

# Consent Agenda

- A-1 RTA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes October 9, 2024 (Information)
- A-2 RTA Board Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2024 (Approve)
- A-3 FTA 5307, 5339 & CMAQ Grant Programs Administration (Adopt Resolution)
- A-4 FTA Section 5311 Grant Application (Adopt Resolution)
- A-5 Low-Carbon Transit Operations Program Grant Application (Adopt Resolution)
- A-6 Rural Transit Funds Grant Application (Adopt Resolution)
- A-7 SB-1 State of Good Repair Grant Application (Adopt Resolution)
- A-8 FTA Annual Certifications and Assurances (Authorize)
- A-9 Update RTA Contracting and Procurement Policies, Practices and Procedures Manual (Approve)
- A-10 Transfer of Surplus Vehicles (Authorize)
- A-11 Procurement of Demand Response Van and Support Vehicle; Declare Surplus (Authorize)
- A-12 Procurement of Third-Party Engine Replacement Services (Authorize)
- A-13 PRISM Paid Family Leave Memorandum of Understanding (Adopt)
- A-14 Draft RTAC Minutes of January 18, 2024, March 13, 2024, June 5, 2024, and October 16, 2024 (Information)
- A-15 Bus Maintenance Facility CEQA Mitigations 3rd Annual Monitoring Report (Receive)

**SAN LUIS OBISPO  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
January 8, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM:                    B-1**

**TOPIC:                                Executive Director's Report**

**PRESENTED BY:                Geoff Straw**

**RECOMMENDATION:        Receive and File**



# Possible MB Transit & Atascadero DAR Consolidation into the RTA

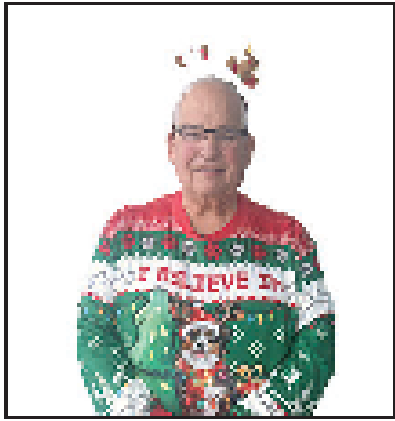
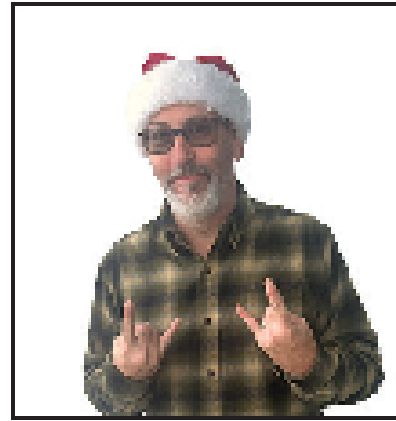
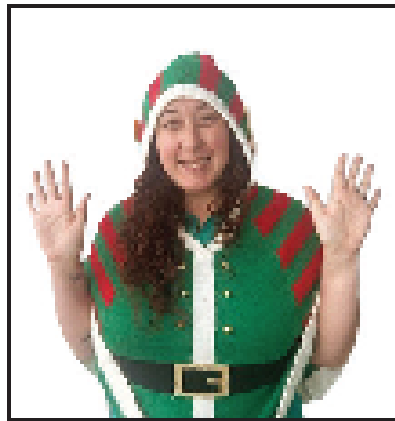
- Morro Bay to be considered under Agenda Items C-1
- In negotiations with Atascadero city officials
- Possible draft agreement with Atascadero at March 2025 RTA Board meeting



# Bus Operator Recruitment Update

- Four new Bus Operators in revenue service completed training since previous update
- One candidate in background checks
- Two Bus Operators were promoted to fill recently vacated Supervisor positions, which opens up their Bus Operator positions
- Result is four open Bus Operator bids





