

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT  
June 15, 2011

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Armenta called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the MST Conference Room.

Present:	Fernando Armenta	County of Monterey
	Alan Cohen	City of Pacific Grove
	Jerry Edelen (alt)	City of Del Rey Oaks
	Libby Downey	City of Monterey
	Alvin Edwards	City of Seaside
	Susan Kleber	City of King
	Liz Sanchez (alt)	City of Gonzales (arrived at 10:04a.m.)
	David Pendergrass	City of Sand City
	Karen Sharp	City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
	Patricia Stephens	City of Soledad
Absent:	John Huerta, Jr.	City of Greenfield
	Frank O'Connell	City of Marina
	Sergio Sanchez	City of Salinas
Staff:	Sonia Bannister	Office Administrator/Marketing & Sales Specialist
	Rose Bayles	HR Generalist
	Angela Dawson	Accountant
	Mark Eccles	Director of IT
	Kelly Halcon	Director of Human Resources
	Hunter Harvath	Asst. General Manager/Finance & Administration
	Michael Hernandez	Asst. General Manager/COO
	Michelle Overmeyer	Grants Administrator
	Carl Sedoryk	General Manager/CEO
	Zoe Shoats	Marketing Analyst
	Deanna Smith	Executive Assistant to the GM/CEO
	Robert Weber	Director of Transportation Services
	Kathy Williams	General Accounting Manager
Others:	David C. Laredo	De Lay & Laredo
	John Siragusa	MV Transportation
	Rafael Rosado	MST
	Robert Weber	MST
	Jim Fink	Citizen
	Lance Atencio	MV Transportation
	Nancy Amador	MST

***Apology is made for any misspelling of a name.***

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda items consisted of the following:

2-1 Review highlights of Agenda.

Mr. Sedoryk announced that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to tentatively certify the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that would allow MST to move forward with its planned development on the Whispering Oaks site. A final vote will be taken at the July 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting, after the County of Monterey staff is allowed to make a final presentation. He thanked all Board Members and members of the public for their attendance and support.

2-1 Review Highlights of agenda

Mr. Sedoryk presented the highlights of the agenda.

2-2 Adopt Resolution 2011-22 recognizing Ralph Rosado, Coach Operator, as Employee of the Month for June 2011.

2-3 Minutes of the regular meeting of May 9, 2011.

2-4 Disposal of property left aboard buses.

2-5 Financial Report--April 2011.

2-6 Claim Rejection—Jesse Hood.

2-7 Approve up to 3-month Contract Extension with GY Investigations, Inc.

2-8 Authorize changes to the CTSA Advisory Committee.

2-9 Authorize a one-year contract with a two-year option to extend with Trapeze ITS for TransitMaster system maintenance.

2-10 Review Board Satisfaction Survey.

2-11 General Manager/CEO Contract Renewal.

2-12 Adopt a Proclamation Establishing 6<sup>th</sup> Annual National Dump the Pump Day in Monterey County on June 16, 2011.

Director Downey requested item 2-7 be removed from the consent agenda for discussion. She is concerned about the MST Board making decisions for the Regional Taxi Authority (RTA), and asks that this issue be addressed in the ordinance. She believes the biggest problem with the RTA is the hiring of GY Investigations, Inc. to perform administrative functions on behalf of the RTA.

Mr. Harvath stated that GY Investigations' contract expired Monday, the day the RTA received the final authority to perform background checks and issue permits. If his contract is not renewed, the permit process will be halted. He stated that the Board could decide to renew only a 1-month contract, with future extensions being brought back for monthly approval. He stated that the City of Salinas will be submitting their administrative budget to their City Council this month for approval.

**Director Downey made a motion to approve a 1-month contract extension with GY Investigations, Inc., with future contract extensions to be presented to the Board on a monthly basis. Director Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Director Edwards requested that staff place this issue is on the next RTA agenda.

Director Pendergrass asked if Director Downey was objecting to using GY Investigations and if she wanted the RTA administration to go out to bid again. Director Downey stated that she did not want to suggest another bid process; she wants to move forward with the City of Monterey and/or City of Salinas taking over RTA administration.

Mr. Harvath confirmed that contracting out RTA administrative services to the Cities of Monterey and Salinas is the least expensive option. He believes a budget for their administrative services will be available for Board approval at the July 12, 2011 meeting.

