



**Metropolitan  
Transit  
System**

## **Policies and Procedures No. 41**

**Board Approval:** 05/16/2024

**SUBJECT:**

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the authority granted by the Board of Directors to the Chief Executive Officer, and to provide the Chief Executive Officer with the authority to delegate functions under their control to MTS staff. It also establishes guidelines and procedures for authorized signatories relating to check processing (including wire transfers) and San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) documents (purchase requisitions, contracts, agreements, payment vouchers, deeds, grants, etc.). The policies below relate to MTS, San Diego Transit Corporation (SDTC), and San Diego Trolley, Inc. (SDTI). Throughout this policy, the agencies are collectively referred to as MTS.

**BACKGROUND:**

From time to time, various third parties and agencies seek to verify that individual MTS staff members have the authority to execute documents on behalf of MTS.

MTS maintains a number of checking accounts in various approved financial institutions. To ensure adequate internal controls, signing of checks and execution of wire transfers are restricted to authorized personnel only. This policy establishes guidelines and procedures for obtaining appropriate approval.

In addition, this policy establishes guidelines and procedures for delegating authority to execute MTS documents, including contracts and agreements, on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer in their absence.

**POLICY:**

### 41.1 Authorized Signatories for Disbursements

A disbursement is the final authorization to pay a third party through either a check, warrant, wire transfer/Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), Automated Clearing House (ACH) or other similar payment mechanism. Authorized signatures for disbursements are: the Accounting Manager, Controller, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer – Bus/Rail, Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel, and Chief Executive Officer.

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San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is a California public agency comprised of San Diego Transit Corp., San Diego Trolley, Inc. and San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company (nonprofit public benefit corporations). MTS member agencies include the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, San Diego, Santee, and the County of San Diego. MTS is also the For-Hire Vehicle administrator for nine cities.



One signature is required for disbursements under \$2,000. This signature can be a facsimile signature. Two signatures are required for all disbursements over \$2,000. One of these can be a facsimile signature. A listing of all facsimile checks must be reviewed and approved by an authorized signer. For disbursements over \$10,000, the second signature SHALL NOT BE the Accounting Manager or Controller. Disbursements over \$25,000 require that one of the signatures be that of the General Counsel, Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, or Chief Executive Officer.

The listing below summarizes the above as to effective levels of signing authority:

Accounting Manager	To	\$ 10,000
Controller	To	\$ 10,000
Chief Operating Officer – Bus/Rail	To	\$ 25,000
Deputy Chief Financial Officer	Over	\$ 25,000
Chief Financial Officer	Over	\$ 25,000
General Counsel	Over	\$ 25,000
Chief Executive Officer	Over	\$ 25,000

#### 41.2 Purchase Requisitions

Purchase Requisitions initiate the potential procurement of goods and/or services. Purchase Requisitions define the need for goods and/or services; budget for the goods and/or services; and assign staff time and resources to initiate the procurement of such goods and/or services. Purchase Requisitions do not constitute a commitment or contractual relationship with a Vendor.

Authorized signatures for Purchase Requisitions are Supervisors, Managers, Directors, Chief Operating Officer – Bus/Rail, Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel, and Chief Executive Officer.

Manager/Supervisor	To	\$ 5,000
Directors	To	\$ 7,500
Director of Capital Projects	To	\$ 75,000
Chief Operating Officer – Bus/Rail	To	\$ 75,000
Deputy Chief Financial Officer	To	\$ 75,000
Chief Financial Officer	To	\$ 75,000
General Counsel	To	\$ 75,000
Chief Executive Officer	Over	\$ 75,000

41.2.1 Purchase Requisitions for Inventory Items. The signature authority to approve Purchase Requisitions for inventory items is described within MTS Board Policy No. 64, Inventory Controls and Signature Authority.

#### 41.3 Purchase Orders under Existing Contract

Upon completion of the procurement process (i.e. Board of Directors or staff approval of a formal contract pursuant to Section 41.4 of this Policy), the Procurement Manager may execute and transmit Purchase Orders to the vendor to properly manage the funding of multiple year contracts.