# Replace the Scheduling & Dispatch System

- The *RouteMatch* computer aided dispatch / automatic vehicle location (CAD/AVL) system that is used for Runabout and demand response services is outdated
- Working on the scope of work for a replacement system
- Will bring proposed budget to March RTA Board meeting

# Maintenance

- Experiencing battery electric bus efficiency reductions due to the colder weather
- Operated 35k miles since launching the BEB buses
- The wear on the drive tires is 3X that of diesel buses
  - Tires on a diesel-powered bus last 55K miles vs. 17K miles
  - The BEB tires we must use are higher cost
- Will do a deeper dive into all maintenance related cost/mile issues in March meeting



# Maintenance

- Promoted mechanic James Stogsdill to Assistant Manager Maintenance, replacing Dave Guerrero
- James has served as evening shift lead and union shop steward
- Interviewing to fill his former position, as well as one other mechanic position
- Two new Utility workers will start mid-January





# Marketing & Communications

- Updated and republished *RTA Special Transit Needs* brochure
- New Bus Operator social media recruitment campaign running now
- “*Find out if transit works for you*” campaign with personal trip plans ran with strong response
- Partnering with Cuesta College on a Professional Commercial Drivers course. All students who complete the course get an interview with RTA; possible pipeline for more Bus Operators

# Marketing & Communications

- Developed plan to integrate SoCo Transit into the RTA brand
- Cal-ITP contactless fare-capping payment system
  - Partnering with SLOCOG, Caltrans, SLO Transit, MB Transit
  - Weekly meetings, currently finalizing evaluation of systems and pricing from State-approved vendors
  - SLOCOG received \$2.6M of SB125 funds for this project
  - Goal to have system in place by Fall 2025

# Finance & Administration

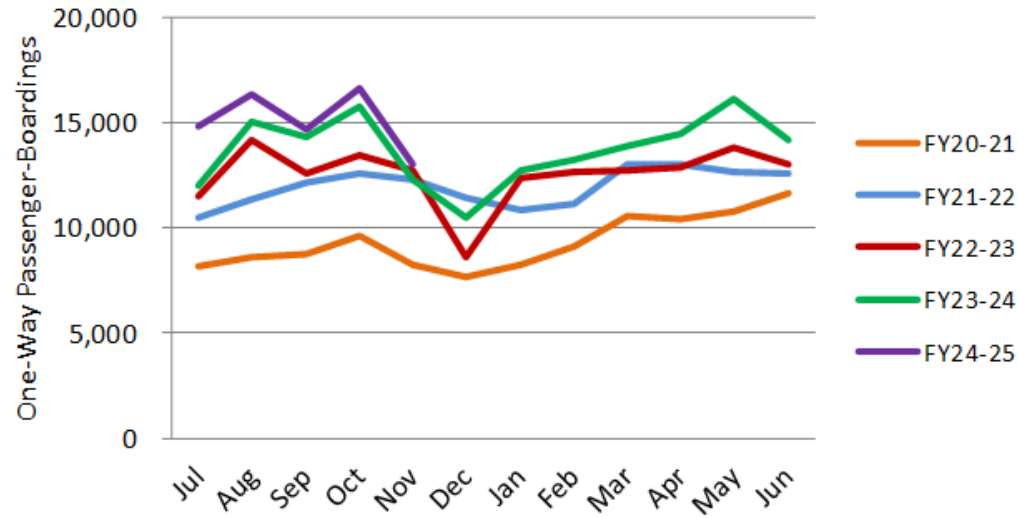
- Pricing for new buses and vans continues to dramatically increase:
  - Example: A cut-away van that was \$198K is now \$230k
  - 40-foot BEB is up \$80K over our FTA Section 5339b grant proposal in less than a year
  - Possible California Energy Commission grant to cover a portion of the BEB cost

