



SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO) CAPITAL PROJECTS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

JUNE 11, 2021 – 10:30AM

DUE TO COVID-19, THE JUNE 11, 2021 SANTA CRUZ METRO CAPITAL PROJECTS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-25-20 AND N-29-20, WHICH SUSPEND CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT

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

Directors, staff and the public may participate remotely via Zoom [at this link](#) and entering the passcode (537576) or by calling 1-669-900-9128 Meeting ID 846 2621 3614

Public comment may be submitted via email to boardinquiries@scmttd.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 weekly correspondence that is posted online at board meeting packet link.

The Capital Projects Standing Committee Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.SCMTD.com.

The Committee 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.

COMMITTEE ROSTER

Director Bruce McPherson
Director Donna Meyers
Director Larry Pageler

County of Santa Cruz
City of Santa Cruz
County of Santa Cruz

Alex Clifford
Julie Sherman

METRO CEO/General Manager
METRO General Counsel

MEETING TIME: 10:30AM

NOTE: THE COMMITTEE CHAIR MAY TAKE ITEMS OUT OF ORDER

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS FROM AGENDA/ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS**

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS STANDING COMMITTEE

This time is set aside for Directors and members of the public to address any item not on the Agenda, but which is within the matter jurisdiction of the Committee. If you wish to address the Committee, please follow the directions at the top of the agenda. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the Committee and included for the official record, please include it in your email. Comments that require a response may be deferred for staff reply.

5. CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CEO TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE SOUTH COUNTY ZERO-EMISSIONS OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Wondimu Mengistu, Grants/Legislative Analyst

6. ADJOURNMENT

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 in the official report, please include it in your email. Comments that require a response may be deferred for staff reply.



DATE: June 11, 2021
TO: Capital Projects Standing Committee
FROM: Wondimu Mengistu, Grants and Legislative Analyst
SUBJECT: **CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CEO TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE SOUTH COUNTY ZERO-EMISSIONS OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Capital Projects Standing Committee recommend the Board of Directors adopt a resolution that authorizes the CEO to submit a grant application and execute an agreement for funding from the RAISE Grant Program for the South County Zero-Emissions Operating and Maintenance Facility Plan

II. SUMMARY

- The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced a funding opportunity for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants on April 13, 2021.
- In December 2018, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted an Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) Regulation, which mandates, starting in 2026, an escalating percentage of future bus procurements to be zero emission buses (ZEBs).
- Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's (METRO) existing bus yard is limited in its ability to accommodate the footprint required for a fueling/charging, operating and maintenance infrastructure for a full fleet of ZEBs. A new Zero-Emissions Operating and Maintenance Facility in the South County is necessary for METRO to fully transition to zero-emission buses by 2040.
- The project budget is approximately \$1 million. The proposed project budget will not require local matching funds from METRO.
- Staff is requesting the Capital Projects Standing Committee recommend the Board of Directors adopt a resolution (Attachment A) that authorizes the

CEO to submit a grant application and execute an agreement necessary to receive USDOT funds.

III. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

On April 23, 2021 the USDOT published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 discretionary grant funding through RAISE, a new name for the grant program formerly known as BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Program). This grant solicitation offers METRO an opportunity to submit applications for the South County Zero-Emissions Operating and Maintenance Facility Plan ("Proposed Project").

On December 14, 2018, CARB adopted its ICT Regulation which requires all transit agencies designated as a small transit agency to transition their bus fleet to all ZEBs beginning in 2026. Starting in 2026, small transit agencies must purchase ZEBs for 25% of all bus purchases, and 100% of all bus purchases must be ZEBs starting in 2029. METRO has already taken steps to electrify its fleet with battery electric zero emission buses; however, METRO's existing physical space is limited to accommodate its currently planned ZEB deployments, and is not adequate to meet the needs of a fleet-wide ZEB transition goal by 2040. A new Zero-Emissions Operating and Maintenance Facility in the South County would enable METRO to meet the ICT rule while providing a base for its buses serving four Watsonville local routes as well as inter-city routes to Santa Cruz.

The RAISE grant will be used to develop a master plan for the Proposed Project, including functional analysis, alternative studies, site selection, hazardous material and geotechnical studies, utility and third party coordination, environmental compliance, and compliance with the Uniform Act of 1970 for real estate acquisitions. This planning grant will also fund up to 30% of the conceptual/preliminary design assessing the spatial area requirements for general bus maintenance, fueling, exterior washing, interior cleaning, and additional space required for administrative and operating staff offices.

