



Board Report

File #: 2024-1112, **File Type:** Appointment

Agenda Number: 19.

**FINANCE, BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
MAY 15, 2025**

SUBJECT: MEASURE M INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SELECTION

ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE the following nominees for the Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee (MMITOC):

- A. Jesse Soto, the recommended nominee for area of expertise B, municipal/public finance and/or budgeting professional; and
- B. Michael Moore, the recommended nominee for area of expertise C, transit professional with experience in senior-level decision-making in transit operations and labor practices.

ISSUE

The MMITOC consists of seven members representing various areas of expertise (Attachment A). Currently, there are three open positions on the MMITOC. This action seeks to fill two of the resulting vacancies.

BACKGROUND

The Measure M Ordinance (Ordinance), approved by voters in November 2016, requires the establishment of a Taxpayer Oversight Committee to provide an enhanced level of accountability for expenditures of sales tax revenues made under the Expenditure Plan. The MMITOC carries out the responsibilities laid out in the Ordinance. It plays a valuable and constructive role in the ongoing improvement and enhancement of project delivery contemplated under the Measure M Ordinance. See Attachment A for committee requirements.

The MMITOC is comprised of seven members representing the following areas of expertise (Attachment A):

- A. A retired federal or state judge;
- B. A professional from the field of municipal/public finance and/or budgeting with a minimum of ten (10) years of relevant experience;

- C. A transit professional with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in senior-level decision making in transit operations and labor practices;
- D. A professional with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in management and administration of financial policies, performance measurements, and reviews;
- E. A professional with demonstrated experience of ten (10) years or more in the management of large-scale construction projects;
- F. A licensed architect or engineer with appropriate credentials in the field of transportation project design or construction and a minimum of ten (10) years of relevant experience; and
- G. A regional association of business representative with at least ten (10) years of senior-level decision making experience in the private sector.

In October 2020, the member representing Expertise A - a retired federal or state judge, resigned. In June 2024, the member representing Expertise B - municipal/public finance and/or budgeting professional resigned due to a change in residence, which made them ineligible to serve. In addition, the member representing Expertise C - transit professional, notified staff of their resignation effective June 2025 at the conclusion of their five-year term.

The Ordinance states that the Selection Panel consisting of Metro's Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair or their designees shall select the MMITOC Members for approval (Attachment B) . In April 2025, staff presented the eligible candidates for the MMITOC to the Selection Panel for their review. The Ethics Officer also conducted a screening of the recommended candidates to ensure compliance with the conflict of interest provisions outlined in the Ordinance.

The Board shall approve the recommended candidates by a simple majority per the selection panel guidelines (Attachment B).

DISCUSSION

There are currently three open positions on the MMITOC. This action aims to fill two of those vacancies: a municipal/public finance and/or budgeting professional and a transit professional.

In May 2024, Metro issued a press release to attract interested individuals and conducted outreach to judicial and mediation agencies, and professional finance and transit organizations to identify candidates with legal, financial, and transit expertise to promote the vacancies within the MMITOC. In addition, staff opened an online application system to collect candidate submissions.

Following this outreach process, candidate applications were evaluated and staff presented eligible candidates to the Selection Panel for review. The Selection Panel reviewed the candidates' qualifications and recommends the following two candidates be approved for the MMITOC.

- Jesse Soto, the recommended nominee for area of expertise B, municipal/public finance and/or budgeting professional has over 40 years of accounting and financial management experience, has been a recipient of top government finance awards, and is a member of

several government finance organizations. (Attachment C)

- Michael Moore, the recommended nominee for area of expertise C, transit professional with experience in senior-level decision-making in transit operations and labor practices has over 30 years of experience in public transit, specializing in rail/ bus safety, and has received numerous rail safety certifications and awards (Attachment D).

As the candidate pool for Expertise A, retired federal or state judge is limited, recruitment efforts have been challenging. The expertise has been vacant for five years and has only received one applicant since the 2017 MMITOC establishment. In order to fill the remaining vacancy, staff will coordinate efforts across multiple departments to expand outreach to targeted professional organizations.

