



**SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO)  
FINANCE, BUDGET AND AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES\*  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 – 8:00AM  
MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE**

A regular meeting of the Finance, Budget and Audit Standing Committee of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, September 10, 2021, via teleconference.

The Committee Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at [www.SCMTD.com](http://www.SCMTD.com). \*Minutes are “summary” minutes, not verbatim minutes. Audio recordings of Board meeting open sessions are available to the public upon request.

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1 **CALL TO ORDER** at 8:05 AM by Chair Lind

2 **ROLL CALL:** The following Directors were **present** via teleconference, representing a quorum:

<b>Director Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson</b>	<b>City of Santa Cruz</b> <i>AR 8:07AM</i>
<b>Director Manu Koenig</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Board Chair Donna Lind</b>	<b>City of Scotts Valley</b>
<b>Director Mike Rotkin</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>

Julie Sherman

METRO General Counsel

METRO EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER) WERE:

Chuck Farmer

METRO CFO

Kristina Mihaylova

METRO Finance Deputy Director

3 **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE FINANCE, BUDGET AND AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE**

Hearing none, Director Lind moved to the next agenda item.

4 **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDA/ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS**

Having none, Director Lind moved to the next agenda item.

5 **MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Kristina Mihaylova, Finance Deputy Director, spoke to the month ending June 30, 2021 presentation, representing financial status as of the end of FY21.

Director Rotkin asked the team to revise the “buckets” presentation slide to indicate the totals in each Operating Reserve bucket. Ms. Mihaylova said she will make that change; adding a more detailed explanation of each bucket will be provided at the Board of Directors (Board) meeting.

Chuck Farmer, CFO, added commentary to the month ending August 31, 2021 presentation, representing month to date financial status.

Committee members requested HR provide information regarding the current vacancies. Dawn Crummié, HR Director, responded: The current vacancies are 18 Operators, recruiting now. A television commercial is being developed to promote back-to-back recruitments. Other openings are down to 10; there were 12.

Sandi Woods, Project Manager, added commentary to the capital projects slides.

There were no public comments.

## **6 PENSION FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION**

Chuck Farmer, CFO, added commentary to the presentation, outlining future plans/options and historical bond/note issuances by METRO. Discussion among the assembly ensued regarding the expenses associated with issuing a bond. Mr. Farmer requested the Committee recommend the Board approve hiring various consultants to assist in the issuance of a bond on METRO's behalf.

Addressing Director Rotkin's inquiry regarding CalPERS' returns, Mr. Farmer highlighted the investment risks and returns.

Committee members agreed that it would be prudent to move as quickly as possible.

**MOTION: MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE HIRING VARIOUS CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST IN THE ISSUANCE OF A BOND ON METRO'S BEHALF AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN**

**SECOND: DIRECTOR KOENIG**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS KALANTARI-JOHNSON, KOENIG, LIND AND ROTKIN.**

There were no public comments

## **7 CEO ORAL REPORT / COVID-19 UPDATE**

In the absence of CEO Clifford, Margo Ross, COO, provided the following brief update:

There have been no COVID-19 positive test results for the past two weeks. METRO continues to test unvaccinated employees. We are working with legal counsel to fully understand the latest Biden administration ruling regarding vaccinated/testing employees.

There were no public comments.

## **8 ADJOURNMENT**

Director Lind adjourned the meeting at 9:07AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Pye

Executive Assistant