# FY24-25 Operating Results

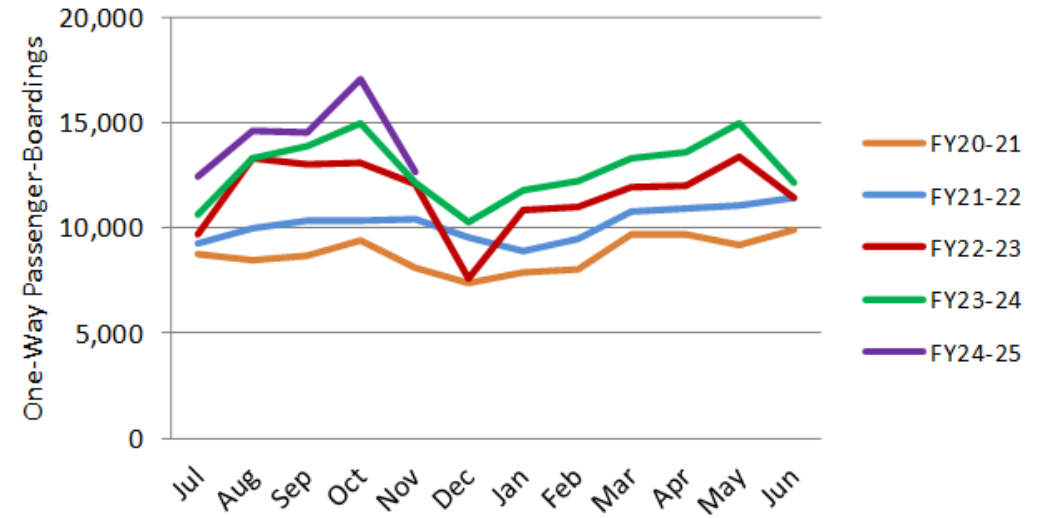
Unaudited operating results FY24-25 (five months):

- RTA fixed-route ridership increased 8.7% over last year but still 32.7% below pre-pandemic totals
- Paso Robles local routes up 24.7%
  - K-12 students in place of the school bus
- South County Routes: Down 7.2%
  - Significant road work causing detours and delays for transit
- Runabout up 10.3%

