



**SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO)  
FINANCE, BUDGET, AND AUDIT STANDING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES\***  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Finance, Budget, and Audit Standing Committee of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, November 14, 2025.

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 CALLED TO ORDER** by Director Koenig at 8:01 AM.

**2 SAFETY DEBRIEF**

Gregory Strecker, Safety, Security & Risk Management Director, provided a debriefing on safety, emphasizing the evacuation routes in response to an emergency.

**3 ROLL CALL:**

The following Directors were **present**, representing a quorum:

Director Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson	City of Santa Cruz
<b>Director Manu Koenig</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Fabian Leonor</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Donna Lind</b>	<b>City of Scotts Valley</b>
Corey Aldridge	METRO CEO/General Manager
Julie Sherman	METRO General Counsel
Shayna van Hoften	METRO General Counsel

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

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

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

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

**6 APPROVE: SALES TAX AND FISCAL CLIFF UPDATE**

Corey Aldridge, CEO/General Manager, provided a brief background on the sales tax measure and steps METRO has been and currently is taking to move this process forward. He mentioned that Director Koenig has been working with state legislatures to aid in this process. Chuck Farmer, CFO, spoke to the presentation. He defined what a fiscal cliff for METRO would entail, reviewed METRO's operating cash reserves, and provided base level assumptions for four scenarios he described in

detail. He requested the Committee Members to approve the sales tax and fiscal cliff updates to the full board.

Discussion followed on:

- Expenses outpace revenue increases
- Assumptions on increases to benefits
- ¼ cent vs. ½ cent sales tax measure
- Timing of the sales tax and conducting a citizens initiative in parallel
- Election procedures
- Free or special fares
- Other tax and grant options for transit agencies

Olivia Martinez, SEIU Region 2 Director, raised concerns on impacts to all levels of employees if the measure doesn't pass, how Measure D funds are being spent, and the COLA for 2026.

Staff and General Counsel addressed all concerns.

Hearing nothing further, Director Koenig called for a voice vote.

**MOTION: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE SALES TAX AND FISCAL CLIFF UPDATES TO THE FULL BOARD AS PRESENTED**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR LIND**

**SECOND: DIRECTOR LEONOR**

**MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES** (Directors Koenig, Leonor, and Lind). Director Kalantari-Johnson was absent.

Hearing nothing further, Director Koenig moved to the next agenda item.

**7 ADJOURNMENT**

Director Koenig adjourned the meeting at 9:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bauer  
Sr. Executive Assistant