

To: MTD Board of Directors  
From: Jerry Estrada, General Manager  
Date: June 16, 2026  
Subject: General Manager's Report

### *Operations and Fleet Maintenance*

The Operations Department congratulates Operator Jose Guardado on successfully passing Commercial Class B DMV testing. Jose will now advance to the next phase of training, which includes night driving and route familiarization alongside senior Operators. Operator-in-Training Manny Mendez is expected to complete his training for his Commercial Class B license testing within the next few weeks.

Verification of Transit Training (VTT) classes were conducted this past week. This mandatory training is provided quarterly for all Bus Operators and Operations Supervisors. Multiple sessions are scheduled throughout the week at varying times to accommodate the Department's diverse work schedules.

The new Amtrak service continues to be well received by the public. MTD supports this service through its First Mile Last Mile connections, which operate on weekday mornings and afternoons.

Terminal 2 (T2) will conclude operations next week in preparation for Phase 2 capital improvements. The facility has successfully supported service operations during the past two bid periods as part of its soft-launch implementation.

The Maintenance Department continues to work through the Post-Delivery Inspection (PDI) process with Gillig in preparation for acceptance of eight new battery-electric buses. Concurrently, the buses are being equipped with fareboxes, two-way radios, bicycle racks, and credit card readers. Upon completion of the PDI and equipment installation process, Operations will begin operator training to prepare the vehicles for entry into revenue service.

### *Administration*

Year end audit projects are in process between the departments to ensure Inventory can be completed most accurately and efficiently. A consultant has been selected for processing the Department of Motor Vehicles documentation on the eight (8) Gillig 40' Heavy Duty Battery Electric Buses received. An Elevator Maintenance contract has been awarded to KONE.

The District currently employs 121 Bus Operators and continues to actively recruit to reach the authorized staffing level. One new Bus Operator was onboarded on June 11, 2026, and another began employment on June 15, 2026. The District recently interviewed an additional candidate on June 11, 2026, and is currently in the process of extending an offer of employment. Two additional candidate interviews are scheduled, and the District is hopeful to extend further offers that will support progress toward the authorized complement of 125 drivers. Recruitment efforts remain ongoing, with candidates at various stages of the hiring process.

Recruitment efforts are ongoing to fill one vacancy for Service Person. Phone screenings are currently being conducted, and one candidate has been scheduled for an in-person interview on June 17, 2026. Additional candidates will continue to be evaluated throughout the recruitment process.

The Clerk of the Board position is currently vacant. Recruitment is pending for an alternative position of Office Administrator that will conduct some of the Clerk of the Board duties at the direction of the General Manager.

The June renewal of the Excess Workers Compensation coverage was approved by the Board at the May meeting; coverage renews on July 1 through PRISM Risk. Three other coverages renew in August - Flood coverage; Cyber Liability coverage, and ERISA coverage.

### *Planning & Marketing*

Staff attended a meeting of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG's) Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) on June 4, 2026, held in person in Solvang. The Committee received updates on Federal and State funding, and on the Measure A Strategic Plan, with an update of the Plan slated for 2027. The Committee provided feedback on a draft scope of services for Measure A renewal and a public information roadmap. This is in anticipation of seeking a renewal of Measure A in 2032. The committee also recommended approval of an FTIP amendment and recommended approval on the Draft Measure A Program of Projects for FY 26/27, the Local Surface Transportation Program apportionments for FY 25/26, and an amendment to the 2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

MTD's 12th Annual Youth Art Poster Contest took place in April, and winners were selected from an impressive group of 182 entries from the region's 1st through 6th graders. Winners have received recognition at their schools or afterschool programs and will have their art featured in MTD's fleet for the next year.