

To: MTD Board of Directors
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager
Date: October 15, 2024
Subject: General Manager's Report

Operations has commenced bidding for the next service change, which will be starting on December 2, 2024. Operators will, in seniority order, bid new work schedules for this next block of time. This service change will go through March 2, 2025. Also, bidding for 2025 vacations takes place at this time.

Congratulations to Operators Mahmud A. and Luis A., who have completed all of their training and have been released into revenue service. Operator in Training Roberto M. will be undergoing his DMV testing this week.

MTD's architectural and engineering services firm, Stantec, has submitted the building permit application to the City of Santa Barbara for the Haley Canopy Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Improvements Project at Terminal 1. The design drawings have also been sent to Jacobus and Yuang, Inc. for construction cost estimating.

MTD was awarded funding under Central Coast Community Energy's (3CE) Electric Bus Program. The funding, a not to exceed amount of \$400,000, supports MTD's New Flyer battery-electric bus acquisition project. The new funding dedicated to that project frees-up capital to be used toward one of MTD's other planned fleet electrification projects.

Staff is completing the FY23-24 Financial and Single Audits. Staff have also been busy compiling data for the National Transit Database and Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Annual and Quarterly Federal Financial Reports and Milestone Progress Reports. The team is working with Clerk of The Board/Executive Assistant Steve Maas and the new Grants and Compliance Specialist Matt Snidal. October is the busiest reporting month for FTA requirements. There were also report submittal needs for the TDA Triennial Performance Audit scheduled for October 15.

Information Technology (IT) Staff are in the final stages of the TRAPEZE Operational system and Clever Devices Computer Aided Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) systems upgrades with Operations and Planning Staff. Fiber Optics for internet service carriage has been installed @ Terminal 1 and will be installed shortly at Terminal 2 in Goleta, connecting the locations. At both sites, IT has been planning upgrading wiring and WIFI capacity. Lastly, they are gearing up for installation of the new VOIP Telephone System.

Procurement Staff have been kept busy working with Capital Project Managers on the T1 Charge Ready Bridge and T2 Recommissioning Construction Projects Change Orders. A Report with

Recommendations for advance authority will be presented to the Board for the purchase of Eight (8) Battery Electric Buses in October, funded largely through a grant from the State of California, Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), a statewide, competitive program that provides funding to achieve a balanced set of transportation, environmental, and community access improvements to reduce congestion throughout the state.

With the Grants and Compliance Specialist on board, grants management responsibility has been shifted to the Director of Finance and Administration. Much appreciation to Steve Maas for his on-going support and sharing of expertise during the transition.

Since mid-September, Human Resources has successfully hired 2 new Bus Operators and 1 Mechanic. Recruitment continues for open positions with Bus Operators, as well as with Utility/Service workers who support the upkeep of our fleet in our Maintenance Department. To expand our outreach for these positions, the HR team participated in the recent Santa Barbara Job Fair held on State Street on September 25th, where we shared information about our current job openings. Additionally, we made recruitment efforts during the Lemon Festival in Goleta, providing information to potential candidates in the community. HR has connected with peers at other transit agencies to ensure our hiring practices remain up-to-date and competitive within the industry. We are hopeful that these efforts will lead to continued success in filling critical roles as we strive to support providing transit services to our community.

MTD has contracted with CPS HR Consulting to lead the recruitment for Human Resources & Risk Manager. Established in 1985 as a self-supporting public agency, CPS HR Consulting provides a full range of integrated HR solutions to federal, state and local government, public safety, special districts and nonprofit organizations. The recruitment process has begun and the job opening published throughout several media sources, such as job bulletins, websites and appropriate social media sites aimed to attract candidates based on the recruitment strategy. CPS HR is conducting active and passive sourcing of candidates through multiple outreach tools and referral sources. The job posting is currently open for candidates to apply through www.governmentjobs.com, or via MTD's Careers page on our website, through October 20th.

MTD recently welcomed Matthew (Matt) Snidal as our newest member on Staff, as Grants and Compliance Specialist. Matt comes to us from UC Santa Barbara where he worked as a Postdoctoral Scholar, after having completed a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Texas.

The California Transportation Development Act (TDA) Triennial Performance Audit is underway. The TDA Performance Audit is an independent assessment of an agency's operations to determine if the agency's functions are working as intended to achieve the State of California's goals for the TDA. Staff forwarded the requested documents to the consultant last month, and the consultants will make a site visit to MTD on October 14. The consultant will next prepare a draft report for review by SBCAG and MTD.

Staff submitted the required quarterly Progress Report for MTD's Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) award for eight 40-ft. electric buses and chargers to Caltrans

Staff attended meetings of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG's) Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) and Joint Technical Advisory Committee (JTAC) on October 15. TTAC recommended the approval of the Measure A Maintenance of Effort amounts that local jurisdictions are required to spend on alternative transportation, and also reviewed Measure A draft audit reports from FY 22-23. The Committee also supported final changes to the Active Transportation Cycle 7 Large Metropolitan Planning Organization guidelines. Additionally, TTAC recommended approval of SBCAG's project selection procedures for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 and 5339 programs for interregional transit service in the Santa Barbara Urbanized Area.

JTAC reviewed two draft chapters of the Connected 2050 update, SBCAG's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

On September 22nd, MTD staff participated in PEP's Touch-a-Truck event with a New Flyer battery-electric bus, which was well-received by young and old. On September 28th and 29th, staff participated in the Goleta Lemon Festival with a booth, interacting with thousands of attendees