41.4 Authorized Signatories on Contracts and Documents

41.4.1 Expense Contracts. Expense contracts are contracts that require MTS to expend funds in return for goods or services. Expense contracts can be issued using various procurement forms, including but not limited to: a formal contract punch-out catalog purchase orders, or vendor agreement forms. All approval levels must be contained within and be consistent with overall Board of Directors approval levels. The approval levels are as follows:

Materials Manager (Punch-Out Catalog Purchase Orders Only)	To	\$ 5,000
Procurement Manager, Senior Procurement Specialist or Principal Contracts Administrator	To	\$ 5,000
Directors	To	\$ 7,500
Director of Capital Projects	To	\$ 75,000
Chief Operating Officer – Bus/Rail	To	\$ 75,000
Deputy Chief Financial Officer	To	\$ 75,000
Chief Financial Officer	To	\$ 75,000
General Counsel	To	\$ 75,000
Chief Executive Officer	Up To	\$ 150,000
Board of Directors	Over	\$ 150,000

41.4.2 Stand-Alone Purchase Orders. Once a Purchase Requisition for the procurement of goods and/or service is approved per Section 41.2 of this Policy or through Board of Directors action, the Procurement Manager or their designee will have the authority to execute stand-alone purchase orders so long as the value of the stand-alone purchase order does not exceed the value of the approved Purchase Requisition.

The Chief Executive Officer will implement internal policies and protocols to identify which procurements for goods and/or services are appropriate for the use of a stand-alone purchase order process as opposed to requiring a formal contract subject to heightened review and approval.

41.4.3 Purchase Card. Authorized signatures for Purchase Card transactions are Directors, Chief Operating Officer – Bus/Rail, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive Officer. All approvals of Purchase Card transactions must be consistent with MTS's internal Purchase Card Policy.

41.4.4 Change Orders. A contract change order is a change within the original scope of the contract. Contract change orders costing \$150,000 or less may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer. Contract change orders costing more than \$150,000 may be approved by the Board of Directors. Any change order costing more than \$150,000 that requires immediate approval due to: an emergency involving public safety; liability to MTS; unacceptable delay to the project; or substantial cost increase, shall receive immediate concurrence from the Chief Executive Officer and report such action to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

41.4.5 Revenue Contracts. Revenue contracts are contracts that result in payments to MTS for goods, services or real property interests. Examples include group/employer sales contracts (monthly passes/fare revenue), advertising,

special event licenses, property leases, right of entry permits or licenses, easements and grant deeds. All revenue contracts may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer. Long-term concession contracts (e.g. bus shelter advertising, naming rights, trolley station concessions) and the sale of real property rights (e.g. easement or fee simple interest) valued over \$150,000 shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

41.4.6 Grants and Memorandums of Understanding. Grants and related documents necessary to obtain local, state and federal funding may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, or General Counsel. Memorandums of Understanding or other agreements documenting an agreed process or program, but not requiring a specific expenditure of MTS funds, may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer. Memorandums of Understanding or other agreements that materially alter the risk or liability MTS has agreed to/is legally obligated to bear, shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

41.4.7 Cost Recovery Agreements. Agreements to undertake certain activities, but which are fully funded by another entity, may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer. Examples include agreements with San Diego Association of Governments establishing the cost-recovery process for *TransNet*-funded transit programs or agreements with North County Transit District to pay its fair share of Regional Fare System (Compass Card) costs.

41.4.8 Real Property Transfer Documents. Subject to the approval limits set forth in this Policy, the Chief Executive Officer is authorized to sign all real property transfer documents, including but not limited to, permits, rights of entry, licenses, leases, deeds, easements, escrow instructions, and certificates of acceptance.

41.4.9 Capital Asset Transfer Documents. Capital Assets may include but are not limited to: revenue vehicles; non-revenue vehicles; equipment; information technology; and furniture. Transfer documentation for Capital Assets may be signed by staff as authorized within MTS Board Policy No. 33, Capital Asset Disposal.