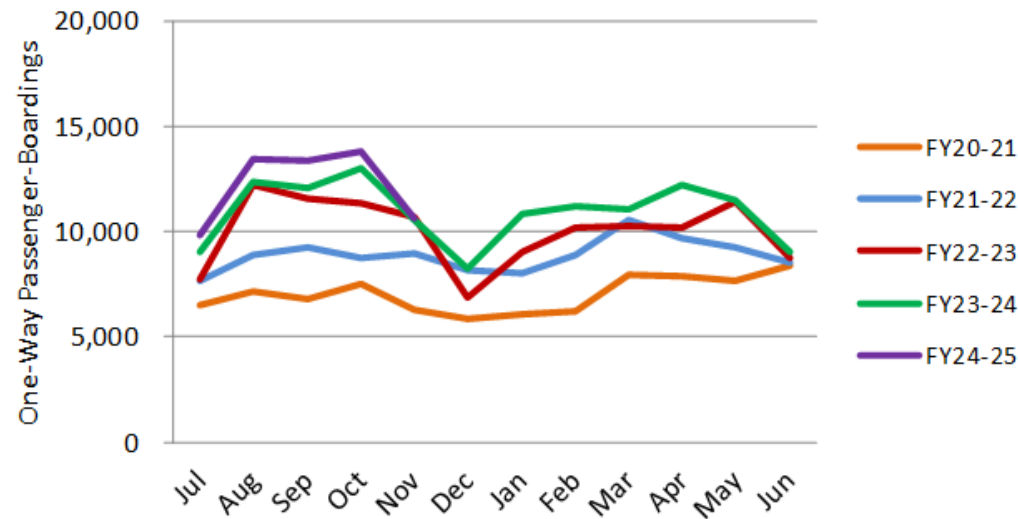
### RTA Route 9 Ridership By Month



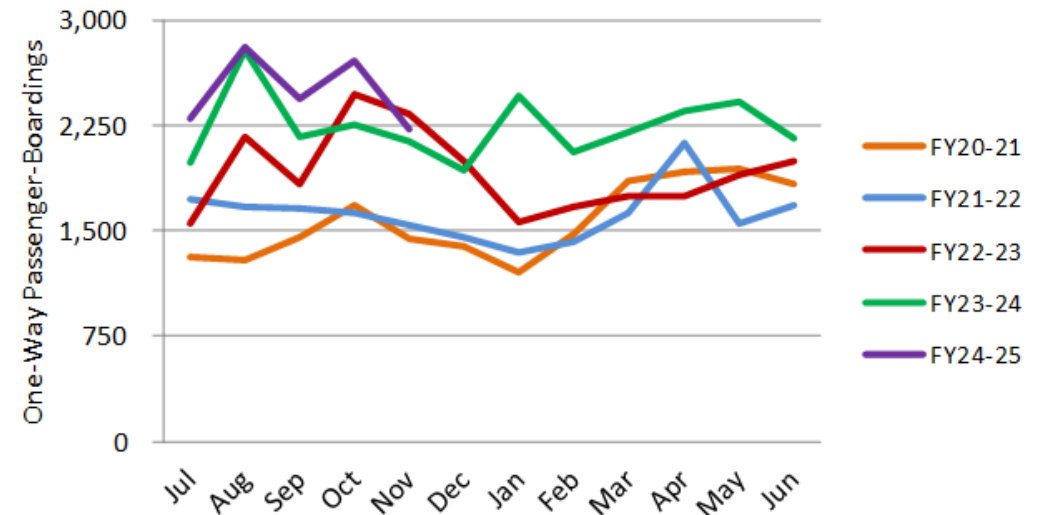
### RTA Route 10 Ridership By Month



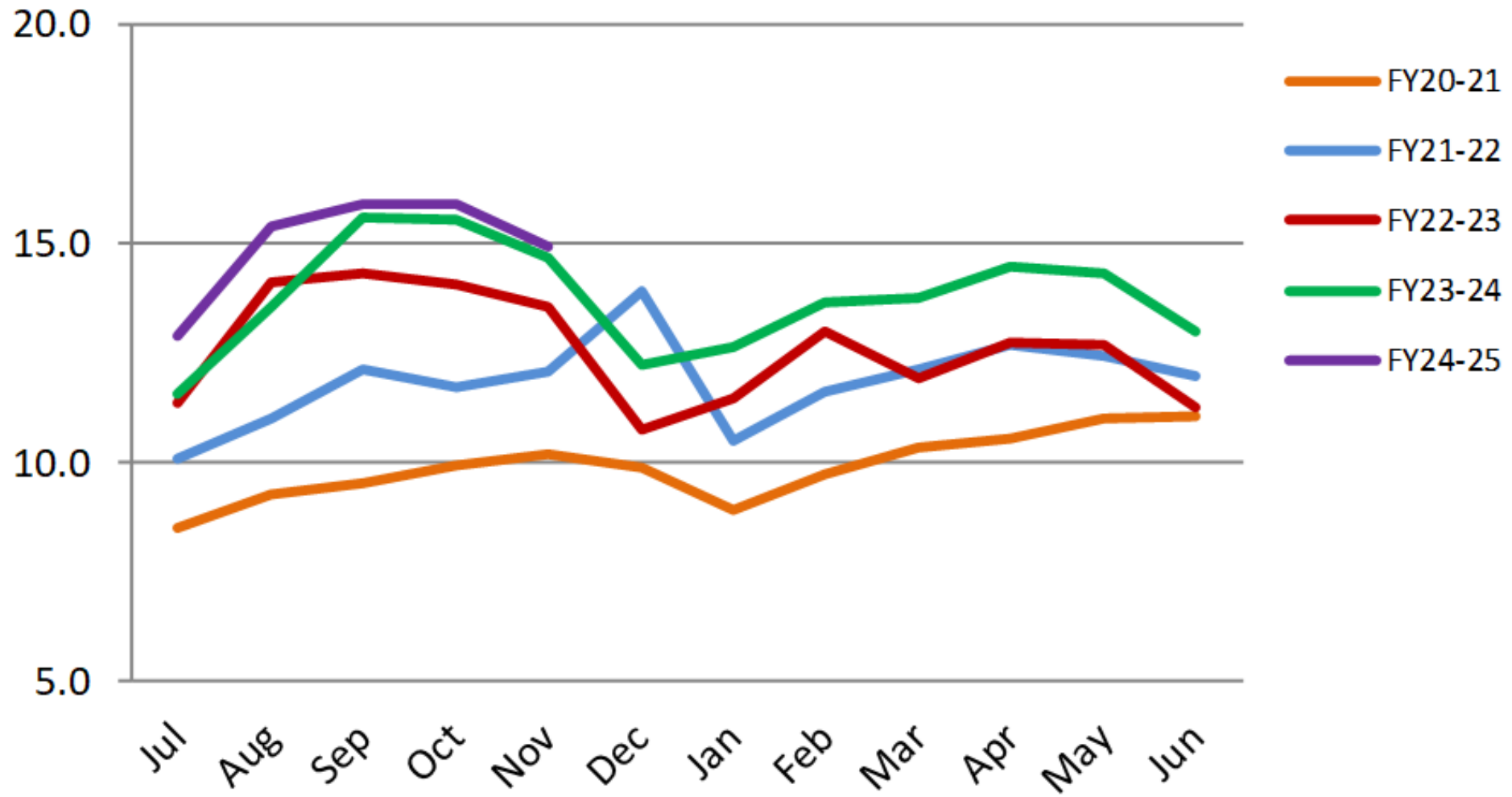
### RTA Rtes. 12, 14 & 15 Pass./Mo.



