

Elevate SD 2020: Southeast San Diego Community Forum – Executive Summary

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2019
Location: Diamond Cowork, Lincoln Park
Attendees: 12

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. Low-cost fares (9)
2. More frequent service (7)
3. Connect directly to more destinations (7)
4. Mobility solutions for senior and disabled citizens (5)
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions/improve environmental health (4)
6. Access to jobs/education (4)
7. Improve roads and highways to support transit (4)
8. Reduce traffic congestion (4)
9. Provide viable alternatives to a car (2)
10. Faster service (2)
11. Other (2)
 - Credit/debit on buses
 - Routes on suburban streets

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. There were two small groups at the Southeast San Diego Forum. The following items were discussed by both small groups:

- Both groups identified more service as a priority, including frequency and span of service

- Both groups discussed transit solutions for youth. One group focused on free passes for youth, while the other discussed service to a local high school/field trip coordination with schools.
- Both groups also discussed facility/accessibility improvements for disabled and limited mobility passengers

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.

- More service (2)
 - Increased frequency/span
- More transit centers/hubs
 - Passenger amenities/shelters
- Accessibility improvements
- Free service for youth
- Employment destinations in joint development projects

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

Round-Table 1

More service
More service options - Hillcrest/North Park (light rail)
Massachusetts Avenue Trolley to University Avenue (connecting route, Helix High)
College Grove Transit Center
Bus ramps can be too steep in certain areas for senior/disabled riders
Driver training
Field trip planning/coordination with school admins
Increased Trolley service
Undergrounding - priority signal downtown for Trolley
Electric too expensive?
Top Three Takeaways:
1. More transit centers/hubs (passenger amenities/shelters)
2. More service
3. Accessibility improvements

Round-Table 2

Frequency/span
Youth fares fully subsidized
Improve travel times
Rapid bus in District 4 (Imperial, Skyline, along 805)
Arterial dedicated transit lanes
Freeway transit lanes
Employment at joint development
Improve safety (more ambassadors/less enforcement)
Not the airport connection
Facility improvements for disabled/limited mobility passengers
Top Three Takeaways:
1. Increased frequency/span
2. Free service for youth
3. Employment destinations in joint development projects

Open Comments

I think the system works pretty good/fair, but the weekends are very rough and confusing with the time schedules. And will the electric vehicles have more endurance than its predecessors.

Trolley to the Airport. Trolley into Hillcrest/North Park - uptown is one of the densest, fastest growing areas outside downtown and needs higher capacity service.

[Hand drawn map of proposed Route 854] Route starts at Grossmont Community College, runs along Lake Murray Blvd, connects with the Green Line Trolley, runs along 70th Street, turns east on University to Massachusetts Avenue, to Canton, turns south on Skyline/Cardiff, and terminates on Deep Dell Road

Help Lemon Grove! Need a bus route from Massachusetts Avenue Trolley Station to University Avenue. This will help alleviate traffic congestion and pollution taking children to and from Helix Charter High. Buena Vista Avenue gets backed up south of Pacific Avenue. As well as High Street, Mass. to Waite Drive. University Avenue is also affected E and W bound. Thousands of children are transported singularly by car because of lack of public transportation. We live two miles south of Helix yet most days it can take me 40 minutes to take children to Helix High. Walking is unsafe because of halfway houses and lack of sidewalks. Currently, if my child used public transportation, it would take her over two hours to get to school. Crazy right? Please support a turnaround bus line from Mass. Ave Trolley Station to University Avenue and back. Help: fight pollution, save time, make students more independent, fight traffic congestion & insanity. When kids or classes are using bus for field trips, pick them up - don't just drive past them. Also - stations need to be safer. Security needs to be taken seriously. Currently "security" is a joke. They are inattentive and don't look trustworthy. When will a Trolley go from Santa Fe to the Airport? Reduce prices for high school students. Senior service is expensive - \$10 right? Lots of waiting.