253 Elks Lane
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 541-2228 fax (805) 781-1291
www.slorta.org

AGENDA

REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 16, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

253 Elks Lane, Cerro Conference Room
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Chair: Omar McPherson (South County Transit Committee) **Vice-Chair: Alex Fuchs** (SLO Transit)

Other RTAC Members:

Darcy Price (City of Atascadero)
Katie Franco (County of SLO)
Janeen Burlingame (City of Morro Bay)
Mark Dariz (Runabout/DAR)
Todd Katz (Fixed-Route Transit alternative)
Colin Pollington (Cal Poly)
Mason Cleek (Cuesta College)
Ryan Cornell (City of Paso Robles)
Eric Greening (Fixed-Route Transit)
Lance Okuno (SLOCOG)

Individuals wishing accessibility accommodations at this meeting under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may request such accommodations to aid hearing, visual, or mobility impairment (including Limited English Proficiency) by contacting the RTA offices at 805-541-2228 x4833. Please note that 48 hours advance notice will be necessary to honor your request.

RTA, de acuerdo con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), acomodará a las personasque requieran una modificación de la adaptación para participar en esta reunión. RTA también secompromete a ayudar a las personas con dominio limitado del inglés a acceder a los servicios públicosesenciales de la agencia y a la información pública en español. Para solicitar una adaptación, por favor llame al (805)541-2228 x4833. Requerimos al menos 48 horas de anticipación para proporcionar adaptaciones razonables.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER,** ROLL CALL

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This portion of the agenda is set aside for any members of the public to directly address the Regional Transit Advisory Committee on any items not on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Committee will listen to all communication, but in compliance with the Brown Act, will not take any action on items that are not on the agenda.

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Elect RTAC Chair & Vice Chair**

4. **Annual ADA Appeal Committee Assignment**
   Current Committee Members:
   Ms. Janeen Burlingame, Mr. Mark Dariz, and Mr. Todd Katz

5. A. INFORMATION AGENDA ITEMS:

A-1 Executive Director's Report (Verbal)
A-2 Member Comments / Reports from Jurisdictions (Verbal)
A-3 Present Fare and Tap to Ride Change Results (Verbal)
A-4 Atascadero Dial-A-Ride and Morro Bay Transit Update (Verbal)

B. ACTION AGENDA ITEMS: None

C. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

The following item is considered routine and non-controversial by staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the RTAC or the public wishes the item be removed. If discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately. Questions of clarification may be made by RTAC members, without the removal of the item from the Consent Agenda. Staff recommendations for each item are noted following the item.

C-1 RTAC Minutes of October 16, 2025 (Approve)
C-2 RTAC Minutes of April 9, 2026 (Approve)

D. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting: October 15, 2026
Future Regular Meeting Dates: January 21, 2027; April 15, 2027; July 15, 2027

SAN LUIS OBISPO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 16, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES
C-1

Members Present:

Janeen Burlingame	City of Morro Bay
Marlene Cramer	Cal Poly
Mark Dariz	Paratransit User (arrived at 2:05 p.m.)
Jack DePuy	Cuesta College
Eric Greening	Fixed Route User
Alex Fuchs *(Vice Chair)*	City of San Luis Obispo
Todd Katz	Fixed Route User Alternate
Omar McPherson *(Chair)*	Fixed Route Service in South County
Lance Okuno	SLOCOG (arrived at 2:05 p.m.)

Members Absent:

Ryan Cornell	City of Paso Robles
Anna Montgomery	County of San Luis Obispo
Darcy Price	City of Atascadero

Staff Present:

Geoff Straw	RTA
Tania Arnold	RTA
Anthony Kalvans	RTA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL: Chair Omar McPherson called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
There were no public comments given for items not on the agenda.

3. A. INFORMATION AGENDA ITEMS:

A-1 Executive Director's Report (Verbal, Receive)

Mr. Geoff Straw introduced his report and gave an overview of the upcoming projects that are designed to support the RTA's transition to an electric fleet. It was noted that the annual Bus Roadeo was cancelled due to planned capital projects within the BMF yard; however, four of the five new battery-electric buses have arrived and are in service. The new buses feature mirrorless technology that help eliminate blind spots for drivers.