The Proposed Project, once completed, supports ZEB operations at the Watsonville Transit Center (WTC), which is the primary transfer point between four Watsonville local routes, four inter-city routes to Santa Cruz, and other regional transit agency routes serving WTC, including Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), which operates three routes to/from WTC. It will eliminate costly and inefficient deadheading of 17 miles back to Santa Cruz for midday recharging and a bus exchange. The Proposed Project will also promote economic development, reduce burdens of commuting and improve overall well-being in the South County.

The Proposed Project will not require local matching funds from METRO. The Project is located in a Census Tract that meets the USDOT's definition of a project located in an Area of Persistent Poverty. Per the Consolidated

Appropriations Act, 2021, RAISE grants may be used for up to 100% of the costs of a project located in a rural area or a planning project that is located in or is to directly benefit an Area of Persistent Poverty.

Why is a South County Bus Division needed?

- To be compliant with the ICT and transition to a 100% zero emission bus fleet.
- See Attachment B - Center for Transportation & the Environment: Best case if METRO goes 100% battery electric buses (BEB) as we transition to compliance with the State ICT, we can fit 67 BEBs into our current bus lot with a possible overhead gantry charging system. METRO's current bus fleet is 94 buses, and METRO should plan for future possible expansion.
- There is not sufficient room at the current facility to add a small hydrogen fuel cell fueling facility. Staff intends to apply for a 2022 FTA LoNo grant for five hydrogen fuel cell electric buses (FCEB). Staff believes that FCEBs may prove to have a greater range than BEBs and that METRO's journey towards ICT compliance may include a mix of BEBs and FCEBs.

Staff is seeking the Capital Projects Standing Committee recommend the Board of Directors adopt a resolution (Attachment A) that authorizes the CEO to submit a grant application and execute an agreement for funding from the RAISE Grant Program for the South County Zero-Emissions Operating and Maintenance Facility Plan.

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 CONSIDERATIONS/IMPACT

If awarded, the planning grant from RAISE would provide revenue necessary to develop planning, environmental clearance, conceptual/preliminary design and real estate acquisition cost estimates for a new facility with no local cash requirement. Staff will request a Capital Budget amendment if the grant is awarded.

VI. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Do not submit a RAISE grant application. METRO is seeking capital funding from external sources to plan, design and build a new facility needed to accommodate the required footprint for fueling/charging infrastructure, operating and

maintenance capacity for a fleet-wide transition to 100% ZEBs. The current federal grant solicitation presents an opportunity to acquire planning funds with no local share. Forgoing this opportunity will delay METRO's plan to transition to a 100% zero emission fleet by 2040. This alternative is not recommended.

VII. ATTACHMENTS


Attachment A: Resolution authorizing the CEO to submit an application and to execute agreement necessary to receive RAISE funds to develop a master plan for the South County Zero-Emissions Operating and Maintenance Facility, including functional analysis, Alternative studies, site selection, environmental clearance and conceptual/preliminary design.

Attachment B: CTE Memo- Parking Impacts of Large-Scale BEB Infrastructure at SCMTD

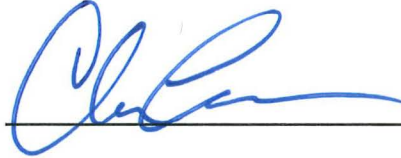
Prepared by: Wondimu Mengistu, Grants/Legislative Analyst

IX. APPROVALS

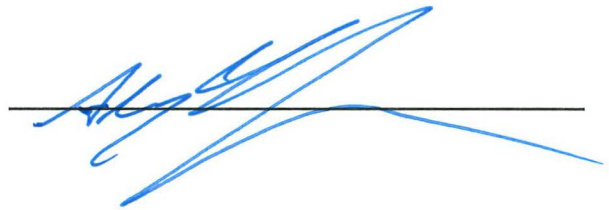
John Urgo, Planning
and Development Director



Approved as to fiscal impact:
Chuck Farmer, CFO



Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager



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Attachment A



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

Resolution No. _____

On the Motion of Director: _____

Duly Seconded by Director: _____

The Following Resolution is Adopted:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE AGREEMENT NECESSARY TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE SOUTH COUNTY ZERO-EMISSIONS OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

WHEREAS, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) is soliciting grant application for \$1 billion available nationwide in the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants program; and,

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) is an eligible recipient of USDOT grant funds from the RAISE grants program; and,

WHEREAS, METRO needs capital funding to develop a master plan for the South County Zero-Emissions Operating and Maintenance Facility, including functional analysis, alternative studies, site selection, environmental clearance and conceptual/preliminary design; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District hereby authorizes Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager, or his designee, to submit grant applications for funds to develop a master plan for the South County Zero-Emissions Operating and

Attachment A

Resolution No. _____

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Maintenance Facility, including functional analysis, alternative studies, site selection, environmental clearance and conceptual/preliminary design, to execute all agreements necessary to receive funds from the USDOT.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th Day of June 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
District Counsel

Attachment B

MEMO

Re: Parking impacts of Large-Scale BEB Infrastructure at SCMTD

From: CTE

To: SCMTD Staff

Feb. 4, 2021

CTE understands there are concerns regarding the impact of potential overhead infrastructure to support large scale BEB charging on the parking capacity at the SCMTD facilities, which already experience a shortage of parking spaces¹. CTE has been working with AECOM to develop conceptual layouts of such charging infrastructure and used those preliminary analyses to quantify the parking impact of such infrastructure.

