

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT
November 19, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Armenta called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in the Monterey-Salinas Transit Conference Room.

Present:	Karen Sharp	City of Carmel-By-The-Sea
	Kristin Clark	City of Del Rey Oaks
	James Ford	City of Marina
	Libby Downey	City of Monterey
	Vicki Stilwell	City of Pacific Grove
	Sergio Sanchez	City of Salinas
	Thomas Mancini	City of Seaside
	Fernando Armenta	County of Monterey
Absent:	Lisa Senkir	City of Gonzales (Ex-Officio)
Staff:	Carl Sedoryk	General Manager/CEO
	Lyn Owens	Director of Human Resources
	Hunter Harvath	Director of Administration
	Michael Hernandez	Chief Operating Officer
	Robert Weber	Dir. Transportation Services
	Sonia Bannister	Office Administrator
	Dave Sobotka	Controller
	Tom Hicks	CTSA Manager
	Tonja Posey	Human Resource Supervisor
	William Morris	Contract Transportation Manager
Others:	Dave Laredo	DeLay & Laredo
	George Bailan	Coach Operator
	Robert Russell	City of Salinas
	Jim Fink	Salinas resident

Apology is made for any misspelling of a name.

2-2. – 2-13. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda items consisted of the following:

- 2-2. Adopt Resolution 2008-08 recognizing George Bailan, Coach Operator, as Employee of the Month for November 2007.
- 2-3. Disposal of property left aboard buses.
- 2-4. Minutes of the regular meeting of October 15, 2007.

- 2-5. Financial Report – October 2007.
- 2-6. Adopt Resolution 2008-09 approving CalPERS service credit option pre-tax.
- 2-7. Appointment of MST RIDES Advisory Committee member.
- 2-8. Approve facility lease for Monterey Mobility Management Center.
- 2-9. Approve annual performance incentive for General Manager/CEO.
- 2-10. Receive revised schedule for proposed board committee meeting dates.
- 2-11. Authorize purchase of RIDES vehicle.
- 2-12. Change of banking institutions.
- 2-13. Approve first amendment to Memorandum of Understanding for Line 55 transit service.

Items 2-4 and 2-13 were pulled for further discussion.

With regards to item 2-4, Mr. Fink made corrections to the Minutes to reflect that he had wanted to be on record expressing his personal condolences to the family of the late Philip Johnson. He also made a correction to his comments made during the public comment period regarding the DART bus at Edgewater. The DART bus came into Edgewater and just passed him by.

With regards to item 2-13, Mr. Fink called the Board's attention to the wrong amount listed that is owed to MST for Line 55 service. The amount that VTA shall pay MST for Line 55 needs to be changed from \$90,000 to \$35,000.

Director Mancini moved to approve the items on the consent agenda with the changes noted. Director Downey seconded and the motion carried with Director Sanchez abstaining on the minutes.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Robert Weber, Director of Transportation Services, introduced George Bailan, Coach Operator, as MST Employee of the Month for November 2007. Since becoming a Coach Operator, George has served as a line instructor and has been recognized for 3 years of Safe Driving. His upbeat demeanor is infectious and has helped George in any situation he encounters. This attitude is part of the reason he gets along so well with his co-workers and customers alike. Recently, George was selected to fill the position of Interim Operations Supervisor. As with every assignment given to him, George learned the job quickly and demonstrated a willingness to assist with a positive attitude.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Fink, Salinas resident, wants the Board to rescind their decision to remove bus service to 12 stops on line 29 along the Highway 101 corridor. There are passengers in the affected areas and to have to go either to the Prunedale Park & Ride or to Northridge Mall is creating a maximum inconvenience to the passengers. With respect to line 20, the 5:18 p.m. trip from Monterey is always overcrowded and late getting into Salinas. He would like to see the mini-20's reinstated. He also expressed a concern over the Spanish translation. When materials in Spanish are translated back to English, it does not match the original. Something needs to be done with the overcrowding on the 20's and to preserve line 29 stops for regular and ADA-related passengers.

5-1. – 5-2. BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Board accepted and filed the Human Resources Committee Minutes – September 10, 2007.

