1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Armenta called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the MST Conference Room and Director Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Fernando Armenta County of Monterey
          Kristin Clark City of Del Rey Oaks
          Alan Cohen City of Pacific Grove
          Libby Downey City of Monterey
          Alvin Edwards City of Seaside
          John Huerta, Jr. City of Greenfield
          Susan Kleber City of King
          Frank O'Connell City of Marina
          David Pendergrass City of Sand City
          Sergio Sanchez City of Salinas
          Karen Sharp City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
          Patricia Stephens City of Soledad

Absent: Maria Orozco City of Gonzales

Staff: Carl Sedoryk General Manager/CEO
       Angela Dawson Accountant
       Mark Ecoles Director of IT
       Mike Gallant Planning Manager
       Kelly Halcon Director of Human Resources & Risk Management
       Hunter Harvath Asst. General Manager/Finance & Administration
       Michael Hernandez Asst. General Manager/COO
       Tom Hicks Mobility Manager
       Michelle Overmeyer Grants & Compliance Analyst
       Deanna Smith Executive Assistant to the GM/CEO
       Robert Weber Director of Transportation Services
       Kathy Williams General Budget & Accounting Manager
       Carl Wulf Facilities Manager
       Ben Newman Risk & Security Manager
       Sonia Bannister Office Administrator
2. CLOSED SESSION

2-1 Conference with property negotiators, Gov. Code § 54956.8. ( Parcel # APN 032-171-005, L.2.3, L.2.4.1, L.2.4.2, APN 031-011-056-000) Agency negotiator, Carl Sedoryk. Negotiating party, Monterey County Redevelopment Agency. (No enclosure) (Carl Sedoryk)

2-2 Conference with Legal Counsel-Litigation, Existing Litigation, Gov. Code § 54956.9(a). Landwatch v. County of Monterey. (Monterey Superior Court Case No. M113552) (No enclosure) (Carl Sedoryk)

2-3 General Manager Performance Evaluation, Gov. Code § 54957 (b) - (No enclosure) (K. Halcon)

Public Comment

Margaret Davis stated that the Board should represent the public. Ordinary people need access to public land for recreation, and the public was promised a continuous trail from beach to BLM land. She opposes the Whispering Oaks project.
Susan Pruea read two limericks and a devotional excerpt on sin. She opposes the Whispering Oaks project.

John Hutchison stated he was petitioner number 18,000 opposing Whispering Oaks development. He “called out” Mr. Sedoryk and challenged him to a hiking debate with members of the media acting as mediators.

An unnamed student of CSUMB can’t believe the selfishness of MST and does not support the development.

Brian Sperber disputed the accuracy of site alternative evaluations and opposes the development.

Fred Watson believes Whispering Oaks is a valuable habitat for numerous species. Other sites are preferable and available.

Jason Campbell believes the development is the wrong course for MST and the public. He believes alternative site evaluations are flawed.

Paul Wolf stated that he speaks for numerous people and the more he told people about the project, the more they opposed it.

Director Huerta arrived at 10:15 a.m.

Lynn Hamilton does not want the trail to go by a bus yard. She believes the Marina Airport is preferable.

Steve Ecklund can’t understand why MST would want to build at Whispering Oaks because it is not easy to get there.

Bill Weigle addressed Mr. Sedoryk and requested his resignation. He believes Mr. Sedoryk wasted $4 million dollars prematurely, is disingenuous regarding alternative sites, and is ignoring the public.

Diane Cotton stated that the FORA plan’s intent was to build on blighted areas, and Whispering Oaks is not blighted. She stated she will chain herself to an oak tree if the project continues.

Eric Petersen opposes Whispering Oaks. He asked for MST to start over and look for a new site.

Sharon Hack is surprised that MST is fighting the public.

Kay Cline questioned whether a consolidated facility is even necessary. She thinks that three sites might be a good idea, and read a poem by an eighth grade student.
Lisa Daes represents 3,000 equestrians and hates to see the Cavalry Trail severed.

