



**SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES\*  
FEBRUARY 24, 2023 – 9:00 AM  
MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) convened on Friday, February 24, 2023 via teleconference.

The Board Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at [www.SCMTD.com](http://www.SCMTD.com). \*Minutes are “summary” minutes, not verbatim minutes. Audio recordings of Board meeting open sessions are available to the public upon request.

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- 1 **CALLED TO ORDER** at 9:01 AM by Board Chair Pageler.
- 2 **SWEAR IN NEW DIRECTORS**  
Julie Sherman, General Counsel, swore in new and returning Directors Henderson and Quiroz-Carter.
- 3 **ROLL CALL:** The following Directors were **present** via teleconference, representing a quorum:

<b>Director Kristen Brown</b>	<b>City of Capitola</b>
<b>Director Rebecca Downing</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Direct Jimmy Dutra</b>	<b>City of Watsonville</b>
<b>Director Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson</b>	<b>City of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Manu Koenig</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Donna Lind</b>	<b>City of Scotts Valley</b>
<b>Director Bruce McPherson</b> <i>AR 9:25</i>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Scott Newsome</b>	<b>City of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Larry Pageler</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Quiroz-Carter</b>	<b>City of Watsonville</b>
<b>Director Mike Rotkin</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Ex-Officio Director Dan Henderson</b>	<b>UC Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Ex-Officio Director Alta Northcutt</b>	<b>Cabrillo College</b>
<b>Michael Tree</b>	<b>CEO/General Manager</b>
<b>Julie Sherman</b>	<b>General Counsel</b>
- 4 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
Today’s meeting is being broadcast by Community Television of Santa Cruz County.

**5 NOMINATE BOARD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Chair Pageler spoke to the slates presented in the agenda packet and opened up dialogue to the public and Board Directors.

Brian Peoples, Trail Now, encouraged whoever is selected to represent METRO at the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) to advocate for METRO.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE SLATE 1 AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR KOENIG**

**MOTION DID NOT PASS WITH 5 AYES (Directors Dutra, Kalantari-Johnson, Koenig, Newsome, and Rotkin).**

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE SLATE 2 AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR KOENIG SECOND: DIRECTOR DOWNING**

Discussion ensued amongst Board Members on the vote, including a misunderstanding regarding Slate 1 and a desire to retake the vote. General Counsel Sherman explained a motion and a second had been made and first needed to be dealt with before any other business. Director Koenig withdrew his motion.

*Director McPherson arrived at 9:25 AM.*

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE SLATE 1 AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR DUTRA SECOND: DIRECTOR QUIROZ-CARTER**

**MOTION DID NOT PASS WITH 5 AYES (Directors Dutra, Kalantari-Johnson, Koenig, Newsome and Quiroz-Carter).**

Director Dutra removed himself from the committee nominations. Discussion followed on replacing Director Dutra with Director Quiroz-Carter for South County representation. It was decided to leave the vacancies on the Capital Projects and Personnel/HR Standing Committees and allow the new Chair to fill the vacancies.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE SLATE 2 LEAVING A VACANCY ON THE CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PERSONNEL/HR STANDING COMMITTEES WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NEW CHAIR WILL FILL THE VACANCIES**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR KOENIG**

**MOTION PASSED WITH 9 AYES (Directors Brown, Downing, Kalantari-Johnson, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Newsome, Pageler, and Rotkin).**

Director Pageler welcomed Director Kalantari-Johnson as the new Chair.

Chair Kalantari-Johnson thanked the Board Members for entrusting her with this responsibility. She plans to approach these processes with a lens on the whole community within Santa Cruz County. She thanked Director Pageler for all of his work on the Board.

*Director Dutra left the meeting at 10:00 AM.*

**6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Director Downing expressed appreciation to Danielle Glagola, Marketing, Communications and Customer Service Director, for establishing the METRO Instagram account and posting information on the survey for riders.

**7 ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit, welcomed the new Board Members and expressed appreciation to Michael Tree, CEO/General Manager, and James Sandoval, SMART Chairperson, Local 0023, for participating in Transit Equity Day on February 4, 2023 and the Transit Equity Week Panel on January 30, 2023. She also thanked METRO for helping with the evacuations during the storms.

Brian Peoples, Trail Now, thanked Director Pageler for his work on the Board. He mentioned inflation and the impact it has on delayed infrastructure projects (e.g., North Coast Rail Trail). He is a proponent of railbanking and feels that process will preserve the corridor.

Eduardo Montesino, Bus Operator, recommended going back to two Board meetings a month and removing the standing committees.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Kalantari-Johnson moved to the next agenda item.

**8 LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

Hearing none, Chair Kalantari-Johnson moved to the next agenda item.

