

Expansion and State of Good Repair: Balancing Priorities

Sharon Cooney

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System



Transit Service in San Diego

- MTS provides transit for 10 cities, the rural County, and the international border – 3,240 total square miles
 - Bus, light rail, freight, paratransit, taxicab, vintage trolley
 - 700 buses (70% alternative fuel), 89 routes
 - 134 rail cars, 53 stations, 108 miles of track/ right of way
 - Extensive freight right of way
 - 275,000 passengers daily, 90 million annually
- **** Demand for service will increase rapidly.



The Problem:

How do you address the transportation needs of a rapidly expanding metropolitan area while maintaining existing service and infrastructure?



Planned MTS System Expansion Projects

- Mid City Rapid -- \$44 million
- I-15 Bus Rapid Transit -- \$1.4 billion
- Mid-Coast LRT Extension -- \$1.8 billion
- BOSS Project -- \$22.5 million
- I-805 BRT -- \$1.2 billion
- Super Loop BRT -- \$36 million
- Downtown Layover -- \$20 million



Challenges to Maintaining Existing System

- Public perceptions regarding “overinflated” cost of maintenance and operations
- Ribbon cuttings more interesting than operations or maintenance
- Funding for “new” services but not maintenance
- Need to continue operations on existing infrastructure
- Relationship change between operator and MPO



Fiscal and Operational Impacts of an Aging Infrastructure

- Increases maintenance intervals and level of effort
- Requires increased staffing and equipment
- Generates an increased need for funding
- Adversely impacts service reliability, safety
- Impacts the appropriate level of focus on other (newer) portions of the system
- New Starts: can adversely impact future funding