Jim Fink stated that he researched this issue last July and believes the public who opposes the project are misinformed. He believes LandWatch has acted fraudulently. He supports the Whispering Oaks project.

Close Public Comment

3. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

3-1. Report on Closed Session and possible action.

Item 2-3 was postponed until March 19, 2012. No reportable action was taken on any item.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4-1. Review highlights of Agenda. (Carl Sedoryk)

Mr. Sedoryk read the highlights of the agenda.

4-2 Adopt Resolution 2012-17 recognizing Rosemary Bayles, Human Resources Generalist, as Employee of the Month for February, 2012. (Kelly Halcon)

4-3 Disposal of property left aboard buses. (Sonia Bannister)

4-4 Minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2012. (Deanna Smith)

4-5 Financial Report – November and December, 2011. (Kathy Williams)

4-6 Claim Rejection – Cruz, Sebolino, King, and Herrera. (Ben Newman)

4-7 Approve Resolution 2012-18 (Attachment 1) authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. (Michelle Overmeyer)

4-8 Minutes from Public Hearing - January 23, 2012. (Deanna Smith)

4-9 Minutes from Public Hearing – January 24, 2012. (Deanna Smith)

4-10 Fremont-Lighthouse BRT Modification to Contract. (Hunter Harvath)

Public Comment – None

Due to time constraints, item 4-2 was pulled from the agenda. **Director Huerta made a motion to approve the consent agenda excepting item 4-2 and was seconded by Director Stephens. The motion carried unanimously.**
5. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5-1 February Employee of the Month – Rosemary Bayles, Human Resources Generalist. (Kelly Halcon)

5-2 Donation of Vehicle from Gil’s Basketball Academy. (Carl Sedoryk)

All presentations were postponed until the March 19 Board meeting.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6-1 Planning & Operations Minutes from January 9, 2012. (Deanna Smith)

7. BIDS/PROPOSALS

None.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8-1 Conduct Public Hearing for FY 2012 Program of Projects. Adopt FY 2012 Program of Projects and authorize the filing of appropriate grant applications with the Federal Transit Administration and Caltrans. (Hunter Harvath)

Mr. Harvath directed the Board to page 49 of the agenda and stated that the hearing was noticed according to MST policy and federal requirements. He stated that funds received will be used for operations and planning.

Public Comment – None

**Director Clark made a motion to adopt the FY 2012 Program of Projects and authorize the filing of appropriate grant applications with the Federal Transit Administration and Caltrans and was seconded by Director Stephens. The motion carried unanimously.**

8-2 Conduct Public Hearing for Proposed spring 2012 service reductions. (Hunter Harvath)

Mr. Harvath stated that today’s public hearing is the seventh in a series of public hearings conducted throughout the MST service area. In November, MST received information on an unexpected reduction in state funding levels of approximately $600,000. Next year, the shortfall could be as much as $1.3 million dollars.

Mr. Harvath highlighted the proposed elimination of weekend and holiday discount fares for all riders except those who are under 18, over 65, active military, those with disabilities, and Medicare card holders. He provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing all proposed service reductions and ridership data. He stressed that reductions were spread across all service areas. Implementation of the reductions is scheduled for late April 2012.
Director Clark asked how much money will be saved by eliminating the discount fares. Mr. Harvath stated that savings are expected to be approximately $200,000 during FY 2013. Savings will be less for the remainder of FY 2012.

Director Huerta asked if the service reductions will result in MST driver layoffs. Mr. Harvath stated that MST does not plan to reduce its driver force. The regular attrition of drivers will balance out labor expenses.