#### Public Comment

Jim Fink, on behalf of Celia Sue Heck, asks if the Board will regulate taxi fares and if they will work to protect seniors and the disabled.

Mr. Harvath stated that the Technical Advisory Committee will address fees under the Senior Scrip Program, with grant funds to support the program hopefully available in September.

**Director Downey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Director Pendergrass. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### **3-1 June Employee of the Month—Ralph Rosado, Coach Operator.**

Robert Weber recognized Ralph Rosado, Coach Operator, as Employee of the Month for his positive contribution to MST and the entire community, for being a recipient of multiple attendance and outstanding customer service awards including being recognized for 27 years of Safe Driving, and for serving as a role model to his fellow co-workers.

#### **3-2 30 Years of Service—Steven Carroll, Intermediate Mechanic.**

Michael Hernandez presented an award to Steven Carroll, Intermediate Mechanic, for his thirty years of exemplary service with MST. Mr. Carroll is recognized for being a loyal, reliable, and hard-working employee.

#### **3-3 30 Years of Service—Mary Escalera, Coach Operator.**

Robert Weber presented an award to Mary Escalera, Coach Operator, for her thirty years of exemplary service with MST. Ms. Escalera has provided assistance with evacuating flood victims in Monterey County, assisting with MST special events, and has thwarted bus pass fraud attempts.

#### **3-4 Transit 101 Monterey Branch Line Light Rail Presentation.**

The Monterey Branch Line Light Rail Presentation by Debra Hale of TAMC was moved to the August Board meeting.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Fink presented a book, *Climategate*, as recommended reading for the Board. He stated that he wishes California would adopt a bus stop model similar to the State of Ohio. He believes our bus stops are located too far from intersections. He also would like Line 55 to run earlier in the morning for those who attend church services.

### **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **5-1 MST Finance Committee Minutes**

#### **5-2 Conduct Election of Officers**

Mr. Sedoryk stated that the Nominating Sub-committee met at 9:45a.m. this morning to recommend officers for Board approval. The attachment containing the committee's recommendations was passed out to all Board members and it was recommended that the Board elect Fernando Armenta as MST Board Chair, and Kristin Clark as Vice-Chair

**Director Downey made a motion to approve the Fernando Armenta as Chair, and Kristin Clark as Vice-Chair of the MST Board for FY 2012. The motion was seconded by Director Stephens. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Armenta stated that while he was honored to serve, he suggested that the TAMC bylaws be used as a template for future Board positions. He believes it is advantageous to regularly rotate officers to allow all members and jurisdictions the honor of serving.

## **6. BIDS/PROPOSALS**

### **6-1 Approve Contract for Transit Services to CSUMB.**

Mr. Harvath presented a brief history of the CSUMB University Pass Program, passed by the MST Board in 2008, providing a “free fare zone” on the college campus. The new contract will establish an agreement whereby CSUMB will pay MST to assume the role of transit provider for the University, providing approximately \$350,000 in revenue for the first year of the program. The anticipated additional ridership would also increase the opportunity for grant funds based on ridership.

Mr. Edelen felt the program sounded good, but wanted clarification that all MST costs would be covered. Mr. Harvath stated that the program is designed to break even. Mr. Sedoryk stated that local MST service covers only 40% of costs, while the CSUMB program requires no subsidy.

Director Cohen stated that he assumes the program is successful. Director Stephens asked how well-received the program has been. Mr. Harvath stated that the program has been a huge success with ridership increasing up to 400%.

Mr. Sedoryk reminded the Board that many Federal grants are based on ridership; therefore, the program offers expanded opportunities for more grant funding.

Director Sharp thanked MST for the good program.

Meghan Tolbert of CSUMB stated that the program has received more positive feedback than any other program.

### **Public Comment**

None.

**Director Edwards made a motion to approve the Contract for Transit Services with CSUMB and was seconded by Director Downey. The motion carried unanimously.**

6-2 Approve 2-Year Contract Extension with MV Transit.

Robert Weber presented a request for Board approval of a 2-year contract extension with MV Transit, the current provider of all limited fixed route, trolley, and MST RIDES services, representing approximately 30% of all MST services. The recommended contract provides that MST will assume the responsibility for purchasing all fuel, resulting in a 12% decrease in current contract expenses and a 6% decrease in para-transit costs.

