

Elevate SD 2020: San Ysidro/Imperial Beach Community Forum – Executive Summary

Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2019
Location: Southwest High School, San Ysidro
Attendees: 18

Overview:

In addition to presentations from MTS marketing and planning staff, attendees were asked to participate in two interactive elements: a values priority activity, and small group discussions. The following summarizes the feedback provided from those activities.

Top Values:

Participants were given five stickers, and asked to identify their top values that should help shape the future of transit. Below are the results:

1. Provide viable alternatives to a car (18)
2. Low-cost fares (14)
3. Faster service (9)
4. Connect directly to more destinations (8)
5. Reduce traffic congestion (7)
6. Other (7):
 - Community development/validate transit (sense of place)/people-centered infrastructure (5)
 - Last-mile solutions (2)
7. Mobility solutions for senior and disabled citizens (6)
8. Access to jobs/education (6)
9. More frequent service (5)
10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions/improve environmental health (3)
11. Improve roads and highways to support transit (0)

Round-Table Summaries:

Participants also broke up into small groups for a round-table discussions facilitated by MTS staff. They were asked to share what their transit priorities were, and what values/projects were most important to their communities. The following themes emerged among the four small groups:

- Transit as a viable, competitive alternative to the car, including faster/more direct service, was discussed in three of the small groups.

- Three of the four groups also discussed low-cost fares for all riders/in general terms.
- Three of the four groups also discussed a need for greater service coverage in some way (i.e. new service in area, area to specific locations, first/last-mile, etc.)

Top Three Takeaways:

At the conclusion of the round-tables, each group was asked to identify their ‘top three takeaways’ for MTS based on their group’s discussions (i.e. of everything discussed at the event, identify what the three most important priorities/ideas were). Below is a summary of those priorities.

- Safety/Security (2)
- Low-cost fares (2)
 - Provide low-cost fares for low-income riders
 - Discounted/low-cost fares
- More direct service (2)
 - Faster more frequent service, less transfers
 - More direct connections between housing and job centers
- San Ysidro Intermodal Transportation Center
- Blue Line Express Trolley
- Skyway in Imperial Beach?
- Find ways to improve community partnerships
- More bus service to local high schools
- Helping senior and disabled riders/improve access
- Viable, competitive alternative to driving

A full report of the small group discussions, and open comment is included below.

Round-Table 1
Viable alternative to a car - commute time. Express Trolley service as a solution.
Low cost fares for everyone
Somewhat competitive with car for special events downtown
San Ysidro ITC - mobility hub
Security
Smaller van like service for neighborhoods - last mile
IB Skyway
East Chula Vista transit
Top Three Takeaways:
1. San Ysidro ITC
2. Blue Line Trolley Express
3. Skyway in IB?
4. Security
Round-Table 2
Infrastructure/stations/hubs needs community buy-in
Grade separation in South Bay for Trolley (ex: Dairy Mart grade crossing gates can be along wait/cause traffic)
Low-cost fares
Introduce free fares (give back some of additional funding from measure with low-cost/free fares)
More service in San Ysidro
Bus service to San Ysidro High School
More bus shelters
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Provide low-cost fares for low-income riders
2. Find ways to improve community partnerships
3. More bus service to local high schools
Round-Table 3
Faster, more frequent service, fewer transfers
Helping senior/disabled riders - improve access (more routes, low fares, more access to their medical appointments)
Providing access to jobs/education (Mid-Coast)
Express Service
Connect to more destinations directly/fewer transfers
Safety/security - More security personnel
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Helping senior/disabled riders/improve access
2. Faster/more frequent service, less transfers
3. Safety/security

Round-Table 4
Viable (competitive) alternative to car
Discounted/low-cost fares
Coverage
Span of service
Frequency
More direct connections
Event service
Road improvements
Service/infrastructure to connect to Riverside County
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Viable, competitive alternative to driving
2. Discounted/low-cost fares
3. More direct connections between housing and job centers

Open Comments
Otay Mesa new 15,000 new homes (40K people) need to plan right for future MTS transportation. Help with San Ysidro High School (Year 2019-2020) for student to transport themselves to and from school. 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Later bus at night on Sundays on Route 933-934 after 9p.m.
I would like to see grade separations and a more reliable alternative to cars.
Regional connections -Map 7 is missing - the large residential zone in Escondido CA> Temecula! The I-15 is heavily congested! Don't forget people commuting from North County to Vista. San Marcos / Escondido. We need to address the regional issues and coordinate with interregional agencies to address lack of transit in North County San Diego. Riverside to SD County > many elected officials just say that is Riverside's issues.
Discussion group breakout. My suggestion. More frequent/faster service. Better access to medical facilities. Take aways> Improve access and fares for seniors, medical facilities, Providing access to jobs, better security at stations, more frequency, faster service.
Connection of South to North County. Seniors & service - disability fares. 2 - 4 a.m. no Trolley, no buses late evening.