Director Edwards asked if staff had looked over all public comments including those placed on the dais. Mr. Harvath stated that staff had read and considered all comments, and that exceptions have been made for several requests. He emphasized that some public requests were for additional service, but that the nature of service reductions mandate that cuts must be made. Reductions are primarily to service areas and routes with low ridership, and a fair distribution of service area reductions was attempted. Director Edwards stated that most public comments are received after changes are made. Mr. Harvath stated that numerous attempts to inform the public and encourage participation in public hearings were made, including requests for phone or written comments from those who could not attend. Mr. Sedoryk stated that the most effective method of informing riders of proposed changes and meeting times comes from the car cards placed in MST buses.

Public Comment

Mr. Fink asked that the two questions he submitted in his email regarding changes to Line 13 and Line 16 be answered. He stated that if the Line 8 mid-day route is cut, there will be no way for transit riders to return home from attending MST Board meetings.

Sharon Hack stated that Sacramento is increasing service and she does not understand why Monterey needs to reduce service. She thinks the overall changes are creative, but thinks the weekend changes will be confusing. She believes the fares are too low and should be tied to the cost of fuel. She suggested a “car free” website with information on how to successfully navigate the transit system. She believes that more marketing is effective in encouraging public transportation use among the public.

Close Public Comment

Mr. Harvath stated that he appreciated Ms. Hack’s comments and would look into her suggestions. He stated that Sacramento has a local sales tax for transportation that provides additional funding; Monterey County does not and has failed in its last three attempts to pass a tax measure. He assured Mr. Fink that the Line 8 changes would still allow for transportation to and from MST Board meetings. Line 28 will run hourly after 7:00 p.m. Line 16 from CSUMB will run on Lightfighter Drive, and he assured that Line 29 to 55, from Prunedale to San Jose, will run effectively.

Director Downey made a motion to approve the proposed fare and service changes for spring 2012 and was seconded by Director Huerta. The motion carried unanimously.
Director Huerta stated that he supports the effort to pass a local sales tax to support public transportation.

Director Edwards thanked MST for making the effort to hold a public hearing in Seaside.

Director Armenta thought that holding the hearing at Northridge Mall on a Saturday was a good idea and asked staff to try to encourage those walking in and around the mall to attend next time.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9-1 Authorize the purchase of Bus Rapid Transit Shelters. (Michael Hernandez)

Mr. Hernandez stated that the purchase of shelters is fully funded by the Very Small Starts program and Proposition 1B. He displayed a photo of the shelter prototype and stated that the project has a fall 2012 completion goal.

Director Sanchez asked for the cost per shelter and what would be done with the shelters that would be replaced. Mr. Hernandez stated that three shelters would be placed in Sand City and one in Seaside. All old shelters will be placed in areas without shelters. The eleven foot shelters cost $28,105 and the double sized shelters cost $59,800.

Directors Kleber and Sharp were concerned that they would not properly protect from the elements and only had seating for two people. Mr. Hernandez stated that the shelters were not designed to be weather-proof, but they do provide shelter from rain. The eleven foot shelter seats two people and provides a covered area for one wheelchair. The double shelter has more seating.

Public Comment

Mr. Fink asked if the shelters will be able to accommodate a Light Rail system.

Ms. Hack encouraged bike hooks at shelters.

Close Public Comment

Mr. Harvath stated that the proposed Light Rail system is slated to run along the Del Monte corridor in Monterey, not the Fremont corridor being used for BRT. He confirmed that all shelters have bike racks and MST buses can store bikes.

Director Armenta encouraged MST staff to make sure that South County is considered for new projects, shelters, and other transit-related enhancements.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.
11. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS

11-1 General Manager/CEO Report.
11-5 Staff trip reports.
11-6 Correspondence.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Fink thanked the MST driver who assisted him on New Year’s Eve when he fell while disboarding a bus.

13. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

13-1 Reports on meetings attended by Board members at MST expense (AB1234).

14. ATTACHMENTS

14-1 Disbursement Journal for November and December, 2011.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Armenta adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Prepared by: Deanna Smith, Deputy Secretary