

Monterey-Salinas Transit District Strategic Plan – 2018-2020

About The Plan

This plan represents the collaboration of the MST Board of Directors and staff to develop a 3-year vision and identify strategic priorities to focus MST resources and energies.

MST services focus on moving people from where they are to where they need and choose to be. The MST Board of Directors focuses on a similar concept but on a different scale – developing policy to move the District to where it needs to be to effectively serve our communities and constituencies.

A review of MST strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges (SWOC) revealed several important facts. The inability of Congress to deal with structural deficits in the National Highway Trust Fund combined with state transportation funding resulted in increasingly unreliable and diminishing federal and state sources of operating and capital funds. Traffic congestion and demands for increased access to public transportation for persons of low-income, seniors, and persons with disabilities in Monterey County continue to increase. Finally, the lack of adequate facilities and a rapidly aging fleet and difficulty recruiting qualified employees continue to limit the ability of MST to grow its service to meet community needs.

The SWOC analysis also revealed that MST's image in the community, long-term growing ridership, as well as its employees and management team, continue to be strong. MST's ability to creatively generate revenue from outside of traditional sources through a variety of private and public partnerships continues to be an organizational strength.

Upon completion of the SWOC analysis, a list major challenges and future priorities were identified. After discussion and debate, the highest priority goals identified were:

- Develop and maintain adequate and stable long-term revenues
- Provide quality transit and mobility management services
- Maintain effective board protocols and best practices to achieve effective and efficient board operations and board meeting management
- Promote policies and practices that encourage environmental sustainability and resource conservation

- Educate the public on MST services through promotion, communication, and advocacy
- Promote organizational values to maintain high-quality relationships with MST employees, contractors, vendors, and community stakeholders
- Maintain industry leadership for like-sized agencies within California and the United States.

For each goal, staff, working together with the Strategic Planning Committee, has formulated initial objectives and desired outcomes. Indicators of success were defined to track relative progress towards the objectives and outcomes. Discrete actions to be taken towards the accomplishment of the strategic goals will be defined in each annual budget during the life of the strategic plan.

Monterey-Salinas Transit Mission

Advocating and delivering quality public transportation as a leader within our community and with our industry.

Our Vision

A fully funded public transit system providing quality, valued, and affordable mobility and transportation services for the people in Monterey County

We Believe In...

- **Using Good Judgment**
- **Achieving Win/Win Outcomes**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Teamwork**
- **Acting with Dignity, Trust, Cooperation, and Loyalty**
- **Constant Measurable Improvement**
- **Recognizing Results**

Strategic Goals

The following are the strategic priorities and goal statements that MST will pursue over the next three years.

- **Develop and Maintain Adequate and Stable Long Term Revenues**

Maintain public/private and public/public partnerships, fare-pricing strategies and revenue generation from the use of MST assets as a means to generate the revenue required to construct needed capital facilities, purchase vehicles and sustain current and future transit services

Through education and advocacy, encourage policy makers and the general public to enact legislation at local, state and federal levels to provide sustained revenue sources that will support the future growth of Monterey County's public transportation system

- **Provide Quality Transit and Mobility Management Services**

Develop and implement services, infrastructure, and technologies to meet and exceed the expectations of customers and maximize the value of MST in the community. Continue to explore and implement new technologies and practices that enhance the overall customer experience, improve safety and sustainability, reduce costs, attract new customers, retain existing customers, motivate employees

- **Maintain board protocols and best practices to achieve effective and efficient board operations and board meeting management**

Offer training and orientation for board members and provide concise reports that result in a well-informed, well-satisfied, participatory policy governance board

- **Promote policies and practices that encourage environmental sustainability and resource conservation**

Implement economically sound and environmentally-friendly resource conservation policies that reduce dependence on scarce natural resources and the potential for negative impacts on our environment

- **Educate the public on MST services through promotion, communication and advocacy**

Attract new riders and improve community support for MST by utilizing effective marketing, promotion, and communication techniques and by applying greater focus in meeting individual community and stakeholder needs

- **Promote organizational values to maintain high quality relationships with MST employees, contractors, vendors, board members and community stakeholders**

Promote individual and organizational safety, efficiency and effectiveness and enhance the satisfaction of our customers, employees, partners, board members, and other key stakeholders

- **Maintain industry leadership for like-sized agencies within California and the United States.**

Develop and implement programs and practices that distinguish Monterey-Salinas Transit as a leader with the public transit industry

FY 2018-2020 GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANS

The following are the seven strategic priorities that MST will pursue over the next three years. Each goal includes specific objectives to be met during FY 2018-2020 to support these goals along with tactics to be used to achieve each objective.