Age of the Trolley System

Start-Up: 1981

Euclid Extension: 1986

El Cajon Extension: 1989

Bayside Extension: 1990

County Center: 1992

Santee Extension: 1995

Old Town Extension: 1996

Mission Valley West: 1997

Mission Valley East: 2005

31 years

26 years

23 years

22 years

20 years

17 years

16 years

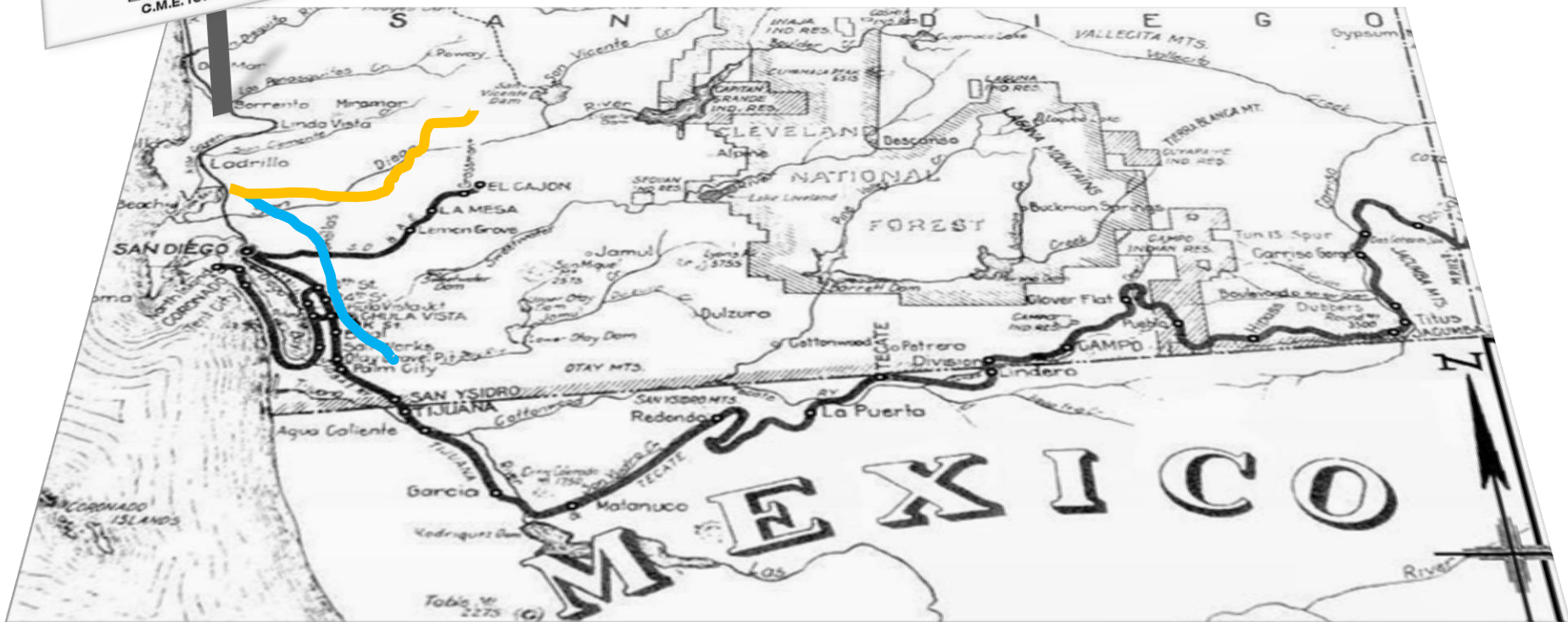
15 years

7 years



**LINES OF THE
SAN DIEGO & ARIZONA
EASTERN RY.
IN CALIFORNIA
TIJUANA & TECATE RY.
IN MEXICO**

SCALE OF MILES
0 5 10 20 30
C.M.E. rev. Jan 1, 1947



Need for Significant Rehabilitation

San Diego Trolley System Renewal Project

- \$572 million program of projects
- Low-Floor LRV procurement – 65 new cars
- System-wide station platform retrofit
- Improved bus/rail interface
- Track, signaling, station amenities, drainage, retaining walls, transit centers, substations, catenary
- Improved infrastructure to support an enhanced operating plan and future system expansion



Trolley Improvement Map

7 Green Line Ext. Stations

- 8" Platforms
- Shelters
- Electrical
- Communications

Systemwide

- Traction Power Upgrades

6 Downtown Stations

- 8" Platform
- Crossover @ America Plaza
- Electrical
- Communications
- Switches at 12th & Imperial
- Access improvements



9 Orange Line Stations

- 8" Platforms
- Shelters
- Rail Replacement
- Electrical
- Communications
- Drainage
- Access improvements

12 Blue Line Stations

- Overhead Wire (34 miles)
- Fiber Optic
- Crossovers
- Signaling System
- Platform Re-construction
- New or Rebuilt Transit Centers
- Grade crossings
- Crossing Gates
- Rail replacement (20 miles)
- Tie replacement
- Track replacement
- Drainage
- Station furniture
- Communications
- Access improvements

Project Components

- Project management: \$33.3 million
- OCS Replacement: \$17.6 million
- Fiber Optic Cable: \$5.6 million
- Crossovers and Signaling: \$42 million
- Blue Line Stations: \$80 million
- Blue Line Rail Infrastructure: \$89 Million
- Rail Replacement: \$17.3 million
- Green and Orange Line Stations: \$63 Million
- Low Floor Vehicles: \$242 Million



Don't Ignore Other System Maintenance Needs

- Bus Replacements
 - Target: 50 new vehicles each year
 - Prioritize funding
 - Average age of fleet is 5.4 years
- South Bay and East County Bus Maintenance Facilities -- \$80 million
- IT upgrades and maintenance



MTS's Approach

- Know what the need is – comprehensive assessment
- Look at all needs together: don't separate modes, competing projects when putting together a financing plan
- Communicate the need to the MPO, agencies with funding, elected officials, community, etc.
- Build limits into operating budget to free up funding for maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement: *STICK WITH IT*
- When planning extensions, identify operating/maintenance funding
- When rehabilitating infrastructure, mix in some tangible upgrades
- Plan and implement steps to ensure a rehab project doesn't become a PR nightmare

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