



11/09/2022

Metropolitan Transit System
1255 Imperial Avenue
Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92101
Via Email

**RE: Agenda Item 31–Climate Action Campaign Recommendation for Excess Revenues
FY 2022**

Honorable Chair and Board Directors,

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign, I write to you as their Transportation Policy Advocate to express strong support for allocating excess revenue to reduce the bus operator shortage MTS is currently experiencing.

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) is a San Diego and Orange County based nonprofit organization with a simple mission: stop the climate crisis through effective policy action. Investing in public transit is critical to meeting public demand for mobility options that are frequent, safe, and reliable—all while reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

I want to highlight Honorable Executive Committee Member Sandke's comments during the 11/03/2022 MTS Executive Committee meeting. Council Member Sandke highlighted the potential of utilizing excess revenues from the Fiscal Year 2022 Final Budget to address the urgent need for more bus operators to meet current public demand.

I thank Councilmember Sandke for echoing a public recommendation made to the Executive Committee during the first review of the same agenda item before you. While there are many important projects and budgetary needs, bus operators remain one of the most critical. The prolonged shortage of these critical frontline workers has stifled public transit growth during a time when the costs of buying and maintaining single-occupancy vehicles have residents searching for better mobility options. There is a demand from the public for more frequent buses.

Buses are lifelines for both our most vulnerable communities and our most resource-dense communities. People in San Diego want more mobility options to connect with what is most important to them, like jobs, school, and family recreation. Sadly, this demand is unmet because we do not have enough bus operators. The excess revenue discussed in Agenda Item 31 can address this disconnect.

Agenda Item 31 presents an incredible opportunity to invest in meeting public demand. MTS can allocate some of the \$5,511,000 in excess revenues to meet current challenges in recruiting bus operators.

I appreciate your time and I sincerely hope that you vote to allocate funds from excess revenues to increase the number of MTS bus operators so that we can begin to meet the needs of communities throughout San Diego.

Sincerely,



Corinna Contreras,
Transportation Policy Advocate
Climate Action Campaign