

To: MTD Board of Directors
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager
Date: June 1, 2021
Subject: General Manager's Report

Operations

Our quarterly Verification of Transit Training (VTT) classes started this week for all bus operators. The State of California requires eight hours of annual training to have a commercial driver's license, with passenger endorsement. These sessions include the required FTA Prohibited Drug Awareness Program Training.

Staff is meeting with personnel from Southern California Edison (SCE), Stantec, Black and Veatch, ChargePoint, and Certified Environmental Consultants on May 27 to formally kick-off MTD's heavy-duty charging infrastructure and charger installation project with the full project team. During the meeting, we will be reviewing the preliminary designs developed by SCE's design consultant, Black and Veatch and MTD's design consultant, Stantec. The team will also discuss soil remediation and the project schedule.

On May 26, staff had a conference call with New Flyer's electronics team to finalize the specifications for the auxiliary electronic equipment included with the New Flyer battery-electric bus build. The equipment includes the farebox, Clever Devices AVL/ITS, surveillance system, radio, and data recorder.

New Flyer will submit a voucher request on behalf of MTD for the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) when the program opens at 10 a.m. on June 8. If received, the voucher will provide up to \$138,000 toward the acquisition of one of the New Flyer battery-electric buses.

Staff received notification from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District that MTD's three VW Mitigation Trust grant applications will be awarded up to \$180,000 for three of the New Flyer battery-electric buses. Staff is in the process of reviewing the grant agreement.

Staff is working with California Energy Commission (CEC) personnel to prepare MTD's Blueprint Grant project for review and consideration for approval at the CEC Business Meeting on August 11. If approved, staff would be able to move forward with crafting a comprehensive plan for developing a microgrid at MTD's Terminal 1 facility.

Administration

Allison Hall joined the MTD Marketing team as Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Allison holds a bachelor's degree in Film and Media Studies from Whitman College. Her background is in commercial videography, marketing and public relations. Before her role at Santa Barbara MTD, she created digital content for organizations such as Seattle Children's Research Institute and the French Consulate of Seattle. Allison will be responsible for MTD's social media,

graphic design, and other communications work. We are excited to welcome Allison to the MTD team.

MTD's FY 2021 FTA Section 5307 operating assistance award was certified by the Department of Labor, which is a required step prior to execution of the award. As is the case this year, these funds are typically available late in the fiscal year. Staff is preparing additional FTA awards, including Section 5339(a) formula capital funds for the Fleet Renewal Campaign, and COVID-19 pandemic relief funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Following the reintroduction of fare collection on May 10, staff has restarted the City of Santa Barbara MyRide pass program. Under the MyRide program, the City pays the fare for City employees who ride MTD buses.

MTD's Risk Administrator, Rafael Cortez, attended the 15th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference May 11 - May 14, 2021. The conference was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, and this year was held as a virtual event. The event is free to attendees every year, and provides a background on Prevention of Alcohol Misuse and Prohibited Drug Use in Transit Operators (49 CFR Part 655) and Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs (49 CFR Part 40). Mr. Cortez attended training sessions for Drug and Alcohol Program Manager (DAPM) and various other sessions focused on running a compliant drug and alcohol program.

Human Resources has completed several interviews over the past two weeks for candidates for the position of Bus Operator. Five candidates will move forward with offers of employment, and interviews for other candidates are being scheduled weekly. Focused recruiting efforts among several social media outlets, job search engine sites, and networking through HR channels has seen positive results with an increase in applications. Further marketing will begin soon through radio outlets, and HR is working with the Marketing Department to create a refreshed marketing campaign to be placed on and in our buses, to include Bus Operator and other open positions.