1. Develop and Maintain Adequate and Stable Long Term Revenues

Objectives/Outcomes:

Maintain public/private and public/public partnerships, fare-pricing strategies and revenue generation from the use of MST assets as a means to generate the revenue required to construct needed capital facilities, purchase vehicles, sustain current and future transit services, and maximize the value of MST services to the community.

Through education and advocacy, encourage policymakers and the general public to enact legislation at local, state, and federal levels to provide sustained funding sources that will support the future growth of Monterey County's public transportation system.

Indicators of Success:

- Maximize opportunities to leverage local funds with Federal, State, and private sources to support transit projects maximized
- Public/private funding agreements executed
- Adequate funding in place to support operating and capital needs
- Increased local funding support through developer fees, sales tax and other funding initiatives as appropriate

Menu of Tactics:

- a. Adopt and execute annual state and federal legislative programs
- b. Utilize debt financing from bonds, private financing, and other sources as appropriate
- c. Identify additional partnerships to fund transit services outside of traditional tax sources
- d. Maintain adequate cash reserves to support a state of good repair for assets
- e. Identify grant opportunities to leverage local funds for transit projects

2. Provide Quality Transit and Mobility Management Services

Objectives/Outcomes: Develop and implement services, infrastructure, and technologies to meet and exceed the expectations of customers and maximize the value of MST in the community. Continue to explore and implement new technologies and practices that enhance the overall customer experience, improve safety and sustainability, reduce costs, attract new customers, retain existing customers, and motivate employees

Indicators of Success:

- Passenger boarding growth rate that supports employment and population growth trends
- Increased customer and stakeholder satisfaction
- Business conducted within approved budget and performance indicators including safety, efficiency, effectiveness, on-time performance, customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction, and stakeholder satisfaction

Menu of Tactics:

- a. Continuation of programs that reward safe behavior
- b. Fine tune existing service to improve convenience and on-time performance
- c. Monitor operating, maintenance, and financial performance statistics on a monthly basis and implement programs to support continuous improvement
- d. Develop comprehensive service plan to focus limited resources on highest priority transit needs
- e. Establish MST customer service presence where demand is highest
- f. Continue participation in Fort Ord multi-modal and other transportation corridor studies
- g. Continue to monitor autonomous vehicle technology and implement as appropriate
- h. Develop and improve workforce development plans to sustain service levels

- i. Continue planning activities for Hwy 1 corridor transit improvements
- j. Maintain MST Trolley contract with City of Monterey
- k. Upgrade and enhance technologies to improve customer experience
- l. Continue planning a comprehensive regional BRT plan and apply for funding, as appropriate
- m. Identify funding for additional on-street passenger amenities
- n. Maintain and develop partnership with alternative mobility providers, including taxis, van pool and TNC (transportation network company) to improve mobility options
- o. Plan for a South County operations and maintenance facility
- p. Determine appropriate level of contracted transit services to provide highest value services to communities served

3. Maintain board protocols and best practices to achieve effective and efficient board operations and board meeting management

Objectives/Outcomes: Offer training and orientation for board members and provide concise reports that result in a well-informed, well- satisfied, participatory policy governance board

Indicators of Success:

- Satisfied, involved fully-integrated, well informed, and well-functioning Board of Directors
- Residents of member jurisdictions feeling well represented

Menu of Tactics:

- a. Continue board member training and orientation programs
- b. Continue board committee structures to support decision making
- c. Monitor board reporting practices to make better use of limited time available for board meetings

4. Promote Policies and Practices that Encourage Environmental Sustainability and Resource Conservation

Objective: Implement economically sound and environmentally-friendly resource conservation policies that reduce dependence on scarce natural resources and the potential for negative impacts on our environment

Indicators of Success:

- Compliance with EPA and California Air Resources Board mandates
- Reduced consumption and related costs of utilities including water, natural gas, and electricity
- Reduced consumption of fossil and non-renewable fuels
- Increased investment in zero-emission technology
- Recognition for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Menu of Tactics:

- a. Participate in national, state, and regional transit conferences, meetings and alternative fuel forums, user groups, etc., that identify and outline changes to federal and California Air Resources Board (CARB) emission requirements
- b. Maintain a dialogue with CARB staff regarding emission requirements and emission reduction strategies
- c. Adopt Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles as appropriate in the design and construction of MST facilities
- d. Identify opportunities for energy, water, gas, and other resource conservation programs
- e. Implement alternative fuel and zero-emission bus technologies
- f. Monitor emerging technologies and determine cost-effective sustainable technologies and implement as appropriate

5. Educate the Public on MST Services through Promotion, Communication and Advocacy

Attract new riders and improve support for MST by utilizing effective marketing, promotion, and communication techniques and by applying greater focus in meeting individual community and stakeholder needs.

