in South County and move METRO forward with an environmentally based fleet.

There were no public comments.

**ACTION: APPROVE ISSUING A FORMAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SOUTH COUNTY ZERO-EMISSIONS OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY PLAN, PHASE I: PLANNING PROJECT**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR DUTRA**

**SECOND: DIRECTOR MEYERS**

**MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Brown, Downing, Dutra, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Meyers, Pageler, Parker, and Rotkin). Director Kalantari-Johnson was absent.**

**12 APPROVE: REQUEST TO FUND HR ANALYST I POSITION AND DE-FUND BENEFITS TECHNICIAN POSITION**

Dawn Crummié, Interim CEO/General Manager and HR Director, spoke to the item. This is not an additional position. The request is to defund the Benefits Technician position and fund another HR Analyst I position. The position's primary focus will be on benefits but making it a more generalized position would allow cross-training in recruitment and compensation as well. Director Rotkin asked if the new position is more expensive than the other one. Ms. Crummié said it is a little higher paying position with an approximate \$13,800 cost increase in FY23, assuming we hire someone at Step 1.

There were no public comments.

**ACTION: APPROVE FUNDING AN HR ANALYST I POSITION AND DE-FUNDING THE BENEFITS TECHNICIAN POSITION**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR LIND**

**SECOND: DIRECTOR MCPHERSON**

**MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Brown, Downing, Dutra, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Meyers, Pageler, Parker, and Rotkin). Director Kalantari-Johnson was absent.**

**13 CEO ORAL REPORT / COVID-19 UPDATE**

Dawn Crummié, Interim CEO/General Manager, reminded the assembly that Michael Tree will be starting on Monday, April 25, 2022, as the new CEO. She thanked everyone for their support in this interim period.

She congratulated the new hires/promotions that have taken place since the last meeting:

Elizabeth Rocha-Rocha  
Mike Montes  
Mariano Bernal  
Amidia Frederick  
Jesse Diaz  
Rene Lopez

Administrative Specialist  
Lead Parts & Materials Clerk  
Provisional IT Project Coordinator  
HR Analyst I  
Parts & Materials Clerk  
Facilities Maintenance Worker II

Additional updates included:

- Santa Cruz County Leadership suspended Class #35 when COVID-19 hit and is now continuing the program. She praised the class as a great way to get to know Santa Cruz County. METRO provides the buses for three of the field trips. Because of that, we get to have 2-3 METRO employees attend.
- METRO is setting up a booth today at the METRO Transit Center to hand out information on METRO's participation in Earth Day.
- METRO has a new tenant in our Watsonville Transit Center—Goble Roasting Coffee. They serve iced coffee and coffee beans.
- A Bus Operator class of six begins on April 25, 2022.
- METRO has had one COVID-19 positive case in the last 30 days.
- The mask mandate was lifted as of April 19, 2022. We have changed our signage to “recommended” for riders and requiring it for unvaccinated riders.
- SB957 is moving through the legislature and may be decided prior to the June 24, 2022 Board Meeting, the date chosen to table the issue at the March 25, 2022 Board Meeting. She reiterated that METRO management is opposed to the legislation.

James Sandoval responded to SB957 by saying having Senator John Laird's backing of the bill provided a lot of credibility in the legislature and is getting support from multiple labor organizations.

Several Directors expressed their appreciation to Ms. Crummié for stepping into this role quickly and for everything she has done in the interim and making everything run smoothly.

**14 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Larry Pageler, Board Chair, announced the next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Friday, May 20, 2022, at 9:00 AM via teleconference.

**15 ADJOURNMENT**

Larry Pageler, Board Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted,


Donna Bauer  
Executive Assistant



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