Ms. Marlene Cramer asked about the cost of installing the mirrorless technology. **Mr. Straw** said that it was roughly $6,000 per vehicle.

Mr. Eric Greening asked about staffing levels. **Mr. Straw** said that due to expansion of service, RTA is currently down nine Bus Operators; however, five new candidates are in the background and permitting process.

A-2 Member Comments / Reports from Jurisdictions (Receive)
Mr. Greening raised concerns about road construction impacting Route 12 along South Bay Blvd. **Mr. Straw** said that the RTA works closely with contractors to minimize impacts.

Ms. Janeen Burlingame said that the Short-Range Transit Plan is coming along and will be going to their Public Works Advisory Board for review. She noted that the Morro Bay Trolley will be used for Trunk or Treat.

Mr. Alex Fuchs reported that TransDev's contract with the Teamsters terms out at the end of the calendar year. SLO Transit's service contract will be going out to bid and asking for quotes on status quo operations as well as expansion operations. He also said that SLO Transit has an intern from Cal Poly working on Microtransit. He also mentioned that SLO Transit will be operating its holiday trolley service.

Mr. Mark Dariz asked for feedback on the Route 9 service since El Camino Real has been improved. Several members said that things seem to be going well.

A discussion ensued about whether storms could impact service. **Mr. Straw** and **Mr. McPherson** both said that the RTA works closely with county OES, and the only time a storm has impacted service was during the floods of 2023.

Mr. Todd Katz mentioned Santa Maria Regional Transit opening an express bus between San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria. It was mentioned that SMRT's new bus runs from the south side of Santa Maria while RTA serves Downtown Santa Maria.

Ms. Marlene Cramer mentioned that Cal Poly is offering a free one-day regional pass through iRideshare. She also mentioned that there has been a lot of construction on campus, and she is working with project managers to ensure that bus service is not disrupted.

Mr. Lance Okuno mentioned that SLOCOG is working on their volunteer driver program and that their rail buy down program is going well. The buy down has seen 300 riders a month compared to the initial projection of 100 riders a month.

A-3 Discuss Planned Service & Fare Changes (Verbal)
Mr. McPherson introduced the item and highlighted that there have been 12 to 15 riders for the new early morning service to Santa Maria, that the 27 and 28 realignment is performing well, and that the express buses are also doing well.

Mr. Straw highlighted the changes to Route 10 in Sant Maria and that the Cuesta College bus stop is moving from the back of the campus to the front. He noted that the Cuesta College stop has the second highest ridership in the RTA network.

Ms. Burlingame asked if the RTA's new tap to pay feature will include Morro Bay Transit. **Mr. Straw** said yes and noted that local routes will stay at $1.50 a ride while regional routes will be $2.00 a ride.

A discussion ensued about the upcoming new verification system for discounted fares.

B. ACTION AGENDA ITEMS:

B-1 Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budget Amendment #1 (Recommend)
Ms. Tania Arnold presented the agenda item and noted that only one operating adjustment was being made. She also highlighted some of the capital projects that the RTA will be doing. She stressed that capital projects in the budget are already fully funded, and they are being reflected in their proper fiscal year.

Mr. Straw said that the bottom line is that the RTA is not asking for more money and that changes are related to carryover.

Mr. Greening asked where the opportunity chargers are in the budget. **Ms. Arnold** said it was towards the bottom of the budget.

Mr. Todd Katz asked if the adjustments were just moving money around. **Ms. Arnold** explained that it is just carryover from last fiscal year.

Mr. Greening made a motion to approve action item B-1; **Ms. Cramer** seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved by unanimous consent of those present.

C. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

C-1 RTAC Minutes of July 17, 2025 (Approve)
Mr. Greening made a motion to approve the minutes; **Ms. Burlingame** seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was approved by unanimous consent of those present.

