

# MINUTES\*

MAC MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 2024



The METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting. \*Minutes are “summary” minutes, not verbatim minutes.

1. **CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:03 PM by Chair Elsea.

2. **SAFETY DEBRIEF**

Gregory Strecker, Safety, Security & Risk Management Director, provided a safety debrief emphasizing the evacuation routes in case of an emergency.

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

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

**Michael Pisano**  
**Becky Taylor**  
**James Von Hendy**

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

Chair Elsea acknowledged the written communication in the packet. Chair Elsea said that new Bus Operators are doing a great job and was appreciative of that.

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

5. **RECEIVE AND FILE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 21, 2024**

**MOTION: ACCEPT AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 21, 2024 AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: PISANO**

**SECOND: VON HENDY**

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

6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chair Elsea mentioned the letter in the packet that she wrote to the Board of Directors (Board).

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

7. **FY25 AND FY26 FINAL BUDGET UPDATE**

Chuck Farmer, CFO, spoke to the presentation and reviewed the FY25 and FY26 final operating budget, operating budget risks, and operating reserves. He also reviewed the capital budget. CFO Farmer focused on the changes that were made to the operating budget.

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

8. **REVIEW OF THE DESIGN OF THE PACIFIC STATION NORTH**

John Urgo, Planning & Development Director, provided an update on the Pacific Station North Project. The original Pacific Station Booth and Transit Center closed on February 2024 and temporarily relocated to the River Front Transit Center. Director Urgo discussed the new METRO bus station’s layout.

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

**9. SERVICE PLANNING UPDATE**

**a. Quarterly Ridership Report**

John Urgo, Planning & Development Director, gave an update on ridership for Q1 of FY25. Overall, total ridership increased about 14% compared to FY24 Q1. Director Urgo mentioned that the full quarterly ridership report will be going to the full Board in November 2024.

**b. Bus Stops**

**b.i. Update on Braille Bus Stop Signage**

Chair Elsea reported that she has discussed this item with others and will continue to work on this issue. They are currently waiting for the bus routes and stops to become more consistent.

**c. Other Projects**

**c.i. Update on Reimagine METRO**

Director Urgo provided an update on Reimagine METRO. He reported that METRO is still in the expansion phase. He mentioned that the amount of service that could be increased in the Winter is limited due to METRO's aging fleet. Discussion continued regarding METRO's fleet.

**c.ii. Update on River Front Transit Center**

Director Urgo mentioned that he will continue to take comments and suggestions on improving the River Front Transit Center.

**10. ESTABLISH AND APPROVE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**MOTION: APPROVE THE 2025 MAC MEETING DATES OF FEBRUARY 19, APRIL 16, AUGUST 20, AND OCTOBER 15**

**MOTION: PISANO**

**SECOND: VON HENDY**

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

**11. ELECT THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2025 TERM**

**MOTION: ELECT CHAIR ELSEA FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM (JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2025)**

**MOTION: PISANO**

**SECOND: DE WIT**

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

**MOTION: ELECT VICE CHAIR MARTINEZ FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM (JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2025)**

**MOTION: PISANO**

**SECOND: DE WIT**

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

**12. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO CEO/GENERAL MANAGER**

None.

**13. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

None.

**14. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- Service Planning Updates
- Quarterly Ridership Report
- Update on Reimagine METRO
- Update on Transit Centers (Watsonville Transit Center, Pacific Station North, & River Front Transit Center)
- Update on Highway 1 Bus-On-Shoulder

**15. DISTRIBUTION OF VOUCHERS**

Vouchers distributed by Elizabeth Rocha, Administrative Specialist.

**16. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Chair Elsea announced the next MAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the METRO Admin Office, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Elsea adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rocha  
Administrative Specialist