

To: MTD Board of Directors
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager
Date: November 19, 2024
Subject: General Manager's Report

Fleet and Facilities Manager Nolan Robertson attended Allison Transmission Virtual Transit Day on November 12, learning more about Allison's future hybrid and zero emission bus offerings. Master Mechanic Larry G. is scheduled to attend OEM Allison Hybrid training at W.W. Williams in Sacramento December 10 through 13.

Operations would like to congratulate Robert M. and Wilson M. for completing all of their training. Both have been released into revenue service. We would also like to welcome our newest Operator in Training, Miguel G., as he embarks on his training journey. Bidding for our next service change on December 2 was successfully completed recently, along with bidding for 2025 vacations.

We are excited that two of our Operations team member, Tony M., Assistant Safety and Training Administrator, and Nathan W., Operations Supervisor, have an opportunity to attend a Department of Transportation (DOT) Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) training session: Instructors Course for Transit Trainers. TSI offers this course each year at sites located throughout the country, and spots fill up quickly. Our neighbor Gold Coast Transit District is hosting the course, and MTD was able to register for two spots. The course is taught over several days, and when completed, they will become certified DOT bus operator trainers. MTD has other Operations team members with TSI training and this is a great opportunity for Tony and Nathan.

The end of October signals Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) reporting deadlines for the National Transit Database Annual Report, Annual and Quarterly Milestone Progress Reports, and Federal Financial Reports. A heavy lift for the new Grants and Compliance Specialist. Through a great deal of teamwork and training, all reports were filed timely.

Information Technology (IT) Systems upgrades are progressing. Clever Devices Computer Aided Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) upgraded systems hardware was installed and data was migrated to the new Server. Vehicle communication has been established for the entire fleet. The software upgrade has begun by module, reporting systems and internal applications are being finalized. IT, Operations, and Planning Staff have completed the testing of the TRAPEZE Operational System. The upgrades are scheduled to go live the 2nd week of December. Fiber Optics has been installed at Terminal 1. As soon as the permits are received for Terminal 2 in Goleta, all locations will be connected. IT has been upgrading wiring and Wi-Fi capacity at Terminal 1. The new VOIP Telephone System structure build-out has been completed. System testing will be completed in December when the hardware is delivered.

Finance/Accounting/IT/Procurement/HR Staff have completed the FY23-24 Financial and Single Audits. The TDA Triennial Review site visit was conducted on October 15, and the Draft Report is expected early in 2025.

MTD's amended Work Plan detailing the timing, means and methods for the excavation and disposal of contaminated soils tied to the remaining work scope of the Charge Ready Bridge Project was approved by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD). The excavation, remediation and disposal activities are scheduled to take place on December 7 and 8. The remainder of the outstanding work associated with the project, driveway repairs, new perimeter fencing along Salsipuedes Street, and concrete patching adjacent the maintenance bays, is scheduled to begin the following week.

MTD's application for SBCAPCD's 2024 Clean Air Grant for Infrastructure is still under review. An SBCAPCD representative performed a site visit at Terminal 1 on November 5 to review the project listed in MTD's application, the Haley Canopy Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Improvements Project. If awarded, MTD could receive up to \$250,000 toward the construction and charging equipment acquisition associated with that project.

While awaiting feedback from the City of Santa Barbara on MTD's building permit application for the Haley Canopy Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Improvements Project, Staff received a construction cost estimate from Jacobus and Yuang, Inc. Staff is also in the process of securing construction management services through Kitchell. Staff intends to release the Invitation for Bid to identify a general contractor to perform the construction in Q1 of 2025.

Staff issued a Request for Proposal to identify a firm to provide the requisite Pre-Award/Post-Delivery Buy-America Audit Reports for MTD's upcoming Gillig bus builds. The firm will also be responsible for line inspection services when the buses enter Gillig's production line in Livermore, California. Multiple firms submitted proposals and staff anticipates awarding a contract in the coming weeks.

Discussions are taking place internally among the management team regarding updates to MTD's Strategic Plan. We are considering bringing a draft update to the Board for a facilitated discussion in January 2025.

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 November 7. TTAC received reports on the FY 23-24 apportionments for both State Transit Assistance and the Local Transportation Fund. The Committee recommended approval of the Measure A final draft audit reports from FY 22-23, and heard draft revenue estimates for Measure A through FY 29-30. The Committee received both good and bad grant news, with the announcement of two successful regional TIRCP applications, one of which includes final funding for MTD's Terminal 2 construction. The bad news was that no local applications received statewide Cycle 7 Active Transportation Project (ATP) funds, likely due to state budget cuts.

JTAC provided input on SBCAG's FY 25-26 Overall Work Program, and reviewed another draft chapter and the Congestion Management Program Technical Report of the Connected 2050 update, SBCAG's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.