

To: MTD Board of Directors
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager
Date: March 3, 2020
Subject: General Manager's Report

Operations, Fleet and Facilities

Operations Manager Bill Morris and Manny Castanon, Safety and Training Administrator, participated in a County of Santa Barbara led discussion regarding Family Assistance Centers. MTD was invited to participate in the facilities, logistics and equipment portion of the program.

In preparation for summer, annual preventative maintenance on bus air conditioning systems started on February 21 with five of 45 buses complete. During the week of February 2, representatives from BYD as well as IO Controls were on-site working on updating chargers and buses to work with the ELMS system. This computer based system will enable MTD to manage BYD bus charging times, while avoiding charging during peak rate hours.

MTD's Maintenance Manager, Nolan Robertson, and Capital Projects Manager, Ryan Gripp, traveled to Gold Coast Transit District for a demonstration of BYD's latest 40' battery electric bus. The consensus is that the fit and finish of the bus has improved. BYD appears to be making progress toward addressing design and assembly defects that were present on their previous models.

Staff are developing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) solicitation to contract with a design team for on-call architecture and engineering services. The first project the design team will work on is the reopening of Terminal 2 in Goleta. The design will include site improvements identified in the Facilities Master Plan that consist of above ground fueling infrastructure, a fare vault and probing equipment, security enhancements including surveillance cameras, perimeter fencing improvements and new gates, electrical service upgrades, new lighting, minor tenant improvements to offices and restrooms in the main building, and landscape improvements. The preceding work will allow MTD to park buses that operate out of the Goleta area to reduce deadhead and alleviate congestion at Terminal 1.

Staff met with personnel from Momentum Dynamics to discuss their inductive vehicle charging technology. Their presentation made clear that inductive charging technology is rapidly evolving to include equipment with more energy output, greater efficiency, and a smaller footprint. While MTD is not pursuing such technology at the moment, there may come a time when operational demands require opportunity charging to ensure buses have the range necessary for longer routes.

Administration

MTD staff attended the ribbon cutting for a new affordable housing development built by the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara, Johnson Court. This location is providing

permanent supportive housing for 16 formerly homeless veterans, and each resident received a welcome home packet from MTD with a custom area transit stop map, schedule guide, and a free 10-ride bus pass.

On Monday, March 2, General Manager Estrada and staff will participate with SBCAG, VCTC, and various other stakeholders in a workshop for the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan (TEPP). The TEPP is a joint project of VCTC and SBCAG that was funded following the twin disasters of the Thomas Fire and the Montecito Debris Flow. The workshop will be a mini-Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). Although both Santa Barbara County and Ventura County have performed THIRAs, this THIRA will focus specifically on events that would have the biggest impact on transportation issues.

Staff continue to work with LMA Architects and their subcontractors on the bus stop improvement project. The first bus stop on the list is the addition of a new Line 28 stop on Pacific Oaks Road at Phelps Road. This stop is desired by UCSB to serve their housing to the west of the location. Staff are also working to improve the stop on El Colegio at Camino Corto with a new shelter and sidewalk. Multiple routes serve this stop and it is utilized by many riders. Staff are also considering possible improvements to the stop on El Colegio at Embarcadero del Mar. Staff next plan to address the outbound stop on Hollister Avenue at Turnpike Road, followed by San Andres Street at Micheltorena Street, and Carrillo Street at San Pascual. In total, the project includes 17 bus stops.

Finance staff have prepared information for the IRS 5500 annual information return related to the staff retirement plan for calendar year 2019. Such information has been provided to Fidelity Investments, the trustee and administrator for the 401(k) plan, who will prepare the actual return for MTD and provide to MTD for review. It is due to the IRS by July 31.

IT staff recently completed a security upgrade to all MTD PC workstations. The process included initially wiping each PC clean to ensure the removal of any existing hidden malware and viruses; installing the latest operating system; and adding a new "behavioral" security software that monitors the PCs for any unusual activities. With the types of attacks now common, the behavioral approach is necessary for protections that are not detected by the anti-malware software also loaded on each workstation.