Indicators of Success:

- Increased awareness of MST transportation and mobility services and the value they provide
- Increased patronage and usage MST website and tools provided
- Increased positive media coverage of MST

Menu of Tactics:

- a. Implement and develop coordinated, multi-media, bilingual media communications and advertising programs and include special emphasis on providing relevant messaging to young people
- b. Improve MST online and social media presence, and utilize new and emerging technologies to communicate with new markets
- c. Encourage transit-friendly land-use planning through further dissemination of the *Designing for Transit* manual
- d. Implement targeted marketing education and promotional efforts designed towards major employers, students, tourists, senior groups, hospitality industry, and non-traditional customers
- e. Develop educational materials that explain the necessity for continued subsidizing for transit services

6. Promote Organizational Values to Maintain High Quality Relationships with MST Employees, Customers, Contractors, Vendors, and Community Stakeholders

Promote individual and organizational safety, efficiency and effectiveness and enhance the satisfaction of our customers, employees, partners, board members and other key stakeholders

Indicators of Success:

- High levels of employee, customer, and stakeholder satisfaction
- Improved relationships with represented labor workforce

- Increased utilization of employee development programs
- Improved safety performance and reductions in injuries

Menu of Tactics:

- a. Recognize and celebrate individual and group achievements in support of MST's mission, vision, values, goals, and objectives
- b. Conduct attitude and opinion surveys to gauge satisfaction of riders, non-riders, employees, and stakeholders
- c. Improve communication with all employees and the Amalgamated Transit Union leadership
- d. Monitor employment contract with Amalgamated Transit Union and Monterey-Salinas Transit Employee Association agreements
- e. Develop and implement targeted marketing and promotional efforts designed towards major employers, students, senior groups, hospitality industry, tourists, and non-traditional riders will also assist in growing ridership
- f. Develop and implement workforce recruitment, training, development, and succession plans to ensure a proper staff structure is in place that supports the mission, vision, and values to meet strategic goals and objectives
- g. Monitor implementation of new marijuana laws to ensure safety of MST workforce and customers

7. Maintain industry leadership for like-sized agencies within California and the United States

Develop and implement programs and practices that distinguish Monterey-Salinas Transit as a leader with the public transit industry

Indicators of Success:

- Participate in a leadership role in industry trade associations
- Receive recognition and acknowledgement for innovative programs and practices

Menu of Tactics:

- a. Seek appointment to leadership positions within appropriate national, state, and local trade, business and community associations and committees

- a. Develop and implement innovative programs and that enhance the overall customer experience, improve safety and sustainability, reduce costs, attract new customers, retain existing customers, motivate employees, and reflect well on Monterey-Salinas Transit and the public transit industry in general

- b. Implement targeted marketing, educating and promotional efforts designed towards major employers, students, tourists, senior groups, hospitality industry, and non-traditional customers.

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Strengths	Weaknesses
Fast Act Authorization	Fleet availability
Innovative	Unpredictable funding/revenue sources
Alternative funding strategies	Public transit industry politically weak
Employees and management team	Low urban density
Fiscally responsible	Low staffing levels due to cutbacks
Legislative representatives/governmental relations (FTA, Caltrans)	Lack of physical capacity at transit facilities
Well maintained fleet	Aging population requiring specialized service
Support of elderly/disabled community	Recruitment of skilled trades
Emergency response planning	High mileage fleet
System operating performance	Growing population of disability patients
Community / stakeholder support	Lack of visibility to transportation career
Brand identity	Performance of transit service contractor
Recognized industry leadership	
Public safety relationships	
Advanced technology infrastructure	
Safety culture	
Broad community use of services	
Public/private partnerships	
Transit District governance	
Security system	
Mobility management programs	
Local union relationships	
Opportunities	Challenges
Reduced sales tax approval threshold	Traffic congestion
Public/private partnerships	Local development/environmental regulations
Changing habits—new customer types	Unfunded mandates CARB/EPA/ADA
Bus on shoulder opportunities	Demographics; aging population & workforce
Hwy 1 improvement projects	FTA vehicle spare ratio rule
WAVE electric trolley technology	Increased costs
Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)	Unpredictable federalization
Ft. Ord multimodal corridor planning	Transportation Network Companies (TNC's)
Off-board fare collection	Section 13c – Federal Transit Act
Untapped customer base	Non transit-oriented development
Nonprofit status for mobility management	Potential labor work action
Expanded transit facilities	National Highway Trust Fund deficit
Labor contract negotiations	Gridlock in Congress
University/college transit services	Recreational marijuana laws
Enhance safety performance	

Opportunities (cont'd)	Challenges (cont'd)
State carbon cap and trade program	
State transit funding	
Autonomous Vehicle Technologies	
Renewal of contract for private services	
South County Maintenance/Operations Facility	
TAMC sales tax revenues	
Traffic congestion	