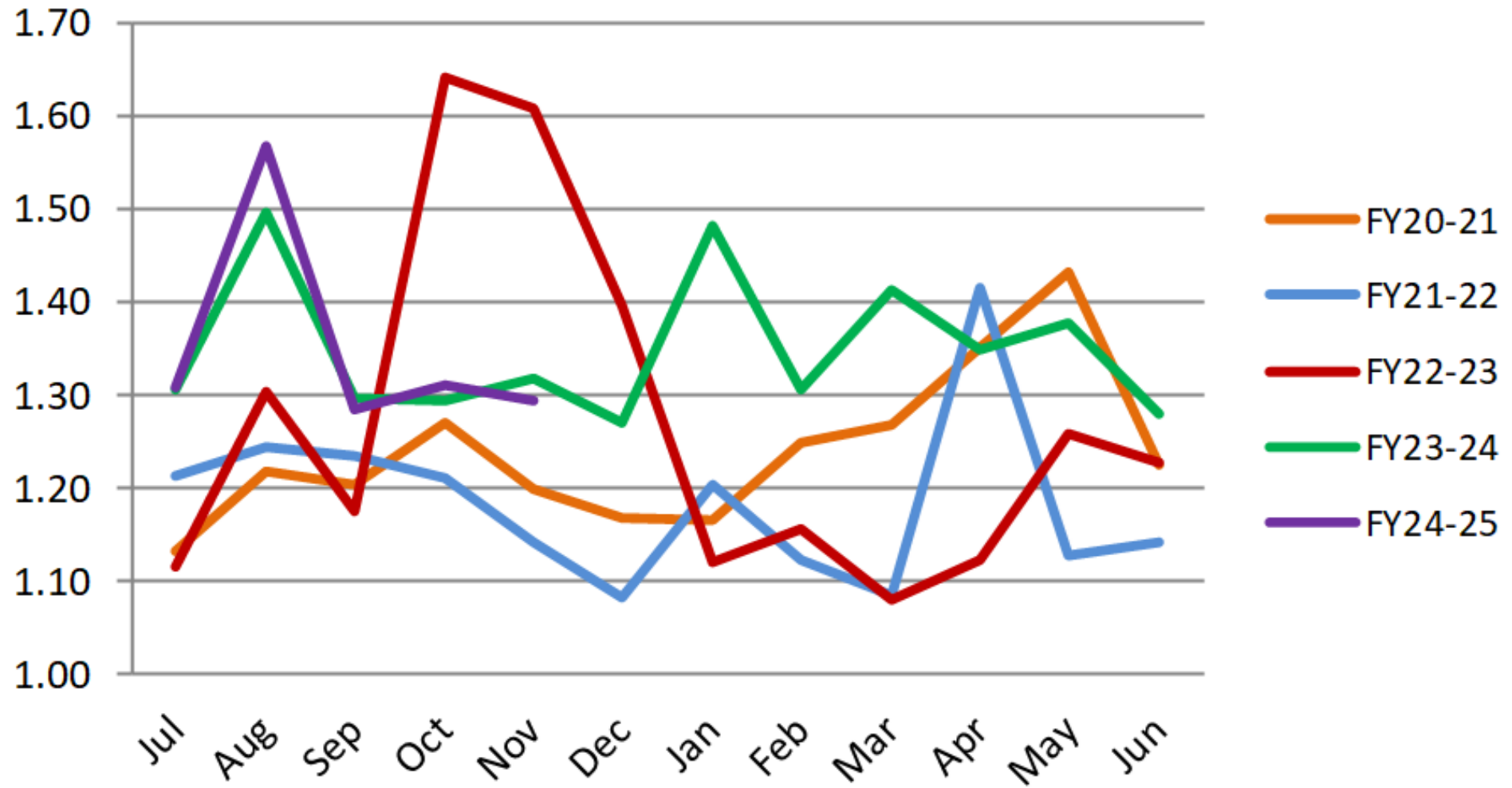
### RTA Runabout Ridership by Mo.



