

To: MTD Board of Directors
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager
Date: July 16, 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 was recently notified that the FTA awarded funding for MTD towards the purchase of two 40-ft. electric buses and chargers, along with workforce development funds in the form of mechanic training. The FTA awarded \$2,894,131, and MTD will contribute state funds for a required match of \$536,075.

The Operations Training team reports that Alek K. and Heriberto I. have completed all of their training, and were recently released to revenue service. Hoang P. and Carlos S. will be conducting their DMV tests on July 10. This is where they will demonstrate to the DMV Examiner their proficiency in the Pre-Trip, Skills and Over the Road Tests. Christopher R. and Ramiro T. are set to be released to work with senior Operators on July 11. Jesus O., Norberto R., and Jose O. are to be released to work with senior Operators on July 12. Cameron P. is scheduled to be released to work with senior Operators on July 15. Larry M., Damen C., and Mohammed A. continue their training. Last, but certainly not least, are Luis A. and Jody T., who joined MTD last week. And there are a few more driver candidates scheduled for future interviews.

Santa Barbara's Old Spanish Days is coming up soon and Operations will start planning for the necessary modifications and changes to routes during all the events that happen that week due to street detours and closures.

In early June, a group of MTD Mechanics completed High Voltage Familiarization training provided by New Flyer for our new fleet of New Flyer buses. This training class is mandatory for all MTD Mechanics. The training class was conducted again during the week of July 8th for the Mechanics who did not attend in June. Operations and Maintenance are coordinating daily on the performance of the New Flyer fleet and are pleased to report that all nine buses are now out in revenue service.

A Workplan Addendum detailing the means and methods for excavating contaminated soils associated with the remaining work scope was submitting to the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department for review and approval. Once the Workplan Addendum is approved by County Public Health, MTD may apply for the requisite permit from the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District. The timeline for completing both steps, which must occur in succession, is anywhere from 60-150 days. After both agencies provide their approval, MTD's general contractor may commence with the remainder of the work associated with the project. That includes repairs to the Salsipuedes Street driveway, new perimeter fencing along Salsipuedes Street, and concrete patching adjacent the maintenance bays.

Planning and Marketing Manager Hillary Blackerby recently completed a Project Management for Transportation course through the University of the Pacific's Westgate Center for Leadership.

Staff is finishing up the last of five presentations at Safety Town, a weeklong summer camp for 4- and 5-year-olds who learn all about safety, including about riding the bus.

Finance/Accounting Staff are involved in closing the FY23-24 financial year and have begun the Financial and Single Audit preparation work.

Renewable Diesel Supply vendors are being qualified for the upcoming Solicitation. A Report with Recommendations is being presented to the Board for the purchase of 3 Electric Micro-Transit Vans, funded with a TIRCP grant. Staff are evaluating nine (9) proposals received for a new Voice Over Internet Phone (VOIP) system.

Information Technologies (IT) has been heavily involved in the TRAPEZE Operational system and Clever Devices Computer Aided Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) systems upgrades. IT also supported the annual year-end Inventory process as the Electronic Asset Management (EAM) system was upgraded after the previous count and an entire new process was required to be developed.

Staff attended a meeting of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG's) Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) on July 11. TTAC recommended that the SBCAG Board approve the FY 2023/24 Local Surface Transportation Program (LSTP) apportionments. The LSTP apportionments are federal funds that SBCAG trades to the state for state funds in order to remove federal compliance requirements from the funds. TTAC received updates on the development of the 2025 Measure A Strategic Plan and projects submitted for Cycle 7 of the California Transportation Commission's Active Transportation Program.