



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
of the  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
of the  
**SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
A Public Agency  
**Tuesday, March 3, 2026**  
**8:30 AM**  
**John G. Britton Auditorium**  
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER**
  
- 2. **ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD MEMBERS**  
Chair Davis reported that all members were present, except for Director Lemberger.
  
- 3. **REPORT REGARDING THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA**  
Rosa Gonzalez, Clerk of the Board reported that the agenda was posted on February 27, 2026 at MTD's Administrative Office, emailed to those on the agenda list, and posted to MTD's website  
  
Chair Davis asked if there were any changes to the agenda. General Manager Estrada recommended that Item 12 be dropped.  
  
Director Perotte moved to drop Item 12. Director Sarkar seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, with Director Lemberger absent.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 4. **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES - (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)**  
The Board was asked to review and approve the draft minutes for the meeting of February 17, 2026.
  
- 5. **CASH REPORTS - (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)**  
The Board was asked to review and approve the Cash Reports from February 7, 2026 through February 20, 2026.  
  
There was no public comment.  
  
Director Tabor moved to approve the consent calendar. Director Lapuz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, with Director Lemberger absent.

**THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

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**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

Director Lemberger arrived at 8:32 a.m.

**7. COMMERCIAL AUTO AND GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL – (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)**

Staff recommended renewal of Commercial Automobile and General Liability Insurance coverage and two Excess Liability policies with combined limits of \$14,750,000 in excess of the self-insured retention of \$250,000, with National Interstate Insurance Company effective April 1, 2026 – July 1, 2027, for a 15-month policy, at an estimated annual cost of \$1,332,087.

Director Perotte moved to approve staff recommendations. Director Lapuz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**8. FIRST DRAFT OF FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026-2027 BUDGET - (INFORMATIONAL - ATTACHMENT)**

Staff presented the first draft of the FY 2026-2027 budget to the Board of Directors seeking input on preparing the final draft to be considered for adoption in June.

**9. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026-2027 MEASURE A PROGRAM OF PROJECTS SUBMITTAL - (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN - ATTACHMENT)**

Staff recommended the Board approve the submittal of Measure A Program of Projects for FY 2026-2027 to the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments.

Director Tabor moved to approve staff recommendations. Director Lapuz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT - (INFORMATIONAL)**

The General Manager reported on attending the California Transit Association (CTA) Executive Committee Retreat and that Hillary Blackerby serves as Vice Chair of the CTA Legislative Committee, providing awareness of legislative developments in Sacramento. Transit agencies statewide are facing similar challenges, including transit operations funding and regulatory requirements related to fleet administration and management. The State's financial challenges are documented and MTD remains well represented and will continue to keep the Board informed

The Board will receive an update at the next meeting regarding the new Fiscal and Financial Training requirement for Board Members, which will accompany existing Ethics Training requirements.

Staff will soon provide an update on the bus fleet and the Transportation Asset Management (TAM) program, including status and meeting requirements.

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**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, CONTINUED**

Commented on the letter sent to the Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) regarding their consideration of reinstating a seventh period at junior high and high schools. SBUSD relies heavily on MTD's Tripper service due to the lack of school bus service. The service operates without a contract or financial contribution from SBUSD and costs MTD several million dollars annually. Currently, approximately 10–11 buses are deployed in the morning and 15 buses in the afternoon for school-related service, with up to 21 buses and drivers required on minimum days out of a fleet of 91 vehicles. This level of service is not sustainable given the agency's budget challenges and projected deficit. SBUSD leadership has been informed that MTD does not have the resources to support additional service associated with a seventh-period schedule. SBUSD may delay implementation until the second year. Hillary Blackerby will continue discussions with SBUSD leadership and encourage them to pursue contracted school bus services. MTD will continue serving the community with available resources.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS - (INFORMATIONAL)**

No other business or reports were presented.

Item 12 was dropped from the agenda

**12. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION: REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS  
(GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.8) - (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)**

Property: 4678 Calle Real / 149 North San Antonio Road.

Agency Negotiators: General Manager Jerry Estrada; District Outside Counsel Graham Lyons.

Negotiating Parties: Con/Am Group.

Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

**Approved by the Board of Directors March 17, 2026**



**Jen Lemberger**

**Board of Directors, Secretary**