Table 1: Parking Requirements

SCMTD's total fleet size	94 buses
Buses that can currently be Parked Overnight at Maintenance Facility (10% of fleet)	9 buses
Required Capacity at Ops. Bldg. Lot	85 buses
Current Capacity at Ops Bldg. Lot	83 buses
Estimated Capacity at Ops. Bldg. Lot with Overhead Charging Infrastructure	67 buses

Figure 1 shows SCMTD's current bus parking layout, accommodating 68 buses in striped parking spaces, and 15 in the drive lanes for a total of 83 buses. AECOM's layout (Figure 2) shows enough room for 67 battery electric buses (BEBs). This net loss of 16 parking spaces indicates that large-scale overhead BEB charging infrastructure is likely to excessively impact parking capacity at SCMTD.

¹ Currently, SCMTD's Ops. Bldg. Lot has bus parking capacity for 83 buses, which is two spaces short of the 85 bus parking spaces that SCMTD needs for their operations.

Attachment B

Figure 1: Current Parking Layout: 83 Buses

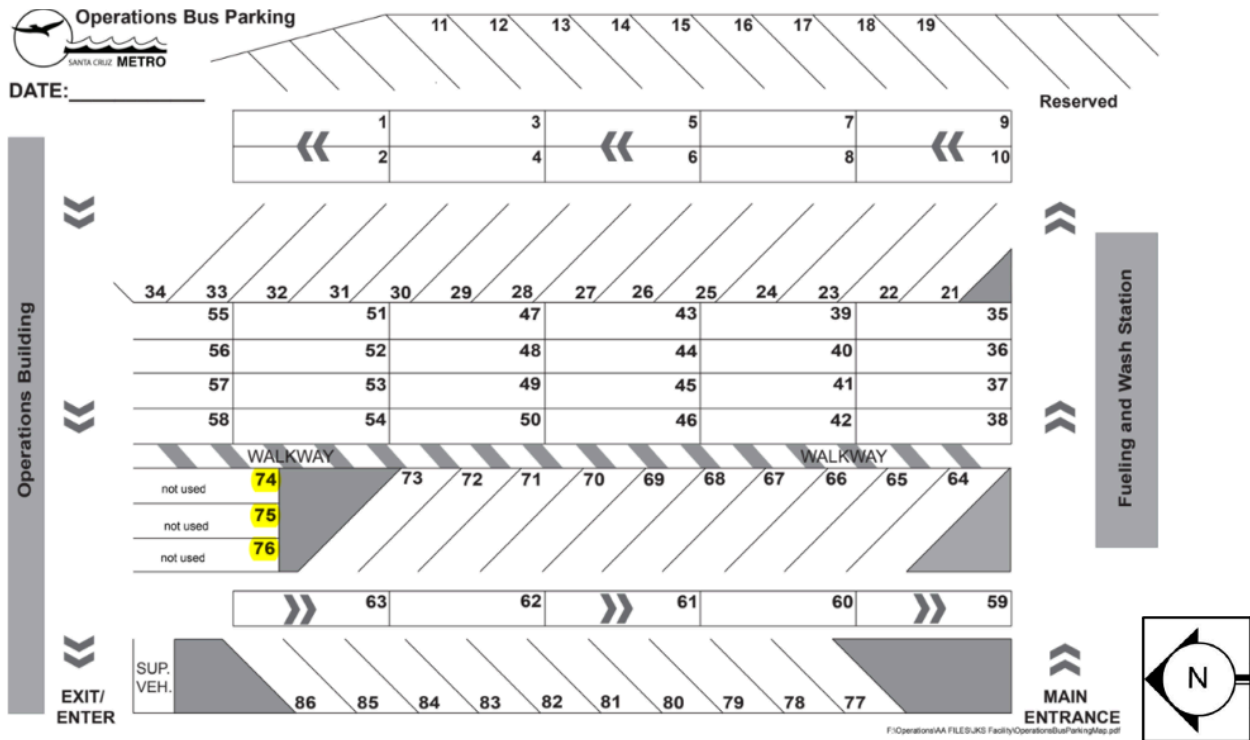


Figure 2. Conceptual SCMTD Parking Layout with BEB Charging Infrastructure: 67 Buses