# RTA Fixed Route Productivity



# RTA Runabout Productivity



# FY24-25 Financial Results

Unaudited financial results FY24-25 (five months):

- Overall non-capital expenses are at 35.7%
  - Administrative budget 37.7%
  - Operations budget at 35.3%



# FY24-25 Financial Results

- Farebox Recovery Ratio results:
  - RTA Intercity Fixed-Route 10.0%
  - Paso Robles Local Fixed-Routes 17.7%
  - South County Fixed-Routes 5.9%
  - Runabout 3.4%
- Subsidy per passenger results:
  - RTA Intercity Fixed-Routes \$13.15
  - Paso Robles \$5.45
  - South County \$10.74
  - Runabout \$124.32



# Staff Recommendation

Accept the Executive Director's Report as an Information Item

A recruitment advertisement for RTA. It features a smiling man in a blue RTA polo shirt standing on a bus. The background is a blue graphic with white and green text. The RTA logo is at the top left. Below it, the text 'Hiring Bus Operators' is followed by a bulleted list of benefits. At the bottom, a green speech bubble contains a quote, and a white banner above it asks 'WHY DO I ❤️ RTA?'.

**rtta**  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

**Hiring Bus Operators**

- \$2K signing bonus!
- Starting pay of \$23.95/hr
- 100% health insurance coverage
- No experience? No problem!

WHY DO I ❤️ RTA?