**9 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS**

Having none, Chair Kalantari-Johnson moved to the next agenda item.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 10.1 ACCEPT AND FILE: PRELIMINARY APPROVED CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023  
Chuck Farmer, CFO
- 10.2 ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF:
  - A. JANUARY 27, 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
  - B. FEBRUARY 10, 2023 FINANCE, BUDGET AND AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE
  - C. FEBRUARY 10, 2023 PERSONNEL/HR STANDING COMMITTEEMichael Tree, CEO/General Manager
- 10.3 ACCEPT AND FILE: THE YEAR TO DATE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023  
Chuck Farmer, CFO
- 10.4 ACCEPT AND FILE: THE YEAR TO DATE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI) REPORT FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FY23 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022  
Chuck Farmer, CFO

- 10.5 ACCEPT AND FILE: THE METRO PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2022  
Daniel Zaragoza, Operations Manager, Paratransit Division
- 10.6 ACCEPT AND FILE: THE METRO SYSTEM RIDERSHIP REPORTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF FY23  
John Urgo, Planning and Development Director
- 10.7 APPROVE: RECOMMENDED ACTION ON TORT CLAIMS  
Curtis Moses, Safety, Security & Risk Management Director
- 10.8 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DIRECTING THAT THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE  
Michael Tree, CEO/General Manager
- 10.9 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT TO CATTO'S GRAPHICS FOR FULL BUS WRAP SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$212,204.42  
Michael Tree, CEO/General Manager
- 10.10 APPROVE: AUTHORIZE FUNDING OF A PROVISIONAL HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST I POSITION IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
Dawn Crummié, HR Director

General Counsel Sherman made a brief comment on Item 10.8. The Governor is scheduled to lift the state of emergency on February 28, 2023. This item is only a placeholder in case the Governor extends the state of emergency. If the state of emergency is lifted, METRO will be holding in person meetings starting in March.

Brian Peoples, Trail Now, expressed the continued need to conduct meetings via teleconferencing.

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit, congratulated Chair Kalantari-Johnson on her appointment and suggested providing a hybrid option for meetings.

Hearing no further comments, Chair Kalantari-Johnson requested a motion.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN                      SECOND: DIRECTOR PAGELER**

**MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Brown, Downing, Kalantari-Johnson, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Newsome, Pageler, Quiroz-Carter, and Rotkin). Director Dutra was absent.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 11 **APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING AND FUNDING A MAINTENANCE TRAINER POSITION IN THE FLEET DEPARTMENT**  
Margo Ross, COO, spoke to this item and the need for a Maintenance Trainer. This position will provide training to the maintenance staff on our electric and fuel-cell vehicles and fuel-charging systems.

**ACTION: MOTION TO AUTHORIZE AND FUND A MAINTENANCE TRAINER POSITION IN THE FLEET DEPARTMENT**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN                      SECOND: DIRECTOR PAGELER**

**MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Brown, Downing, Kalantari-Johnson, Koenig, Lind, McPherson, Newsome, Pageler, Quiroz-Carter, and Rotkin). Director Dutra was absent.**

**12      CEO ORAL REPORT**

CEO Tree welcomed new Director Quiroz-Carter to the Board and provided updates on:

- Reimagine Program – This is a 15-month planning project to improve METRO’s system, focusing on reliability and frequency. Jarrett Walker and Associates are working on the existing conditions report and analyzing current ridership, demographics and survey data. Recruitment is under way to establish focus groups to reach various demographics within the community. We will have an online community meeting on March 14, 2023 from 5:00 – 6:30 PM to receive input from the community. April 11-13, 2023 will be a three-day workshop focused on network design ideas. The Board will be invited to a briefing at 4:00 PM each day.
- One Ride at a Time / Youth Cruz Free Programs – Ms. Glagola spoke to her presentation (attached) to update the Board Members on both programs. Director Rotkin requested having the Youth Cruz Free IDs available at the Watsonville Transit Center in addition to the Pacific Station. Ms. Glagola acknowledged the request.
- Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) – This grant has been submitted and asks for a hydrogen fueling station, 24 hydrogen buses, and funding for the Watsonville Transit Center Redevelopment Project featuring 60 affordable housing units.
- Sacramento Meetings on February 21, 2023 – CEO Tree met with Senators John Laird and Dave Cortese, and Assemblymembers Gail Pellerin, Robert Rivas and Dawn Addis. METRO’s goals and the TIRCP grant submitted were discussed and these legislative representatives are strong supporters.
- Bus Operators – METRO has six new Bus Operators going into revenue service and seven new recruits beginning training. I’ve created a special committee that meets regularly to improve the process of bringing on new Bus Operators.
- Newsletter – METRO will introduce a newsletter in March to keep the public informed on various projects at METRO.

Chair Kalantari-Johnson requested information on holding future METRO hybrid meetings. General Counsel Sherman reviewed the Brown Act teleconference and hybrid meeting requirements and will forward this information to the Board Members.

Director Downing requested the meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> be recorded and receive a link to that recording afterwards for those that cannot attend in person. Ms. Glagola said she would take care of that.

Chair Kalantari-Johnson thanked Ms. Glagola on her presentation on the One Ride at a Time and Youth Cruz Free Programs. She encouraged other Directors who use social media or have their own newsletters to get the word out on these programs through their networks. She announced that the Aptos Youth Group is doing a celebration and thank you to METRO on the Youth Cruz Free Program. Board Members and METRO staff are invited to attend on March 23, 2023 from 7:00 – 7:30 PM at Aptos High School.

There were no public comments.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Kalantari-Johnson moved to the next agenda item.

**13 REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

General Counsel Sherman announced that the upcoming labor negotiations with all three of METRO's bargaining units will be discussed.

There were no public comments.

**14 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Chair Kalantari-Johnson announced the next regular Board meeting will be held on Friday, March 24, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers, 1 Civic Drive, Scotts Valley.

**15 RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Kalantari-Johnson recessed to closed session at 10:38 AM.

*Directors Lind and McPherson left the meeting at 10:38 AM.*

**SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION**

**16 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6)**

**SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Chair Kalantari-Johnson reconvened the open session at 10:50 AM.

**17 REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

General Counsel Sherman informed the attendees there was no reportable action.

**18 ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kalantari-Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bauer  
Executive Assistant