6. BIDS/PROPOSALS

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

8-1. LINE 53 KING CITY-MONTEREY

Hunter Harvath, Director of Administration, reported that back in 2002, staff applied for a Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) grant that would support a peak-hour express service connecting the South Monterey County communities of King City, Greenfield, Soledad, Gonzales, and Chualar to the rest of MST's route network. As it was implemented in September of 2004, this service offered the opportunity for South County residents to reach the Monterey Peninsula before a typical 8 a.m. shift start-time, which they were previously unable to do given the existing Line 23 Salinas-King City and Line 20 Monterey-Salinas schedules. MST received subsequent annual grants to support Year-2 and Year-3 of the service.

Despite outreach activities such as substantial bi-lingual promotion and hosting a job fair in the South County communities, ridership has not met expectations. For the last year and a half, monthly ridership has hovered between 400 and 500 passengers without any clear signs of growth. As a result, MST refocused its resources to Line 55 Monterey-San Jose Express, which has been a clear success, carrying over 2,000 passengers per month, and which has significant ridership growth indicators.

In that regard, staff did not apply for funding for Year-4 of the Line 53. Rather, staff submitted an application for a new demonstration project – Line 23 Express, which will provide peak hour limited stop service between King City and Salinas. It is

anticipated that Line 23 Express will better meet the demand for transit along the Highway 101 corridor, as ridership on the existing Line 23 has doubled in just one year.

Mr. Fink said something needs to be done about the lack of service on Highway 68 and Spreckles. If line 53 is discontinued, people in Creekside, Portola, Toro Park Estates, Corral de Tierra and Spreckles will be adversely affected. There needs to be more community contact. MST needs to advertise its service.

Director Ford moved to discontinue the Line 53 Monterey Peninsula-South County Express project. Director Mancini seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9-1. RIDES FARE MODIFICATION

William Morris, Contract Transportation Manager, said currently, MST RIDES clients (ADA Paratransit approved) must pay a discounted fare when they are able to use the fixed-route services. If a free fare policy were adopted, MST RIDES clients may be enticed to use fixed-route services when able.

The MST RIDES ADA program subsidy per passenger is approximately \$17 higher per one-way passenger trip than that of the fixed-route. Many transit properties across the nation have adopted reduced, or "free fare" policies for their ADA Paratransit passengers as an incentive for them to use fixed-route transit services.

Director Clark moved to amend MST's current fixed-route fare policy to permit MST RIDES Registered Passengers to ride free of charge on all MST fixed route and on demand response transit services (DART, MST-On Call). Director Downey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9-2. UPDATE ON FORA PROJECTS

Hunter Harvath, Director of Administration, gave a brief update on FORA projects on the former Fort Ord.

The FORA multi-modal corridor is a joint effort between MST, TAMC, FORA, MPC, CSUMB, MCWD, UC, Golden Gate University, City of Marina, and Monterey County. This corridor connects the Monterey Peninsula, East Garrison and the City of Salinas.

To help ease the overcrowding at both the Monterey and Salinas divisions, MST is looking to build the Frank J. Lichtanski Monterey Bay Operations Center on a 13-acre site at 8th Street and Gigling Road. This facility, when fully built, will accommodate 205 buses, the separate Maintenance, Administration, and Training buildings; a fuel island and a bus washing facility. Staff is looking at a 2011 move in date.

10-1. – 10-8. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS

The reports consisted of the General Manager/CEO Report; TAMC Highlights – October 24, 2007; Washington D. C. Lobbyist Report – November 5, 2007; Sacramento Lobbyist report – November 1, 2007; Quarterly Performance results report – 1st Quarter FY 2008; Letter regarding MST winning the California Transit Association's Small Operator's Transit Excellence Award for the Grapevine Express; Congressional Record honoring MST's 35th Anniversary – October 12, 2007; and staff trip report.

Mr. Sedoryk reported that ridership for the year is slightly off from previous years. Ridership in Salinas is decreasing, possible due to the loss of jobs in the area.

11. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Mancini noticed that the bus on Line 1 in Pacific Grove was full to capacity.

Director Sanchez wanted to reinstate the adopt a shelter program in Salinas using high school kids needing to fulfill 60-80 hours of community service. Director Sharp suggested the possibility of having the Rotary Club "adopt" kids to help enhance areas in which the kids live.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Frank J. Lichtanski Memorial Scholarship fund is used to train future General Manager's in public transit. This scholarship is limited to small-medium sized agencies. This is being managed by the Eno Foundation.

13-1. CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to Closed Session to meet with legal counsel regarding conference with labor negotiators.

Upon returning to Open Session, General Counsel Laredo provided a status report regarding labor negotiations with ATU. No reportable action was taken by the Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Armenta adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

PREPARED BY: 
Sonia AR Bannister