

To: MTD Board of Directors
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager
Date: January 20, 2026
Subject: General Manager's Report

Operations and Fleet Maintenance

The winter bid began December 1, marking the launch of service from the new Terminal 2 facility on Overpass Road in Goleta. Six weekday runs originate from this location, which is staffed by an Operations Supervisor, with buses fueled and serviced nightly by the Maintenance team. The soft opening was successful, and Terminal 2 service will continue through the March 2 service change, with spring operator bidding beginning soon.

Congratulations to Bus Operator Jamichael Bailey on completing training and beginning revenue service. The Operations Department also welcomes Operators in Training Dom Winston, Eddy Mayen, and Manny Ruiz. Additionally, Temporary Supervisors Gustavo Diaz and Steven Denison successfully completed the Transit Safety Institute Instructors Course in December, earning U.S. Department of Transportation certification to train bus and paratransit operators.

Chief Operating Officer/Assistant General Manager, Mary Gregg, and Human Resources and Risk Manager, David Serrano attended the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Safety & Risk Management Seminar in December. The seminar covered key topics including Safety Management Systems, risk management issues, alternative fuel safety, and various concerns within the industry.

Despite the recent heavy storms, the Metropolitan Transit District's (MTD) properties sustained no damage. We proactively implemented storm preparedness measures, including staging buses, deploying additional supervision, and flood protection. Operations at Terminals 1 and 2 continued without interruption. Temporary Goleta detours were required due to localized flooding, and a small number of trips were canceled following Highway 101 overnight closures at Winchester Canyon in Goleta extending along the Gaviota Coast affecting operator availability. Impacts were minimal, thanks to the support of locally based operators and supervisors who assisted in covering service.

Capital Projects

Smith MEP completed the base scope of work under the Fuel Island and it has been turned back over to MTD for full use. Though, there is still minor work remaining that will necessitate a brief closure of the Fuel Island in the future. Smith has also completed a good portion of the electrical rough-in under the Haley Canopy and in the Electrical Room, and began installing the structural supports for the conduit between the Electrical Room and the charging dispensers under the Haley Canopy. Smith MEP's paint subcontractor, New Generation, has completed the majority of the paint work at the Haley Canopy and has moved on to prep and paint at the Salsipuedes Canopy. The ChargePoint charging equipment arrived to the site in four shipments, and has been inventoried by ChargePoint and Smith personnel. Smith has begun assembling and installing elements of the charging equipment at the Electrical Room and under the Haley Canopy.

MTD's application to Southern California Edison's (SCE) Charge Ready Transport (CRT) Program has advanced to the final stage. MTD's electrical engineer has been working with SCE personnel to complete the conceptual design for the Terminal 2, Phase 2 project. The conceptual design provides a high-level summary of the project scope including number and type of electric vehicle supply equipment, onsite electrical infrastructure improvements, and required SCE upgrades to supply sufficient power to the site. Once finalized, the conceptual design becomes an exhibit to the Program Agreement (contract between MTD and SCE for MTD's proposed CRT project).

Finance & Administration

Accounting and Finance have completed work for the Financial and Single Audits, which are currently in final review and year-end payroll and government reporting for 2025 have been filed.

Quarterly Reporting for the period ending December 31, 2025 is near completion.

The transition of Banking and Financial Services, as approved by the Board in November is under way. A resolution will be brought forward to the Board for ratification.

Public requests for Qualification of Diesel Fuel Suppliers have been issued. The current contract expires at the end of June 2026 and a report will be made to the Board at a February meeting.

Information Technologies is continuing to improve system efficiencies with the VOIP Phone System and Building Security Systems. Automation of phone assistance and building security is important to manage as staffing positions are being evaluated.

Planning & Marketing

Staff attended a meeting of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG's) Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) on December 4, 2025. TTAC members received a report on Draft Measure A Revenue Estimates for Fiscal Years 26-27 to 30-31, and a presentation on Measure A financing options and updates on the compliance audit process. SBCAG staff also presented a new draft Journey to Work Dashboard created using Replica travel data.

TTAC elected MTD's Hillary Blackerby as 2026 TTAC Chair and City of Lompoc's Craig Dierling as Vice Chair. Assistant Planning and Marketing Manager Sam Furtner recently completed the University of the Pacific Transit and Paratransit Management Certificate program.

Human Resources & Risk

MTD has one notice of retirement from Supervisor Phillip Velez, with his last day at work on January 16, 2026 (for an effective retirement date in January 17, 2026). Phillip was hired on February 14, 2007, and has served MTD for nearly 19 years.

As of January 14, 2026, MTD has 133 drivers onboard out of 135 allocated positions. Since November, three new drivers have been hired. One is currently in revenue service, and two are in training with upcoming licensing examinations. During this period, MTD experienced one driver resignation. Recruitment efforts remain active, with seven new applications received, four candidates in the screening phase, and one interview scheduled with a candidate who has prior driving experience and an existing Class B CDL with necessary endorsements. In December we hired and onboarded one Service Person in Maintenance/Utility, who is currently in training.