Mr. Weber introduced John Siragusa, President of the Western Group of MV Transit, who was available for questions.

Mr. Edelen stated that he is sure MV Transit is doing a good job, but is concerned that they have held a contract for seven (7) years without MST requesting new bids. He suggested that the contract go out for bid in two years when the contract expires. Mr. Weber stated that at this time next year a bid proposal will be presented to the Board.

Mr. Sedoryk asked Mr. Weber if he performs regular comparisons with other transportation agencies to benchmark our contract costs. Mr. Weber stated that he recently did a review of nine (9) other comparable agencies in California, and our current contract rate is very good in comparison and has risen only 2% over two years.

Director Downey applauded Mr. Edelen for the suggestion.

Public Comment

Mr. Fink stated that he has experienced excellent service with MV Transit, but stated that there is a communication gap between MV dispatch and MST dispatch operators. He has missed a line on several occasions and suggests they research the problem.

John Siragusa stated that he is very proud to work with MST and will look into the complaints of missed service.

Director Downey stated that of two people she has spoken to, one liked the service, but one said that the dispatch service got the pick-up time wrong.

Mr. Weber stated that mistakes do happen, but it is always helpful to report any errors to customer service so they can be researched and corrected. He also stated that even though the contract is large, there are many start-up costs associated with contracting with a new company, and the longer contracts are often financially and practically desirable.

**Director Downey made a motion to approve the 2-Year Contract Extension with MV Transit and was seconded by Director Edwards. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Armenta asked if MST advertises on the RIDES vehicle. Mr. Sedoryk stated that MST has received marketing advice that the larger buses on regular routes provide a greater and more advantageous exposure than the para-transit vehicles. He stated that staff will research the opportunities.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **8-1 Adopt FY 2012 Operating and Capital Budget.**

Mr. Harvath presented the FY 2012 Operating and Capital Budget, including a request to approve the FY 2012 Budget, FY 2012 Staffing Levels, and Resolution 2011-23 authorizing federal grant applications. He stated that MST needs to close a one million (\$1,000,000) dollar budget gap. Part of the budget shortage is due to less federal grant funding and higher fuel costs.

Mr. Edelen requested that in the future staff add a column to the budget highlighting the percentage difference in budget classes. He pointed to an example on page 93 that could be used beginning on page 101 of the budget.

Director Edwards asked if MST is considering furloughs. Mr. Harvath stated that administrative staff is required to take five (5) furlough days per year in lieu of vacation days, with no cash out option. He stated that the nature of the agency required that customer service be open five days per week.

Mr. Edwards asked if MST was planning on purchasing new buses. Mr. Harvath stated that MST needs twenty-one buses, but will be delaying purchases for FY 2012.

**Director Edwards made a motion to approve the FY 2012 Budget, FY 2012 Staffing Levels, and Resolution 2011-23 authorizing federal grant applications. The motion was seconded by Director Downey. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9-1 Approve Hartnell College Free Fare Zone.**

Mr. Harvath presented the Hartnell College Free Fare Zone program which is similar to, and builds upon, the success of a similar program at CSUMB. The contract provides for students, faculty, and staff carrying valid campus ID cards to ride free on Lines 20 and 23 at the bus stop in front of the campus on Alisal Street and Homestead Avenue. Hartnell student Timothy Miguel worked with the Student Senate to gain financial support for the program. This program would provide that Hartnell College reimburse MST approximately \$30,000 for the first year of the program.

Mr. Edelen stated that MST and the staff deserve credit for creatively implementing projects that generate revenue. Director Edwards applauded Hartnell students for stepping up and getting involved. Director Stephens complimented Timothy Miguel for his hard work and reminded everyone that he is a resident of Soledad.

#### Public Comment

Timothy Miguel, Hartnell student, thanked MST staff for being willing to help support the program and asks the Board to approve.

(Name Unclear), Student President of Hartnell suggested creating an MST Line for all colleges. He stated that the students would like to explore further partnerships with MST. He believes that if the students have to bear the cost of the program in their fees, the service should be limited to the students only. He requests more discussions with the current Student Senate before approving.

