

MINUTES*

MAC MEETING OF April 20, 2022



The METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. The meeting was held via teleconference. *Minutes are “summary” minutes, not verbatim minutes.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:01 PM.

2. **ROLL CALL** - The following MAC Members were **present** via teleconference, representing a quorum:

James Von Hendy, Chair
Joseph Martinez, Vice Chair
James Cruse
Jessica de Wit

Veronica Elsea
Michael Pisano
Becky Taylor

3. **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Elsea mentioned she is a member of the Santa Cruz County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. She said the elections department would like to work with METRO to arrange transportation to the 18 voting centers in the upcoming June elections. Ms. Elsea requested a contact person for the elections staff to contact.

Mr. Pisano asked about the Measure D stickers on METRO buses and vehicles. Margo Ross, COO, said the stickers currently on METRO vehicles represent the 2016 Measure D that was passed. One of the stipulations of receiving the 2016 Measure D funds is to display these stickers on METRO vehicles. However, with the new Measure D on the June ballot, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCRTC) gave approval to cover up the 2016 Measure D stickers until after the election. METRO is temporarily covering these stickers up with “Dump the Pump” stickers.

Mr. Martinez asked if ParaCruz Van Operators could be given cash to provide change to riders. COO Ross, explained it was not an option. Brandon Freeman, Bus Operator, added that it would be a liability for METRO.

4. **RECEIVE AND FILE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

MOTION: ACCEPT AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022 AS PRESENTED

MOTION: ELSEA

SECOND: PISANO

MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES: Von Hendy, Martinez, Cruse, de Wit, Elsea, Pisano, and Taylor.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC)**

Chair Von Hendy reported on the letter he wrote to the Board of Directors (Board) requesting staff to create a section on METRO’s website to share the things that METRO is doing for sustainability and environmental issues. The Board acknowledged receipt of MAC’s letter at the February 25, 2022 Board meeting. The Board has not directed staff to take action.

6. UPDATE OF FY23 AND FY24 PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGETS AND FY23 CAPITAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 25, 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chuck Farmer, CFO, spoke to the presentation that was presented to the Board of Directors on March 25, 2022. He emphasized that this is preliminary data. Mr. Pisano asked if METRO gets a price break when charging the electric buses. CFO Farmer said the electric buses are charged at night at the lowest rates. Ms. Elsea asked about the job title change for the Mobility Training Coordinator position and requested a copy of the new job description.

7. UPDATE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (ITS)

Isaac Holly, IT and ITS Director, provided an update on the progress of the ITS project and mentioned that it is currently in the design phase and ahead of schedule.

Ms. Elsea and Mr. Pisano expressed appreciation for Director Holly's work on this project.

8. COVID-19 UPDATE

Margo Ross, COO, reported on the following:

COVID-19: One positive case was reported on April 20, 2022.

Earth Day: METRO will offer free fares on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2022.

COVID-19: One positive case was reported on April 20, 2022.

CEO: A press release on Michael Tree was shared with the MAC Members. Mr. Cruse asked that a copy of the press release be distributed to the Committee.

9. SERVICE PLANNING UPDATE

a. Quarterly Ridership Report

John Urgo, Planning and Development Director, gave a brief summary of the ridership report for the second quarter of FY22. The full report went to the Board on February 25, 2022.

b. Bus Stops

Mr. Pisano asked about the new shelters. Director Urgo said there are 23 shelters that were acquired from Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and are being distributed throughout Santa Cruz County.

c. Other Projects

i. Pacific Station Lobby Access

Director Urgo said the Pacific Station lobby remains closed, but the restrooms are still open to the public. Within the next two weeks the fence will be removed in the lobby of the Watsonville Transit Center.

Ms. Taylor asked about the braille bus stop signage. Discussion followed and it was determined that Ms. Elsea would reach out to Director Urgo to provide further input.

10. DISCUSS PREVIOUS BUS STOP COMMITTEE HISTORY

Ms. Elsea provided a brief overview of the Bus Stop Advisory Committee. Discussion ensued on the type of work the Committee did before it was dissolved.

Chair Von Hendy asked if this was something she was hoping to have revisited or re-established by the Board. Ms. Elsea asked who the public should contact regarding bus stop issues now. COO Ross said those issues are currently being handled by the Operations and Planning Departments. Mr. Freeman added that Customer Service can also be contacted.

11. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO CEO

Chair Von Hendy will write a letter to the new CEO to formally welcome him to METRO and invite him to the next MAC meeting on August 17, 2022.

MOTION: WRITE A WELCOME LETTER TO THE NEW CEO AND INVITE HIM TO THE NEXT MAC MEETING

MOTION: ELSEA

SECOND: PISANO

MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES: Von Hendy, Martinez, Cruse, de Wit, Elsea, Pisano, and Taylor.

12. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

None

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- COVID-19 Update
- Santa Cruz County Fair
- Priorities of new METRO CEO
- Pacific Station Updates
- Fall Schedule
- Braille Bus Stop Signage
- ITS Update

14. DISTRIBUTION OF VOUCHERS

Elizabeth Rocha, Administrative Specialist, will mail out the vouchers on Thursday, April 21, 2022 to all members in attendance at this meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Von Hendy announced the next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rocha
Administrative Specialist