D. ADJOURNMENT AND COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Mr. McPherson adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: January 15, 2026
Future Regular Meeting Dates: April 9, 2026, July 16, 2026, and October 15, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,	Acknowledged by,
___________________________	___________________________
Anthony Kalvans	Omar McPherson
Administrative Assistant	RTAC Chairperson 2025

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SAN LUIS OBISPO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 9, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES
C-2

Members Present:

Eric Greening	Fixed Route User
Todd Katz	Fixed Route User Alternate
Jeff Lee	County of San Luis Obispo Alternate
Omar McPherson *(Chair)*	Fixed Route Service in South County
Lance Okuno	SLOCOG
Colin Pollington	Cal Poly Alternate

Members Absent:

Janeen Burlingame	City of Morro Bay
Mason Cleek	Cuesta College
Ryan Cornell	City of Paso Robles
Mark Dariz	Paratransit User
Alex Fuchs *(Vice Chair)*	City of San Luis Obispo
Darcy Price	City of Atascadero

Staff Present:

Geoff Straw	RTA
Tania Arnold	RTA
Anthony Kalvans	RTA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL: Chair Omar McPherson called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was not established. The meeting continued as informational only.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
There were no public comments given for items not on the agenda.

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Elect RTAC Chair & Vice Chair**
This item was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

4. **Annual ADA Appeal Committee Assignment**
This item was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

5. A. INFORMATION AGENDA ITEMS:

A-1 Executive Director's Report (Verbal, Receive)

Mr. Geoff Straw introduced his report and gave an overview of the recent events at the RTA. He announced that the City of Morro Bay just adopted their short-range transit plan and the RTA is looking at splitting the Morro Bay route into two loops as well as off season bus service on the weekends.

Mr. Straw also announced that SLOCOG is doing a long-range transit plan with a focus on transit hubs.

A-2 Member Comments / Reports from Jurisdictions (Receive)

Mr. Colin Pollington reported that Cal Poly is having an open house and there will be bus detours due to the road closures. **Mr. McPherson** added that the RTA is not going on campus during Open House. **Mr. Pollington** also noted that Marlene Cramer will be retiring and he will most likely be the one attending RTAC meetings.

Mr. Jeff Lee announced that Anna Montgomery is leaving the county and that the Avila roundabout and park and ride are now open.

Mr. Todd Katz raised concerns about the safety of riders using the SLO Transit stop at the airport to cross Broad Street.

Mr. Lance Okuno said that he had informational flyers for the new mobility wallet.

A-3 Update on Fare Change Implementation & Contactless Fare System (Receive)

Mr. Straw introduced the item and noted that while the new simplified fare structure is in place, the contactless fare capping program has been delayed to ensure a smoother roll out. **Mr. Lee** asked if Token Transit is being integrated into the contactless system. **Mr. Straw** said that he hopes to have an announcement by next week.

Mr. Eric Greening said that the new simplified fare structure has improved the boarding. He also asked what other agencies are going to a contactless fare program? **Ms. Tania Arnold** highlighted that the RTA's network is unique in that the different branches all share the vehicle fleet collectively.

A-4 Update on Discount Eligibility Verification Program (Receive)

Ms. Arnold introduced the item and emphasized that part of the plan is to do contactless fares with discount verification.

Mr. Straw added that the goal is to move away from the honor system.

Mr. Greening expressed his concern that some infrequent users may be caught off guard by the discount verification requirement.

B. ACTION AGENDA ITEMS:

B-1 Fiscal Year 2026-27 Operating and Capital Budget (Recommend)

Ms. Arnold presented the operating and capital budget, detailed its layout, and went over the key issues impacting the RTA.

Mr. Katz asked if the new electric buses would have a longer lifespan compared to the diesel buses. **Mr. Straw** said that is unknown at this time.

Mr. Greening appreciated the hard work on the budget and asked if the RTA would be charged for SLOCOGs Long Range Transit Plan. **Ms. Arnold** said no.

Due to a lack of a quorum, the members present individually expressed approval of action item B-1.

C. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

C-1 RTAC Minutes of October 16, 2025 (Approve)

This item was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

D. ADJOURNMENT AND COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Mr. McPherson adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: July 16, 2026
Future Regular Meeting Dates: October 15, 2026; January 21, 2027; April 8, 2027

Respectfully Submitted,	Acknowledged by,
___________________________	___________________________
Anthony Kalvans	Omar McPherson
Administrative Assistant	RTAC Chairperson 2025

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