41.4.10 Emergency Procurements. As authorized by Public Utilities Code section 120224.1, the Chief Executive Officer may authorize the purchase of goods or services, including those costing more than \$150,000, if the purchase requires immediate approval to avert or alleviate damage to, or to repair or restore damaged or destroyed property and insure that MTS facilities are available to serve the transportation needs of the general public or to comply with any state or federal regulation with respect to the operation of public transportation services or protecting public safety. The Chief Executive Officer shall report such actions to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

41.4.11 Construction Contract Documents. Subject to the limits set forth by this Policy and/or the Director of Capital Projects, Project Managers on Construction Projects are authorized to execute documents relating to the management of a construction contract (e.g. Notice of Completion).

#### 41.5 Changes in Terms and Conditions

Any requested revision to MTS's Terms and Conditions or to accept a Vendor's Terms and Conditions must be approved by the General Counsel.

41.6 Authorized Signatories for Payment of Invoices

41.6.1 Payment of Invoices not associated with Contracts. Payment of invoices not associated with contracts includes, but is not limited to, employee reimbursements, payroll deductions, utility payments, insurance payments, purchase card transactions and claim payments. Authorized signatures for payment of these invoices are Supervisors, Managers, Directors, Chief Operating Officer – Bus/Rail, Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel, and Chief Executive Officer.

All approval levels must be contained within and be consistent with overall Board of Directors approval levels. The approval levels are as follows:

Manager/Supervisor	To	\$ 5,000
Directors	To	\$ 7,500
Chief Operating Officer – Bus/Rail	To	\$ 75,000
Deputy Chief Financial Officer	To	\$ 75,000
Chief Financial Officer	To	\$ 75,000
General Counsel	To	\$ 75,000
Chief Executive Officer	Over	\$ 75,000

41.6.2 Payment of Invoices associated with Contracts. Payment of invoices associated with contracts, includes, but is not limited to, formal contracts, stand-alone purchase orders and punch-out catalog purchase orders. The Chief Executive Officer will implement internal policies and protocols to ensure that upon receiving an invoice, the proper rate, price and quantity is being charged before payment is processed. Once payment is processed, the disbursement must then be approved as required by Section 41.1 of this Policy.

41.7 Authorized Signatories for Freight/Shipping and Sales/Other Taxes

The signature authority for the approval and payment of freight/shipping and sales/other taxes is described within MTS Board Policy No. 63, Payments for Freight/Shipping or Sales/Other Taxes Policy.

41.8 Authorized Signatories for Absences

In the Chief Executive Officer's absence, General Counsel, Chief Financial Officer or the Chief Executive Officer's designee is authorized to execute all checks, purchase requisitions, contracts, and documents as necessary, subject to any limits set or instructions given by the Chief Executive Officer.

In the General Counsel's absence, the Deputy General Counsel is authorized to execute all checks, purchase requisitions, contracts, and documents within the General Counsel's authority, subject to any limits set or instructions given by the General Counsel.

In the Procurement Manager's absence, the Chief Financial Officer, the General Counsel, the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, or the Controller is authorized to execute Expense Contracts falling within the Procurement Manager's signature authority.

In the Clerk of the Board's absence, the Assistant Clerk of the Board is authorized to execute documents as may be required to certify actions of the Board of Directors.

41.9 Electronic Signature

Any signature authorized within this Policy may be provided electronically through an automated system (e.g. SAP system).

Upon receipt of approval from the Board of Directors for any Expense Contract over \$150,000, the Chief Executive Officer or their designee shall have the authority to provide the electronic approval within an automated system for the Board of Directors when applicable.

This original Policy was adopted on 2/13/1992.

Policy revised on 8/11/1994.

Policy revised on 1/29/2004.

Policy revised on 2/23/2006.

Policy revised on 11/18/2010.

Policy revised on 11/14/2013.

Policy revised on 03/20/2014.

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