

# MINUTES\*

MAC MEETING OF February 16, 2022



The METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. The meeting was held via teleconference. \*Minutes are "summary" minutes, not verbatim minutes.

1. **CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:00 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 *AR 6:14 PM*  
Jessica de Wit

**Veronica Elsea**  
**Michael Pisano**  
Becky Taylor

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

Chair Von Hendy referenced the letter attached to the agenda and staff's detailed response. John Urgo, Planning and Development Director, added that in spring 2022, METRO will add weekend trips on Route 20 to help those students get to their research jobs with Seymour Center.

Ms. Elsea requested text messages regarding the beginning and ending of the school terms. Staff said they would review this issue and see if they could mirror the Headways.

4. **RECEIVE AND FILE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2021**

**MOTION: ACCEPT AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2021 AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: ELSEA**

**SECOND: DE WIT**

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

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

Chair Von Hendy reported that he delivered the MAC update to the Board of Directors at their regular meeting on January 28, 2022. He expressed to the Board that MAC appreciates their hard work and MAC members will continue to be advocates for METRO and our community of riders.

6. **DISCUSS MAC TAKING A FORMAL POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr. Pisano opened the discussion and suggested METRO emphasize what steps they are taking to combat their carbon footprint. Discussion continued with actions METRO is currently implementing. The Committee proposed the Chair write a letter to the Board of Directors requesting staff to make a section on the website detailing the action items that METRO has/is taking to mitigate climate change.

**MOTION: REQUEST THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO DIRECT STAFF TO CREATE A CENTRAL LOCATION ON METRO'S WEBSITE TO SHARE WHAT METRO IS DOING TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE**

**MOTION: ELSEA**

**SECOND: PISANO**

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

## **7. COVID-19 / CEO RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

Dawn Crummié, Interim CEO/General Manager, reported on the following:

CEO Recruitment: We are interviewing three candidates on February 25, 2022.

COVID-19: METRO has had 51 cases since January 1, 2022. Our cases have been milder with no hospitalizations and none of the cases trace back to METRO. There have been no new cases in the last 14 days.

Ms. Elsea asked if there are any plans to open the transit center lobbies. Interim CEO Crummié said not in the near future. Curtis Moses, Safety, Security and Risk Management Director, added that METRO is still under TSA's mandate through March 18, 2022. Danielle Glagola, Marketing, Communications and Customer Service Director, added that the restrooms are still open to the public.

## **8. UPDATE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (ITS)**

Isaac Holly, IT and ITS Director, announced that METRO had its kick-off meeting with Clever Devices yesterday. They are a well-known and a proven vendor for ITS solutions. The project is under way and the initial projected timeline is 18 months.

Chair Von Hendy shared the Committee's appreciation for how Director Holly has handled this situation.

## **9. SERVICE PLANNING UPDATE**

### **a. Quarterly Ridership Report**

John Urgo, Planning and Development Director, gave a brief summary of the second quarter FY22 ridership. The full report is being submitted to the Board of Directors on February 25, 2022. Ms. Elsea said she is hearing wonderful reviews about the creation of Route 18.

### **b. Bus Stops**

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

Director Urgo reported that METRO received a couple of quotes from vendors. The quotes to install Stop ID, METRO phone number and route numbers range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 for all of the bus stops. We would start with about 150 most used stops. Ms. Elsea said she would look into if any special grants are available for this type of need. Director Urgo welcomed that suggestion. Ms. Taylor suggested that only the Stop ID be added to the signage to reduce the cost.

#### **b.ii. Discuss Enterprise Technology Center (ETC) Bus Stop**

Director Urgo reviewed the agenda attachments from the last MAC meeting and the challenges surrounding this site, one being unable to operate bi-directional service. Discussion followed on using METRO's microtransit on-demand service and UCSC's role in this matter. Mr. Pisano thanked Director Urgo for the information but suggested getting CalTrans and Public Works involved to come up with a solution. Director Urgo reiterated that the current conditions of the site will not work for METRO and if CalTrans installs a bus stop, METRO will service it.

#### **b.iii. Update on Kaiser-Provided Shuttle Service at New Kaiser Facility**

Director Urgo said the new Kaiser facility is not on a METRO corridor and would be hard to serve. We've been in contact with Kaiser but METRO is not currently planning to provide service to that location.

**c. Other Projects**

**c.i. Pacific Station North Redevelopment Project**

Director Urgo announced that this project was awarded approximately \$30 million in affordable housing and sustainable community grants. We are excited about the partnership with the City of Santa Cruz for the redevelopment of that site, a new bus tarmac, and about 100 units of affordable housing.

**c.ii. Pacific Station Lobby Access**

Previously discussed in Item 7. Director Urgo added that the bathrooms, METRO Market, and food vendors are open.

**10. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO CEO**

None.

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

Chair Von Hendy will write a letter to the Board of Directors regarding the motion passed in Item 6.

**12. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- Lobby Access
- Preliminary Budget Review
- Discuss Previous Bus Stop Committee History

**13. DISTRIBUTION OF VOUCHERS**

Donna Bauer, Executive Assistant, will mail out the vouchers on Thursday, February 17, 2022 to all members in attendance at this meeting.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bauer  
Executive Assistant