



METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) MEETING AGENDA

AUGUST 17, 2022 – 6:00 PM

DUE TO COVID-19, THE AUGUST 17, 2022 METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A TELECONFERENCE ONLY PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON.

Staff and the public may participate remotely via the Zoom website at this [link](#) or by calling 1-669-900-9128 Meeting ID 812 3797 6174 Passcode: 328501.

Public comment may be submitted via email to mac@scmtd.com. Please indicate in your email the agenda item to which your comment applies. Comments submitted before the meeting will be provided to the staff before or during the meeting. Comments submitted after the meeting is called to order will be included in the correspondence that is posted online at the meeting packet link.

The METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.scmtd.com.

Committee recommendations are subject to action and/or change by the Board of Directors.

COMMITTEE ROSTER

James Von Hendy, Chair
Joseph Martinez, Vice Chair
James Cruse
Jessica de Wit
Veronica Elsea
Michael Pisano
Becky Taylor

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

At each meeting, every effort will be made to conclude MAC business by 8:00 PM. If there is concern that an item may not be adequately addressed in the time allowed, Committee members may choose to table the item until the next meeting, move the item earlier in the agenda or to extend the meeting if necessary.

MEETING TIME: 6:00 PM

NOTE: THE COMMITTEE CHAIR MAY TAKE ITEMS OUT OF ORDER

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4. RECEIVE AND FILE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2022

James Von Hendy, Chair

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5.1 Letter dated 05/05/22 to the new CEO/GM, Michael Tree

6. UPDATE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (ITS)

Isaac Holly, IT and ITS Director

7. COVID-19 UPDATE

Dawn Crummié, HR Director

8. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR – SEPTEMBER 14 - 18, 2022

Margo Ross, COO

9. SERVICE PLANNING UPDATE

John Urgo, Planning & Development Director

- a. Quarterly Ridership Report
- b. Bus Stops
 - i. Update on Braille Bus Stop Signage
- c. Other Projects
 - i. Pacific Station Lobby Access
 - ii. Fall Schedule Changes

10. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO CEO

11. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

13. DISTRIBUTION OF VOUCHERS - WILL BE MAILED ON AUGUST 18, 2022

Elizabeth Rocha, Administrative Specialist

14. ADJOURNMENT

Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

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Public Comment

If you wish to address the Committee, please follow the directions at the top of the agenda. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the Committee and included for the official record, please include it in your email. Comments that require a response may be deferred for staff reply.

MINUTES*

MAC MEETING OF April 20, 2022



The METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. The meeting was held via teleconference. *Minutes are “summary” minutes, not verbatim minutes.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:01 PM.

2. **ROLL CALL** - The following MAC Members were **present** via teleconference, representing a quorum:

James Von Hendy, Chair
Joseph Martinez, Vice Chair
James Cruse
Jessica de Wit

Veronica Elsea
Michael Pisano
Becky Taylor

3. **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Elsea mentioned she is a member of the Santa Cruz County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. She said the elections department would like to work with METRO to arrange transportation to the 18 voting centers in the upcoming June elections. Ms. Elsea requested a contact person for the elections staff to contact.

Mr. Pisano asked about the Measure D stickers on METRO buses and vehicles. Margo Ross, COO, said the stickers currently on METRO vehicles represent the 2016 Measure D that was passed. One of the stipulations of receiving the 2016 Measure D funds is to display these stickers on METRO vehicles. However, with the new Measure D on the June ballot, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCRTC) gave approval to cover up the 2016 Measure D stickers until after the election. METRO is temporarily covering these stickers up with “Dump the Pump” stickers.

Mr. Martinez asked if ParaCruz Van Operators could be given cash to provide change to riders. COO Ross, explained it was not an option. Brandon Freeman, Bus Operator, added that it would be a liability for METRO.

4. **RECEIVE AND FILE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

MOTION: ACCEPT AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022 AS PRESENTED

MOTION: ELSEA

SECOND: PISANO

MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES: Von Hendy, Martinez, Cruse, de Wit, Elsea, Pisano, and Taylor.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC)**

Chair Von Hendy reported on the letter he wrote to the Board of Directors (Board) requesting staff to create a section on METRO’s website to share the things that METRO is doing for sustainability and environmental issues. The Board acknowledged receipt of MAC’s letter at the February 25, 2022 Board meeting. The Board has not directed staff to take action.

