

MINUTES*

MAC MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2024



The METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) met on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting. *Minutes are “summary” minutes, not verbatim minutes.

1. **CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:04 PM by Chair Elsea.

2. **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

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

Hearing none, Chair Elsea moved to the next agenda item.

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

MOTION: ACCEPT AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2024 AS AMENDED

MOTION: DE WIT

SECOND: JAMES VON HENDY

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

5. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Hearing none, Chair Elsea moved to the next agenda item.

6. **UPDATE OF FY25 AND FY26 PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGETS AND FY25 CAPITAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 22, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

Chuck Farmer, CFO, spoke to the presentation that was presented to the Board of Directors (Board) on March 22, 2024. He emphasized that this is preliminary data and adjustments will be made between now and June 2024. CFO Farmer broke down the preliminary operating budget into three parts: 1) Base Budget; 2) Phase 1 & Phase 2; and 3) Free Fares. He also reviewed the capital budget and provided an overview of the budget timeline. The final budget will be presented to the Board on June 28, 2024. Hearing nothing further, Chair Elsea moved to the next agenda item.

7. **UPDATE ON CEO/GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH**

John Urgo, Planning & Development Director, reported that Corey Aldridge has been appointed as METRO’s new CEO/General Manager and his start date is April 29, 2024.

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

8. **SERVICE PLANNING UPDATE**

a. **Quarterly Ridership Report**

John Urgo, Planning & Development Director, gave an update on ridership for Q2 of FY24. Overall, total ridership increased 36.5% compared to FY23 Q2.

b. **Bus Stops**

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

Chair Elsea and Pete Rasmussen, Transportation Planner II, will connect and will continue to work on this issue.

b.ii Extending Route 4 to go to Dignity Health

Director Urgo said that there is an existing bus stop about 500 feet from the intersection for Dignity Health. He said that the stop spacing standard is around 1,200 feet; therefore, it is not a location where a bus stop would be added. In addition, it is a destination that is available via ParaCruz.

c. Other Projects

c.i. Update on Reimagine METRO

Director Urgo reported that a lot of service changes were made during the implementation of Phase I in December 2023. He also mentioned that in March 2024 service increased on some of the routes. Phase II will start in the Summer of 2024 and reviewed the service changes for Phase II.

c.ii. Update on River Front Transit Center

Director Urgo reported that the transition to the River Front Transit Center is going well. Discussion ensued on bus stop arrivals and departures in Area 1, 2, and 3. Director Urgo mentioned that the bus stop for Highway 17 is being moved to Area 4.

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

9. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO INTERIM CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Chair Elsea will write a letter to the interim CEO/General Manager to thank him for his service. She will also write a letter to the new CEO/General Manager to welcome him to METRO and invite him to the August 21, 2024 MAC meeting.

10. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The committee discussed an extra meeting for May 15, 2024 to review the design of Pacific Station North.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Visit from the new CEO/General Manager
- Service Planning Updates
- Quarterly Ridership Report
- Update on Reimagine METRO
- Update on Braille Bus Stop Signage
- Update on Design of Pacific Station North
- Final Budget Updates

12. DISTRIBUTION OF VOUCHERS

Vouchers distributed by Elizabeth Rocha, Administrative Specialist.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Chair Elsea announced the next MAC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the METRO Admin Office, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elsea adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rocha

Administrative Specialist