

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT
November 17, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Armenta called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the MST Conference Room.

Present:	Kristin Clark	City of Del Rey Oaks
	James Ford	City of Marina
	Libby Downey	City of Monterey
	Vicki Stillwell	City of Pacific Grove
	Thomas Mancini	City of Seaside
	Fernando Armenta	County of Monterey
Absent:	Karen Sharp	City of Carmel-By-The-Sea
	Sergio Sanchez	City of Salinas
	Maria Orozco	City of Gonzales (Ex-Officio)
Staff:	Carl Sedoryk	General Manager/CEO
	Hunter Harvath	Asst. General Manager/Finance & Administration
	Michael Hernandez	Asst. General Manager/Chief Operating Officer
	Mark Eccles	Director of Information Technology
	Tom Hicks	CTSA Manager
	Bill Morris	Contract Transportation Manager
	Lyn Owens	Director of Human Resources
	Kelly Halcon	Human Resources Manager
	Sonia Bannister	Office Administrator/Marketing & Sales Specialist
	Michael Gallant	Planning Manager
	Kathy Williams	Accounting Manager
	Zoe Smallwood	Marketing Analyst
Others:	Dave Laredo	DeLay & Laredo
	Heidi Quinn	DeLay & Laredo
	Zoe Smallwood	Marketing Analyst
	Lance Atencio	MV Transportation
	Dawn Withers	Salinas Californian
	Bob Parks	ATU Local 1225
	John Arriaga	JEA & Associates
	James Wright	Marina resident
	Marye McCarthy	Monterey resident
	John Slobodin	Pacific Grove resident
	Carmelita Garcia	Asilomar resident
	RJ Adams	Monterey County Office of Education

Apology is made for any misspelling of a name.

2-1. – 2-8. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda items consisted of the following:

- 2-2. Adopt Resolution 2009-08 recognizing Fred Simkins, Coach Operator, as Employee of the Month for November 2008.
- 2-3. Disposal of property left aboard buses.
- 2-4. Minutes of the regular meeting of October 13, 2008.
- 2-5. Financial Report – October 2008.
- 2-6. Adopt Resolution 2009-09 Appreciation for John Laird.
- 2-7. Adopt Resolution 2009-10 Appreciation for Lisa Senkir.
- 2-8. Adopt Final Drug & Alcohol Policy revision.

Director Mancini moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Director Stilwell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Robert Weber, Director of Transportation Services introduced Fred Simkins, Coach Operator, as Employee of the Month for November 2008. Fred began his career with Monterey-Salinas Transit in March 2003 as a Coach Operator. Since his date of hire, Fred has been the recipient of multiple commendations and awards as he has continued to perform his duties and responsibilities in an exceptional manner. In April of 2005, Fred was selected as MST's Employee of the Month for professionally managing a critical situation that occurred on his coach in December of that year.

Carl Sedoryk, General Manager/CEO presented a 20-year Service Award to Sonia A.R. Bannister, Office Administrator & Marketing/Sales Specialist.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Board accepted and filed the MST RIDES Advisory Committee Minutes – September 15, 2008, and the Finance Committee Minutes – October 13, 2008.

6. BIDS/PROPOSALS

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Harvath, Assistant General Manager for Finance & Administration gave a brief presentation on the proposed fare increase and possible service adjustments. He reported that in response to severe reductions in state funding and local transportation funding uncertainties, MST is proposing to increase fares for both its fixed-route and MST RIDES paratransit services as follows. These changes, if adopted by the Monterey-Salinas Transit Board would go into effect in January 2009.

**Proposed Service Reductions & Route Eliminations
Effective January 2009**

Route	Service Reduction or Route Elimination	Affected Days
Peninsula DART	Route Elimination	Daily
Line 1x Asilomar/Lovers Point Express	Route Elimination	Daily
OR		
Lines 1 & 2 Pacific Grove	Route Elimination	Daily
Line 7 Monterey-Carmel via CHOMP	Route Elimination	Weekdays
Line 9 Fremont-Hilby	Service Reduction	Saturdays
Line 10 Fremont-Ord Grove	Service Reduction	Saturdays
Line 11 Edgewater-Carmel	Route Elimination	Daily
Line 20 Monterey-Salinas	Service Reduction	Saturdays
Line 27 Watsonville-Marina	Route Elimination	Weekdays
Line 28 Watsonville-Salinas	Service Reduction	Daily
Line 29 Watsonville-Salinas	Service Reduction	Daily
Line 41 East Alisal-Northridge	Service Reduction	Sundays
Line 42 East Alisal-Westridge	Service Reduction	Sundays
Line 43 Memorial Hospital	Service Reduction	Saturdays
Line 49 Northridge	Route Elimination	Daily