**“The people I’m driving matter.”**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
January 8, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM: B-2**

**TOPIC: Update on Joint Short  
Range Transit Plan Study**

**PRESENTED BY: Geoff Straw**

**RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File**



# S RTP Updates

- Interim documents are posted on our website:  
*Working Paper #5 Operations Plans and Budgets and Working Paper #7 Capital Improvement Plans*
- *Working Paper #8 Coordination Alternatives*
- *Working Paper #6 Marketing and Communications* draft is in administrative review
- The *Draft Plan* will be presented at the March RTA Board meeting



# S RTP Updates

- The Study Steering Committee has been focused on real-world feasible solutions that are financially constrained and will improve services in the region
- A wide array of alternatives have been developed, evaluated and presented
- Staff is pleased with work completed by the consultants, and the involvement of all steering committee members



# Staff Recommendation

Receive and File as an Information Item



**SAN LUIS OBISPO  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
January 8, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM: C-1**

**TOPIC: Agreement to Operate Morro Bay Transit Services**

**PRESENTED BY: Geoff Straw**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the RTA Executive Director and/or Board President to:

- 1. Execute the Agreement to Operate and Administer Morro Bay Transit Services;**
- 2. Procure One Cutaway Van and Related Equipment Using RTF and City Funding;**
- 3. Execute an Amendment with LSC Transportation Consultants to Conduct an SRTP Side Study to Guide Future Morro Bay Transit Services using RTF and City funding.**

# Background/Discussion

- Consolidation has many benefits:
  - Riders can transfer across the systems seamlessly
  - City of Morro Bay can rededicate staff resources yet still maintain local control of funding, fares & service levels
  - RTA can share spare vehicles and other resources along the North Coast
  - SLOCOG will have reduced oversight responsibilities for RTF and TDA audits





# Background/Discussion

- Agreement would be effective Sunday June 1, 2025
- RTA would assume full operation, management, vehicle maintenance and administration of MB local transit services
- RTA would serve as direct TDA recipient
- RTA working closely with Morro Bay & SLOCOG staff on next steps



# Staff Recommendation

Authorize the RTA Executive Director and/or Board President to:

1. Execute the Agreement to Operate and Administer Morro Bay Transit Services;
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**SAN LUIS OBISPO  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**January 8, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM: C-2**

**TOPIC: Procurement of Four Battery Electric Buses**

**PRESENTED BY: Geoff Straw**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. Authorize Executive Director to enter into a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the State of Washington through the Master Contract No. 06719 and Issue a Purchase Order to GILLIG, LLC Not to Exceed \$6,747,450 to Procure Four (4) 40-foot Battery-Electric Buses (BEB), BEB chargers and related infrastructure and workforce development.**
- 2. Direct the Executive Director to Seek Alternative Non-Local Grant Funds/Credits.**
- 3. Declare Vehicle Surplus and Authorize the Executive Director to Transfer or Dispose of Vehicle Remains.**

The RTA was awarded formula FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula funds and discretionary Section 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities grant funds to purchase four Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) to replace existing diesel buses that have surpassed their economically useful lives.



# Procure 4 BEBs

- Bus prices continue to outpace inflation, which leaves a \$1,337,438 shortfall
- Funding possibilities include:
  - Up to \$491,000 in FY26 SGR grant funds (SLOCOG)
  - Up to \$299,000 in FY26 RTF grant funds (SLOCOG)
  - Up to \$552,000 in HVIP credits (CARB)
  - SB125 grant funds (SLOCOG/CalSTA)
  - CA Energy Commission grant funds
- Price increases permitted by WA State purchasing agreement in April 2025 – so timing is important

# Staff Recommendation

1. Authorize Executive Director to enter into a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the State of Washington through the Master Contract No. 06719 and Issue a Purchase Order to GILLIG, LLC Not to Exceed \$6,747,450 to Procure Four 40-foot Battery-Electric Buses (BEB), BEB chargers and related infrastructure, and workforce development.
2. Direct the Executive Director to Seek Alternative Non-Local Grant Funds/Credits.
3. Declare Vehicle Surplus Authorizing the Executive Director to Transfer or Dispose of Vehicle Remains.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
January 8, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM:**     ***D-1 CLOSED SESSION***

**TOPIC:**             **Executive Director Performance Evaluation  
CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
(Govt. Code Section 54957)**

**Agency Designated Representative: Jon Ansolabehere, RTA Counsel  
Unrepresented Employee: Geoff Straw, RTA Executive Director**

