

To: MTD Board of Directors
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager
Date: September 21, 2021
Subject: General Manager's Report

Operations, Fleet and Facilities

MTD participated in Teamsters Local 186 job fair at the union hall this past Saturday in Ventura. Manny Castanon, Safety and Training Administrator and Elsa Perez, Senior Human Resources Analyst helped staff a booth to answer questions. The job fair was held outdoors for better visibility to the public and followed COVID-19 safety protocols. Other attendees included the building trades and one other transit company, MV Transportation.

Southern California Edison's (SCE) design consultant, Black and Veatch, has submitted plans to the City of Santa Barbara for permits related to SCE's portion of the heavy-duty charging infrastructure and charger installation project. MTD's design consultant, Stantec, is wrapping-up the design for the portion of the project MTD is responsible for and intends to submit construction drawings to the City for permitting the week of September 13. Staff is also working on the Invitation for Bid to secure a general contractor to perform the work, for which MTD is responsible.

Staff is working with New Flyer to adjust the build schedule to align with the anticipated completion of the SCE charging infrastructure project. New Flyer submitted 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 opened in June. As a result of the foregoing, CARB awarded MTD a voucher for one of the four New Flyer battery-electric buses recently procured. The voucher will provide up to \$138,000 toward the cost of the bus.

Staff executed a grant agreement with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District enabling MTD to receive Volkswagen Mitigation Trust monies for three of four New Flyer battery-electric buses recently procured. The grant will provide MTD up to \$180,000 per bus.

After MTD's MD/HD Zero-emission Infrastructure Blueprint Grant project was approved at a California Energy Commission (CEC) Business Meeting in August, the project team has pivoted to project implementation. The first task is a kickoff meeting between the team (personnel from MTD, the City of Santa Barbara, and CALSTART) and CEC staff in early October.

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 bringing the accumulated total to 229.

Earlier this month, staff received notification from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) that MTD received 14 bonus credits toward the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation for operating 14 battery-electric vehicles prior to January 1, 2018. In accordance with the ICT regulation,

agencies that were early adopters of EV technology are eligible for bonus credits that can be used toward zero-emission bus purchase requirements that go into effect in 2026 for small transit operators (MTD is a "small transit" operator based upon ICT criteria). While it is unlikely that MTD will utilize said credits due to our effort to meet the Board's 2030 zero-emission bus goal, it's an important recognition of MTD's long history of operating and maintaining battery-electric bus technologies.

Administration

Line 28 resumed service on Monday, September 20, 2021, after being suspended since March of 2020. We are excited to welcome UCSB students back on board as their campus reopens.

Staff is collecting the information needed for the upcoming FY 2021 National Transit Database (NTD) Annual Report, as mandated by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). FTA uses NTD data to apportion funding to urbanized and rural areas in the United States. The NTD is FTA's repository of data regarding the financial, operating and asset conditions of American public transit systems. The NTD supports local, state and regional planning efforts and help governments and other decision-makers make multi-year comparisons and perform trend analyses. It includes information such as agency funding sources, inventories of vehicles and maintenance facilities, safety event reports, measures of transit service provided and consumed, and data on transit employees. Transit agencies report data on a number of key metrics including revenue miles, revenue hours, passenger miles traveled, passenger trips, and operating and capital expenses and revenue.

The California Transportation Development Act (TDA) Triennial Performance Audits are underway. Staff completed the first step, collecting the documents requested by the consultant retained by SBCAG to conduct the audits of SBCAG and all of the County transit.

Staff participated in the kick-off meeting for Cycle 5 of the Measure A South Coast "Safe Routes to School Program" and "Bicycle and Pedestrian Program" on September 14. SBCAG estimates that, between the two programs, a total of approximately \$3.4 million will be available over the three-year call for projects (FY 2022-23 through FY 2024-25).

The contactless fare payment validators on the buses received a software update to implement anti-pass back protection similar to that on the electronic fareboxes, which prevents multiple users of the same daily or monthly pass during loading at a given bus stop. The "Tap to Ride" program is similar in that payment by a single credit card is capped at \$6.00 per day and \$52.00 per month after which fares will no longer be charged.

Two bids were received in response to the solicitation for services related to maintenance uniforms, towels, mats and other linen supplies. The bids are under review and a contract award recommendation will be issue once completed. In the last report, it was stated that it may need to be brought to the board for approval but neither of the two bids approached the \$250,000 threshold.