

To: MTD Board of Directors
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager
Date: April 9, 2024
Subject: General Manager's Report

The FTA annually manages two related nationwide competitive grant programs: Section 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program; and 5339(c) Low or No Emission Grant Program. Both programs provide capital assistance to the agencies selected for funding. For the FY 2024 grant programs, MTD is partnering with four other agencies to submit one application for electric buses and chargers: Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST); Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD); San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (SLORTA); and City of San Luis Obispo Transit (SLO Transit). MTD is including two 40-ft. electric buses and chargers; in total, the application will include 18 buses and chargers, along with funding for workforce development. MST is taking the lead in preparing the application, and each of the five agencies will submit identical proposals to both grant programs. The applications are due April 25.

The final tasks of the Charge Ready Bridge Project require excavation of contaminated soils in and around the Salsipuedes driveway area; and, it was determined that additional soils testing is needed before that work can take place. The additional soil sampling is slated to take place the week of April 8. After the results of the additional testing are available, the project team will work with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department to obtain the appropriate approvals to perform the remaining work.

Staff recently kicked-off a new project with MTD's architectural and engineering services firm, Stantec. The project, referred to as the Haley Canopy Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure Improvements Project, will result in the conversion of existing 208V ZEV infrastructure to 480V. The current infrastructure was used for MTD's now retired fleet of electric shuttles. The new infrastructure will support MTD's latest generation of medium- and heavy-duty battery-electric buses and vans.

At Terminal 1, the driveway section leading out to Salsipuedes Street was repatched. Buses that would typically depart from that gate used the Haley gate for one day to allow the patch to cure and harden.

The City of Santa Barbara's work around our Transit Center continues and has increased in activity. Chapala, Figueroa, and Anapamu streets are all now under construction with major changes being implemented to improve pedestrian safety. Operations has been implementing routing detours under constant monitoring from our Road and Transit Center Supervisors. Extra supervision has been added, with continual communication to our Operators on the daily routing detours.

MTD received an additional \$414,000 in Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) funding for the New Flyer battery-electric bus (BEB) build. Originally, the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust's prohibition on stacking grant funding prohibited MTD from receiving

HVIP funding for three of the nine New Flyer buses. However, the policy changed and MTD pursued the three additional HVIP vouchers. The foregoing raises the total discretionary grant funding tied to the New Flyer BEB procurement to \$1,847,455.

Congratulations to Carlos A. and Nicolas F. for completing all of their bus operating training. Both have assumed their bid shifts for regular revenue service. Two other Operators in Training, Marco V and Damon R, continue their training, and, will soon take their DMV tests. One new Mechanic began employment on April 1, 2024 and started his Class B license training with the Operations team.

Human Resources and Risk staff is working with Brown and Brown on the renewal of the Property and Earthquake insurance policies, which are set to renew in May 2024. Ivette Martinez, Human Resources & Risk Manager, attended the FTA Drug and Alcohol Conference in Atlanta, Georgia last week.

Staff will attend meetings of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG's) Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) and Joint Technical Advisory Committee on April 4. TTAC will be asked to recommend that the SBCAG Board approve one of several options developed by SBCAG staff for programming Santa Barbara County funds from a new federal funding program called the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). The CRP was created as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and is jointly managed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

TTAC will also be asked to discuss possible changes to the Transportation Development Act - Local Transportation Fund (TDA-LTF) claim process that SBCAG staff has proposed. One proposed potential change would simplify the claim process. The other proposed change would create a reserve fund. Any year that the amount of TDA-LTF funds available was greater than the estimated amount, the additional funds would be placed in a reserve fund (currently those additional funds are allocated to the agencies). The reserve funds would be available for allocation in years when the actual funds available was a lesser amount than the estimate. TTAC will also receive updates on various topics.

JTAC will be asked to review the draft final iteration of the projects to be included in the ongoing update of the Regional Transportation Plan - Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP-SCS), and will receive an update on the Santa Barbara County Zero-Emission Vehicle Plan.

Staff submitted three monthly reports to the National Transit Database, as required by the FTA: the safety & security summary report for the previous month (there were no incidents); the actual systemwide riders, hours, and miles report for the previous month; and the one-week estimated systemwide data for the current month.

The General Manager has received the Engagement Letter from Vasquez + Company, LLP for the 2023-2024 Audit on the Financial Statements and intends to sign the agreement. The District

will be exercising its First Option Year, as the original contract was for the 2020/2021 through 2022/2023 Fiscal Years, with two one-year option periods.

The 1st payroll with the ADP HRIS/Payroll Software was performed on April 5. Accounting/Payroll and Human Resources are working on the next phases of this transition, Recruitment, On-Boarding and Employee Registration. The shift from manual systems to computer will enhance these processes.

IT Department is working with TRAPEZE for the Planning System Upgrade now that the Electronic Asset Management (EAM) system upgrade is completed and functional.

Procurement has finalized Qualifying five (5) bidders for the upcoming Renewable Diesel Supply Fuel Bid.