

MINUTES*

MAC MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2023

REVISED



The METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. The meeting was held via teleconference. *Minutes are "summary" minutes, not verbatim minutes.

1. **CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:01 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL** - The following MAC Members were **present** via teleconference, representing a quorum:

Jessica de Wit, Chair
Joseph Martinez, Vice Chair
James Cruse
Veronica Elsea

Michael Pisano
Becky Taylor
James Von Hendy

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

Ms. Elsea acknowledged and thanked METRO for its participation in Transit Equity Day. Ms. Elsea spoke of her experience in one of the newly wrapped METRO buses at this event. Anna Marie Gouveia, Operations Manager: Fixed Route Division, said a lot of the credit went to Danielle Glagola, Marketing, Communications & Customer Service Director, for coordinating and getting METRO involved in this event.

Mr. Cruse asked if the new METRO bus had the new ITS Systems. Isaac Holly, IT and ITS Director, said he would provide an update when we get to his item on the agenda.

Hearing nothing further, Chair de Wit moved to the next agenda item.

4. **RECEIVE AND FILE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2022**

MOTION: ACCEPT AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2022 AS PRESENTED

MOTION: PISANO

SECOND: VON HENDY

MOTION PASSED WITH 6 AYES: de Wit, Cruse, Elsea, Pisano, Taylor, and Von Hendy. Martinez was absent.

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

Mr. Von Hendy wrote a report to the METRO Board to provide them with an oral update of MAC's discussions during the second half of 2022. The Board acknowledged receipt of the report at the January 27, 2023 Board meeting. Mr. Cruse requested the report be attached to the MAC minutes.

Hearing nothing further, Chair de Wit moved to the next agenda item.

6. **UPDATE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (ITS)**

Isaac Holly, IT and ITS Director, provided a status update on the ITS project with Clever Devices. Director Holly reported that the full fleet installation has begun. We will have a new ITS solution that includes Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) and Automated Voice Annunciator Systems (AVAS).

Director Holly reported that Automated Passenger Counters (APC's) are expected to be completed in July. Discussion followed on apps, bike rack information, and **accessibility** information. Director Holly will report back on **accessibility** information.

Director Holly said more information will be forthcoming on this.

7. SERVICE PLANNING UPDATE

a. Quarterly Ridership Report

John Urgo, Planning and Development Director, said the quarterly ridership report will be available at the end of the month. Overall, ridership continues to improve. We are now closer to 75% pre-COVID levels.

b. Bus Stops

b.i. Update on Braille Bus Stop Signage

Director Urgo reported that Veronica Elsea and Pete Rasmussen, Transportation Planner II, have connected and will continue to work on this issue.

Chair de Wit asked about the trees being cut down on the side of Highway 1. Discussion ensued on the bus-on-shoulder lane on Highway 1 and the bus stops on that route.

c. Other Projects

c.i. Pacific Station Lobby Access

Director Urgo reported there has been no change on the Pacific Station Lobby; the lobby remains closed.

Hearing nothing further, Chair de Wit moved to the next agenda item.

8. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO CEO

Hearing none, Chair de Wit moved to the next agenda item.

9. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hearing none, Chair de Wit moved to the next agenda item.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Update on the Paratransit Eligibility Coordinator
- Update on ITS
- COVID-19 Update
- Service Planning Updates (Braille Bus Stop Signage/Pacific Station Lobby Access)
- Update on Highway 17 schedule with stops at the Cavallaro Transit Center during commute times
- Update on future placement of new bus shelters

Curtis Moses, Safety, Security & Risk Management Director, spoke to COVID-19. Director Moses reported that face masks are now optional for Bus Operators and staff at OPS and the majority of the facilities. We continue to supply face masks and hand sanitizers on the bus and throughout all facilities. We continue to see a decline in positive cases for our employees and there have not been any major or minor outbreaks.

Ms. Elsea asked what the mask requirement was for passengers riding the bus. Director Moses replied that face masks are optional.

11. DISTRIBUTION OF VOUCHERS

Elizabeth Rocha, Administrative Specialist, will mail out the vouchers on Thursday, February 16, 2023 to all members in attendance at this meeting.

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Chair de Wit announced the next MAC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Admin Building, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, unless otherwise notified.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair de Wit adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rocha
Administrative Specialist