



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

January 2021



Thoughts from the General Manager



The COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on public transit ridership as the public health crisis brought about stay at home orders to reduce the spread of the virus. Aside from suspending service on certain lines that are generally dominated by students heading to campus and tourists exploring the area, we were able to keep the rest of our service running on its standard schedules with the same headways as before the pandemic to support our essential workers.

The pandemic put a finer point on what we already knew: thousands of essential workers and other individuals in our community rely on MTD's public transit service to get them where they need to go every day. Our riders keep our region fed, healthy, and safe, and we couldn't be prouder to serve them.

Going forward, it's crucial that local public transit service be prioritized to support our local schools, businesses, grocery stores, and medical institutions. With remote work likely here to stay for many employers, and housing needs rising to the forefront of community discussions, a look inward at our local transportation services seems appropriate. As such, maintaining reliable and frequent public transit service along our local transportation corridors is vital to the long-term success of our community.

MTD is charging ahead towards a zero-emissions future, contactless fare payment, microtransit, and other ways to make transit more attractive. As we address the obstacles before us, together as a community, we will come out stronger and more resilient on the other side.

Jerry Estrada
MTD General Manager

Board of Directors

Dave Davis, Chair
David Tabor, Vice Chair
Bill Shelor, Secretary

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Transit Center Renovation Complete

The renovation of the Transit Center on Chapala was completed this past summer. The project included a completely revamped interior, new bus driveway and sidewalk, brighter lighting, and new landscaping. Technology upgrades include outward- and inward-facing real-time bus departure displays, a new bill breaker machine, and several accessibility features. While the interior is still closed to the public at this time, it will reopen when fare collection resumes later in 2021.



Planning for the Future

Short Range Transit Plan

MTD was awarded a competitive grant from Caltrans' Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant program to develop a new Short Range Transit Plan. This planning effort will get underway in Spring 2021, assessing current conditions, doing deep and wide community outreach, and planning for the next 5 years of transit service and beyond.

Isla Vista Community Mobility Plan

Serving as a sub-applicant, MTD staff assisted the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) in applying for funds the inaugural cycle of the California Air Resources Board's Sustainable Transportation Equity Project grant program. The application was successful and will fund the development of an Isla Vista Community Mobility Plan. This process will develop an equity-based plan, empowering Isla Vista residents to identify gaps in their mobility ecosystem, experiment with solutions, and develop a list of priority projects that will increase access to an equitable, affordable, sustainable, and safe multimodal transportation system.

District Stats



113
VEHICLES IN FLEET



14,161
DAILY WEEKDAY PASSENGERS



208,906
REVENUE HOURS



5,154,750
YEARLY PASSENGERS



2,509,929
MILES DRIVEN ANNUALLY

Zero-Emissions Progress

In November 2018, the MTD Board of Directors voted to adopt a goal of a 100 percent zero-emissions fleet by 2030. This goal builds on 30 years of electric transit experience for MTD, and several strides were made in 2020 to get the agency closer to achieving this ambitious goal.

- With funding from Southern California Edison's Charge Ready Program and the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District, the infrastructure to charge 10 new Chevrolet Bolt fully electric vehicles was installed in 2020 and the vehicles are in operation.
- The first 4 40' battery-electric buses are on order and expected to arrive towards the end of 2021 from New Flyer. A second SCE Charge Ready Program grant was awarded to MTD for the installation of 14 heavy-duty electric vehicle charges at Terminal 1 in Santa Barbara to lay the ground work for the acquisition of additional battery-electric buses.
- MTD was named a Climate Hero in the Clean Air category by the City of Santa Barbara's Spirit of Service Awards for its commitment to pursuing a zero-emission fleet and innovative clean energy solutions that will strengthen the region as a whole.
- The agency has applied for a grant from the California Energy Commission that would develop a blueprint for zero-emission expansion, including the design of an energy microgrid. The microgrid, consisting of renewable energy generation and battery storage would provide resiliency for MTD operations.





The Mission of MTD

is to enhance the mobility of South Coast residents, commuters, and visitors by offering safe, appealing, equitable, environmentally responsible, and fiscally sound transit service.

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