Meghan Tolbert stated that she is trying to encourage opportunities to students, and that they get their information from many forms. She suggests that banners are an excellent opportunity. She stated that if the Board waits to approve this program, it will not be available for the fall semester in September.

Sequoia Lewis, Hartnell Student Senate stated that the students are in favor of this program. She stated that disabled students who ride the RIDES service find it very expensive. She encourages the Board to approve the program.

Juan Gutierrez, Hartnell student and Student Trustee, is concerned that the costs of the program are in student fees. He believes routes should be between all Hartnell campuses and believes the decision was rushed. He believes the free fare zone should only be used for the students who pay for it.

Jim Fink stated that if the Board waits until October to approve, opportunities for the fall semester will be missed.

Director Kleber stated that Mr. Miguel, the Student Council, and staff had many meetings to establish the program, beginning in July 2010.

Director Downey asked if staff could meet to gain support from the current Student Senate after approval. Mr. Harvath stated that he would be happy to meet with them.

Mr. Harvath stated that there was a letter from Hartnell Superintendent Phoebe Helm supporting the program. He stated that during his meetings with the Student Senate it was established that students must present their valid ID to take advantage of the free fare. Members who are not students, faculty, or staff would pay the full fare.



He stated that at the Planning and Operations Committee meeting this morning, an alteration of routes would allow for a connection to the East Campus.

**Director Edwards made a motion to approve the Hartnell College Free Fare Zone and was seconded by Director Stephens.**

Mr. Edelen stated that there is a signed agreement between the Student Senate and MST, and a new Senate does not have the authority to cancel that agreement.

Director Silva asked if the \$30,000 is for the full year. Mr. Harvath said that the estimate is based on current ridership, not to exceed \$30,000. Mr. Harvath stated that the program runs through the summer, and the Lines are regular routes anyway, so the reimbursement will apply to valid ID holders, but the lines will run for all passengers as scheduled.

Chair Armenta asked why the free fare applies to faculty and staff if the funds to support the program come from student fares. Mr. Harvath stated that the Student Senate had discussed this issue, and suggested Board approval with a valid Hartnell ID, confirming the definition of a valid ID with Phoebe Helm.

**Director Edwards amended his motion to approve the Hartnell College Free Fare Zone, with confirmation of Hartnell ID validity provided by Phoebe Helm at Hartnell College. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **10. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **10-1 General Manager/CEO Report**

Mr. Sedoryk announced that MST has completed a seventy-eight (78) day accident free period. This has resulted in insurance premium savings; a safety recognition barbecue will be held at the TDA and CJW facilities. He stated that there is a list of action plan items on page 99 of the budget. He stated that at the last TAMC meeting, the duplication of mission and responsibilities between AMBAG, TAMC, and MST was discussed. Debbie Hale was directed by the TAMC Board to pursue discussions regarding streamlining the agencies roles.

## **11. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

### **11-1 Reports on meetings attended by Board members at MST expense.**

None.

## **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Downey expressed concern that MST has not talked to the City of Marina about the possibility of acquiring a suitable 25-acre parcel as an alternative to the Whispering Oaks site and the Marina Airport site.

Director Pendergrass stated that every jurisdiction in the county has sat down and negotiated the Ft. Ord Reuse Plan and he believes that people who were not involved should respect the work that was already completed. He stated that the plan was approved even with the Sierra Club and various environmental groups. Director Downey stated that she believes the issue can still be revisited.

Director Edwards stated that he thanks MST staff for all of their hard work and difficult choices.

Chair Armenta requested that staff review the bylaws of TAMC regarding election of officers and consider implementing the policy into MST bylaws. He thanks Carl Sedoryk, Carl Wulf, Hunter Harvath, Mr. Laredo, and staff for their work in preparation for the recent County Board of Supervisors meeting. He believes MST and the Board must fulfill their mission and not jeopardize federal funding.

Director Cohen stated that he likes the recent MST television commercial.

## **13. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session to meet with legal counsel regarding conference with property negotiators. (Parcel #APN 032 171 005; L.2.3, L.2.4.1, L.2.4.3, L.2.4.2, APN 031-011-056-000)

## **14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

No reportable action taken.

## **15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Armenta adjourned the meeting at 12:30PM.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna Smith