

To: MTD Board of Directors  
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager  
Date: May 18, 2021  
Subject: General Manager's Report

Southern California Edison's (SCE) Ventura planning office has completed the preliminary designs for the power feed and charging equipment infrastructure. Staff is reviewing the designs, along with those provided earlier by SCE's engineering consultant, Black and Veatch. Once approved by MTD, SCE and their consultant will develop the final design and prepare the permit package for submittal to the City of Santa Barbara.

Staff has submitted the requisite documentation to New Flyer for the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP). If received, the voucher will provide up to \$138,000 toward the acquisition of one of the New Flyer battery-electric buses.

Staff is working with members of the City of Santa Barbara's Energy and Climate team to develop a strategy for incorporating MTD's microgrid planning project (California Energy Commission Blueprints for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure grant) into the City's robust public outreach effort for their various sustainability initiatives.

Staff uploaded the requisite Q1 2021 data to MTD's California Air Resources Board Low Carbon Fuel Standard portal. The data reflects the energy used to charge the 30' BYD battery-electric buses and Chevrolet Bolt sedans from January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. Based upon the data, it is estimated that MTD will generate 62 credits for Q1 2021.

Personnel from Complete Coach Works, Cummins Corporation, and MTD worked together to complete the spec for the new engines and exhaust aftertreatment systems that will be installed on seven of MTD's 2011 40' Gillig buses during the Fleet Renewal Campaign project. In spite of industry-wide supply constraints, the Cummins plant anticipates having the engines completed by mid-June, which is sooner than originally estimated.

The Transit Center reopened to the public on Monday, April 26, 2021, in order to give passengers time to purchase passes prior to the resumption of fare collection on Monday, May 10, 2021. The Transit Center is limited to passengers needing to conduct a transaction or seek information, and there is a capacity limit of 20 people to allow for physical distancing.

Staff attended Zoom meetings of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG's) Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) and Joint Technical Advisory Committee (JTAC) on May 6. TTAC received an update on the draft Measure A Program of Projects for FYs 2021-22 through 2025-26. TTAC recommended that the SBCAG Board approve the distribution of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) funds to the Highway 101 widening and local jurisdictions, and the distribution of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 CRRSAA funds to the County's non-urban transit services. TTAC also recommended that the Board

approve the distribution of FY 2021-22 Local Surface Transportation Program funds to local jurisdictions. Additionally, TTAC recommended that the Board approve the distribution formulas for future State of Good Repair (SGR) and Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) allocations. The formulas were worked out in a series of meetings between the County's transit operators. JTAC received updates on changes to the definition of urban areas proposed by Census Bureau, and on the California State Transportation Agency's draft "Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure" (CAPTI). The draft CAPTI details how the state recommends investing billions of discretionary transportation dollars annually to aggressively combat and adapt to climate change, while supporting public health, safety, and equity.

MTD's Triennial Review by the FTA was completed on May 7, with no findings of deficiencies. This suggests that MTD's operations were compliant with all FTA rules in all of the 19 subject areas that FTA reviewed. This result is a compliment to the hard work of MTD employees.

Staff submitted the April monthly COVID-19 report. This was the second month of this new monthly report required by FTA that includes information on service impacts, the number of employees by function, and the number of cases of COVID-19. Staff also submitted the April monthly safety and security and ridership reports to FTA.

Human Resources is currently moving forward on many different fronts, with recruitment of unfilled positions a top priority. The primary focus is the hiring of Bus Operators to fill positions left open during the start of the pandemic, as well as to hire up for anticipated future service levels. HR has also begun recruitment for two Mechanic positions and one Service Worker position, and has recently completed a recruitment for a Marketing and Communications Coordinator, a staff position that became open with the recent promotion of Anthony Mendibles from this position to Assistant Safety and Training Administrator.

HR is pleased to report that an offer was accepted by candidate Ms. Allison Hall, who will join the MTD team effective May 24, 2021 and will report directly to Hillary Blackerby, Planning and Marketing Manager.

The financial auditor contract with Vasquez & Company has been executed following their provision of required insurance documentation. MTD's audit team will be meeting with the firm in late May to begin the annual audit process with the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year nearing quickly. A similar meeting is also being scheduled with DFA-actuaries for preparation of the OPEB actuarial valuation. This year a full valuation will be completed, which is required every other year under Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements. The recommendation for the Short Range Transit Plan contract award is being pushed back to the June 1 board meeting.

The Cal-ITP sponsored mobile payment demonstration project is making progress. The contactless payment system will accept fares via mobile devices (i.e., cell phones) as well as credit cards through near-field communications "tap" technology. The pilot demonstration will involve 10 buses serving the West Goleta/UCSB area. MTD staff is in the process of testing communications of the validator device that will serve as the onboard customer interface. The

public-facing screens are also being finalized while marketing plans are being developed. Finalization of contracts with the three primary parties providing the hardware, software, and credit card processing is expected shortly. System “go-live” is anticipated for late June.