6. UPDATE OF FY23 AND FY24 PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGETS AND FY23 CAPITAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 25, 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chuck Farmer, CFO, spoke to the presentation that was presented to the Board of Directors on March 25, 2022. He emphasized that this is preliminary data. Mr. Pisano asked if METRO gets a price break when charging the electric buses. CFO Farmer said the electric buses are charged at night at the lowest rates. Ms. Elsea asked about the job title change for the Mobility Training Coordinator position and requested a copy of the new job description.

7. UPDATE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (ITS)

Isaac Holly, IT and ITS Director, provided an update on the progress of the ITS project and mentioned that it is currently in the design phase and ahead of schedule.

Ms. Elsea and Mr. Pisano expressed appreciation for Director Holly's work on this project.

8. COVID-19 UPDATE

Margo Ross, COO, reported on the following:

COVID-19: One positive case was reported on April 20, 2022.

Earth Day: METRO will offer free fares on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2022.

COVID-19: One positive case was reported on April 20, 2022.

CEO: A press release on Michael Tree was shared with the MAC Members. Mr. Cruse asked that a copy of the press release be distributed to the Committee.

9. SERVICE PLANNING UPDATE

a. Quarterly Ridership Report

John Urgo, Planning and Development Director, gave a brief summary of the ridership report for the second quarter of FY22. The full report went to the Board on February 25, 2022.

b. Bus Stops

Mr. Pisano asked about the new shelters. Director Urgo said there are 23 shelters that were acquired from Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and are being distributed throughout Santa Cruz County.

c. Other Projects

i. Pacific Station Lobby Access

Director Urgo said the Pacific Station lobby remains closed, but the restrooms are still open to the public. Within the next two weeks the fence will be removed in the lobby of the Watsonville Transit Center.

Ms. Taylor asked about the braille bus stop signage. Discussion followed and it was determined that Ms. Elsea would reach out to Director Urgo to provide further input.

10. DISCUSS PREVIOUS BUS STOP COMMITTEE HISTORY

Ms. Elsea provided a brief overview of the Bus Stop Advisory Committee. Discussion ensued on the type of work the Committee did before it was dissolved.

Chair Von Hendy asked if this was something she was hoping to have revisited or re-established by the Board. Ms. Elsea asked who the public should contact regarding bus stop issues now. COO Ross said those issues are currently being handled by the Operations and Planning Departments. Mr. Freeman added that Customer Service can also be contacted.

11. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO CEO

Chair Von Hendy will write a letter to the new CEO to formally welcome him to METRO and invite him to the next MAC meeting on August 17, 2022.

MOTION: WRITE A WELCOME LETTER TO THE NEW CEO AND INVITE HIM TO THE NEXT MAC MEETING

MOTION: ELSEA

SECOND: PISANO

MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES: Von Hendy, Martinez, Cruse, de Wit, Elsea, Pisano, and Taylor.

12. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

None

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- COVID-19 Update
- Santa Cruz County Fair
- Priorities of new METRO CEO
- Pacific Station Updates
- Fall Schedule
- Braille Bus Stop Signage
- ITS Update

14. DISTRIBUTION OF VOUCHERS

Elizabeth Rocha, Administrative Specialist, will mail out the vouchers on Thursday, April 21, 2022 to all members in attendance at this meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Von Hendy announced the next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rocha
Administrative Specialist

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAC

Elizabeth Rocha-Rocha

To: jamesvh@lifecoaches.com
Subject: RE: MAC letter of welcome to new CEO/General Manager Michael Tree

From: jamesvh@lifecoaches.com <jamesvh@lifecoaches.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2022 1:41 PM
To: boardinquiries@scmttd.com
Cc: Donna Bauer <DBauer@scmttd.com>; Elizabeth Rocha-Rocha <ERocha@scmttd.com>
Subject: MAC letter of welcome to new CEO/General Manager Michael Tree

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Report Suspicious

From: Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) Chair, James Von Hendy

To: Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District CEO and General Manager

Michael Tree
110 Vernon Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

May 5, 2022

Dear Mr. Tree,

The Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) wishes to extend you a warm welcome in your new role as CEO and General Manager of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD).

The MAC meets once each quarter to provide recommendations to the Board of Directors on matters referred to the MAC by the Board of the CEO/General Manager, and to perform additional duties as assigned by the Board. The MAC may also address issues that MAC members or the public raise with respect to the quantity and quality of services provided by METRO.

Past CEO and General Manager, Alex Clifford, regularly attended MAC meetings, and we cordially invite you to attend as well. The next MAC meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM. We look forward to meeting you and working with you.

Respectfully,

James Von Hendy, MAC Chair