



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

**Tuesday, January 27, 2009
8:30 AM**

**Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District Auditorium
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, Jerry Estrada, Assistant GM/Controller; Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant; Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning & Compliance; David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations; Bill Morris, Manager of Operations

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Helene Schneider, City of Santa Barbara Councilmember/Council Liaison MTD; Ernesto Parades, Executive Director Easy Lift Transportation; Bob Tuler, Radius Commercial Real Estate Agent

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Davis reported that all members were present.

3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA

Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant reported that on Friday, January 9, 2009, 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.

4. & 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Fahnestock moved to approve the consent calendar for items #4 (Approval of minutes of January 13, 2009) and item #5 (Cash Report January 6, 2009 through January 19, 2009). Director Aceves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

The General Manager read public comment submitted by Hathor Hammett regarding her ideas and concerns related to the Line 8 service and a request for MTD to establish a diverse public committee, made up primarily of bus riders to provide a voice for community concerns.

7. UPDATE- EASY LIFT TRANSPORTATION

Ernesto Paredes, Executive Director Easy Lift Transportation provided the Board with historical information related to the formation of the agency and announced that Easy Lift Transportation recently celebrated 30 years of service to the community.

Mr. Paredes also provided the Board with information related to the agency's 6 months financial reports, recent audit, funding, ride requests procedures, recent fare increase (from \$2.50 to \$3.50) and their ongoing efforts to accommodate the increasing number of daily ride requests. He also reported that Easy Lift Transportation staff is closely monitoring concerns related to any hardships caused by the recent increase.

Additionally, he informed the Board of an upcoming meeting with First District Supervisor, Salud Carbajal to discuss options for Paratransit services throughout the county. Items to be discussed would be the growing need for these services and ideas related to sharing resources. Following a request from Vice Chair Weinberg, Mr. Paredes stated that he would provide him with information about the meeting.

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Bill Morris, Manager of Operations reported on the recent efforts of MTD Driver, Jim Peacock of going above and beyond the call of duty for his passengers. The Board requested that Mr. Peacock receive their compliments and thanks.

The General Manager reported that, following a request made by Director Aceves at MTD's last Board meeting, Helene Schneider, City of Santa Barbara Councilmember/Council Liaison to MTD, will provide the Board with City updates and budget information. The General Manager reported that she had spoken with Councilmember Schneider, who has agreed.

Following this report, Chair Davis moved to place Councilmember Schneider on MTD's future agendas, following public comment. Director Aceves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Schneider, who was present at the meeting, requested MTD's continued participation in the planning process for Plan SB and in particular the Mobility Oriented Development Area (MODA) portion of the plan. Additionally, she informed the Board that MTD staff can email her statistics and information, which she can briefly report on during Santa Barbara City Council meetings.

Jerry Estrada, Assistant GM/Controller provided the Board with an update and concerns related to State Transportation Development Act (TDA)/ Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and projected cuts to the funding due to local sales tax allocation figures.

Additionally, Mr. Estrada reported on planned cuts to State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. He noted that MTD has applied for additional operating assistance in hopes of receiving assistance with these serious funding concerns.

In response to a question asked by Director Fahnstock regarding the Downtown Waterfront Shuttles, Mr. Estrada reported that information regarding this service would be included in MTD's 2009-2010 draft budget.

Following an update regarding MTD's recent release of a request for proposals (RFP) for acquisition of eight electric shuttle buses, Director McQuary requested that staff continue to keep the Board updated regarding the RFP and the batteries that will be installed in the vehicles.

The General Manager informed the Board on the City of Goleta's recent partnering with Amtrak to improve the bus turning circle at the Goleta Amtrak station. She reported that Goleta will use redevelopment money and the bus circle will be allowed for use by Amtrak, MTD and other bus operators. She noted that currently, MTD does not offer routes to the station.

The General Manager and the Board discussed the "Alliance for Sustainable Transportation" meeting that took place Saturday. She reported that the meeting was well attended.

Vice Chair Weinberg stated that the meeting consisted of a lot of discussion about rail and commented that he is concerned how implementation of rail would effect funding for bus transit. He requested that staff continue to keep the Board updated regarding this topic.

The General Manager reported that on February 4th she would be participating in a meeting held by Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE SB), regarding transit needs.

The General Manager informed the Board that staff is in the process of coordinating a meeting with staff of Gold Coast Transit, the Coastal Express and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to discuss regional transit services.

9. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Director McQuary requested that a meeting of the Development Committee take place.

Chair Davis requested that a ceremonial item be placed on the next agenda, honoring Director Britton's years of service as MTD's Board Chair.

Director Fahnestock reported that the Calle Real Ad Hoc Committee had recently met to discuss future options related to the property.

10. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION- 5353 OVERPASS ROAD

The Board met in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, conference with real property negotiators regarding lease of the MTD owned 5353 Overpass Road Property; MTD negotiators Bob Tuler & Brian Johnson, Agents, Radius Commercial Real Estate.

Upon returning from closed session, Chair Davis reported staff was instructed to continue negotiations.

11. ADJOURNMENT