**Proposed Fare Increases
Effective January 2009**

	Current		Proposed
MST Fixed Route Bus Base Fare (per zone)	\$2.00		\$2.50
Discount Fare	\$1.00		\$1.25
Transfer	\$0.25	No Change	\$0.25
Discount Transfer	\$0.10		\$0.10

DayPasses		
Single Zone	\$4.50	\$6.00
Single Zone Discount	\$2.25	\$3.00
All Zone	\$9.00	\$12.00
All Zone Discount	\$4.50	\$6.00
Monthly Passes		
Single Zone	\$62.00	\$75.00
Single Zone Discount	\$31.00	\$37.00
All Zone	\$124.00	\$150.00
All Zone Discount	\$62.00	\$74.00
Book of 20 Tickets		
Regular	\$40.00	\$50.00
Discount	\$20.00	\$25.00
MST RIDES Paratransit		
Base Fare (Per Zone)	\$2.50	\$3.50
Book of 10 Tickets	\$25.00	\$35.00

Chair Armenta opened the public hearing at 10:48 a.m. to receive public comments on the proposed changes.

RJ Adams, Monterey County Office of Education, spoke on behalf of the students in the Monterey Transition Program. The DART is the only route that provides service to their center. His students are mentally-challenged and they rely on the bus to get to their center located at Franklin and High Street in Monterey. He urged the Board to consider keeping the DART intact for the 24 students currently in the program. They use fixed-route.

Jim Wright, Marina resident, doesn't want to see the DART discontinued. He said bus service to Ryan Ranch where some medical doctors offices are located, is a joke. He also uses lines 7 and 27 to Castroville. He wants the Board to consider the people on fixed income and how the proposed changes would affect them.

Jim Fink, Salinas resident, wants the Board to consider a fare increase instead of looking at service cuts. The proposed \$2.50 base fare is not keeping up with inflation. He noted that Santa Cruz Metro's daypass is three times the price of the regular fare. He suggested running 60-minute headways on all MST lines everyday, eliminating transfers, charge passengers each time they board a bus, and to increase the minimum fare to \$2.60.

Jean Donohue, Pacific Grove resident, commented that the MST RIDES Program should be subsidized by the medical profession. Asilomar residents should subsidize line 1X. She noted that there is no service to CHOMP on weekdays and that CHOMP should subsidize the service to the hospital. She rides the line 4.

Marye McCarthy, Monterey resident, volunteers at CHOMP. She wants the DART to stay as well. She uses it to get to work at the hospital.

Seeing no one wishing to comment, Chairman Armenta closed the public hearing at 11:03 a.m.

The Board thanked the public for their comments and noted that their suggestions would be taken into consideration. It was noted that additional public hearings are currently scheduled for the following:

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Boy's & Girl's Club – Community Room
1332 La Salle Avenue
Seaside

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Gonzales Council Chambers
147 Fourth Street
Gonzales

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Soledad Council Chambers
248 Main Street
Soledad

Thursday, December 4, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Salinas Community Center
940 N. Main Street
Salinas

Monday, December 8, 2008

10:15 a.m.

Monterey-Salinas Transit
One Ryan Ranch Road
Monterey

Director Mancini commented that it is hard for him to suggest raising the fares higher than proposed because the proposed fare increase is already going to make his constituents pay more than what they can afford.

8-1. 2008 MST TROLLEY SEASON

Mr. Harvath provided the results of the 2008 MST Trolley passenger survey. When asked how they knew about the MST trolley, most of the passengers responded that they either saw the trolley or saw the trolley bus stop. The majority of the riders had never been on the trolley before. If the trolley was not available, most of the respondents would have either driven or walked to get around Monterey.

In the areas of driver courtesy, safety, cleanliness of the bus, convenience, and their overall experience, the majority of the respondents rated their experience as Excellent and they would all recommend the trolley to others. Most of the riders do not regularly use public transportation and they noted that as a result of their experience on the MST Trolley, they would try using public transit in their local area.

Director Stilwell would like to see the MST Trolley extended to serve Pacific Grove in the fall.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10-1. – 10-7. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS

The reports consisted of the General Manager/CEO Report; TAMC Highlights – October 22, 2008; Washington DC Lobbyist Report – October 28, 2008; Sacramento Lobbyist report – November 1, 2008; Letter from Monterey Jazz Festival; Board Referrals; and Staff trip reports.

11. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Directors Downey and Mancini commented that they attended some of the sessions during the CTA/CalACT Conference.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Harvath introduced Kathy Williams as the new Accounting Manager.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session to meet with legal counsel regarding General Manager/CEO performance.

14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon returning to open Session, General Counsel Laredo announced that no reportable action was taken by the Board.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Armenta adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

PREPARED BY: 
Sonia AR Bannister