Staff will also identify potential candidates to fill the anticipated vacancy for the licensed architect (Expertise F), as she informed staff following the March MMITOC meeting that she would be stepping down once a replacement is identified.

Approval of the staff recommendation will result in one vacancy, as well as the anticipated vacancy for Expertise F. The application portal remains open to allow for renewed and continued recruitment efforts.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

Approval of this item will not negatively impact the safety of Metro's patrons or employees.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approving the recommended action has no financial impact on the agency.

EQUITY PLATFORM

Responsible and transparent stewardship of taxpayer dollars is an important component of equitable governance. This action will fill vacancies on this oversight committee. The addition of the two recommended candidates will contribute to greater diversity within the MMITOC.

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED OUTCOME

VMT and VMT per capita in Los Angeles County are lower than national averages, the lowest in the SCAG region, and on the lower end of VMT per capita statewide, with these declining VMT trends due in part to Metro's significant investment in rail and bus transit. *Metro's Board-adopted VMT reduction targets align with California's statewide climate goals, including achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. To ensure continued progress, all Board items are assessed for their potential impact on VMT.

As part of these ongoing efforts, this item is expected to contribute to further reductions in VMT. While this item does not directly encourage taking transit, sharing a ride, or using active transportation, it is a vital part of Metro operations, as it provides information on the recruitment and selection process for candidates to serve on the Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight

Committee (MMITOC). Because the Metro Board has adopted an agency-wide VMT Reduction Target, and this item generally supports the overall function of the agency, this item is consistent with the goals of reducing VMT.

*Based on population estimates from the United States Census and VMT estimates from the highway performance monitoring system data between 2001-2019.

..Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Approval of this item supports Metro Vision 2028 Goal #5: Provide responsive, accountable, and trustworthy governance within the Metro organization as the MMITOC was established to ensure that Metro and local sub-recipients comply with the terms of the Ordinance.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board could choose not to approve the recommended member(s) for the MMITOC and re-solicit applications. This is not recommended as it would limit the number of members and increase the likelihood of not obtaining the quorum necessary to review and discuss important Measure M matters. This may impact the ability to provide an enhanced level of accountability for expenditures of sales tax revenues made under the Expenditure Plan.

NEXT STEPS

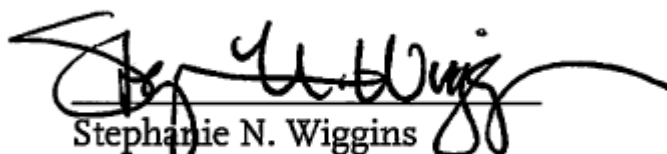
Upon approval, staff will schedule an orientation session for the selected member(s). In addition, staff will continue recruitment efforts to fill the remaining vacancies.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A - Committee Membership Requirements
- Attachment B - Selection Panel Guidelines
- Attachment C - Soto Candidate Bio
- Attachment D - Moore Candidate Bio

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Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee
Membership

Requirements:

Committee Members shall be comprised of seven (7) voting members representing the following professions or areas of expertise:

- A. A retired Federal or State judge
- B. A professional from the field of municipal/public finance and/or budgeting with a minimum of ten (10) years of relevant experience
- C. A transit professional with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in senior-level decision making in transit operations and labor practices
- D. A professional with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in management and administration of financial policies, performance measurements, and reviews
- E. A professional with demonstrated experience of ten (10) years or more in the management of large-scale construction projects
- F. A licensed architect or engineer with appropriate credentials in the field of transportation project design or construction and a minimum of ten (10) years of relevant experience
- G. A regional association of businesses representative with at least ten (10) years of senior-level decision making experience in the private sector

The intent is to have one member representing each of the specified areas of expertise. If, however, after a good faith effort, qualified individuals have not been identified for one (1) or more of the areas of expertise, then no more than two (2) members from one (1) or more of the remaining areas of expertise may be selected.

The members of the Committee must reside in Los Angeles County and be subject to conflict of interest provisions. No person currently serving as an elected or appointed city, county, special district, state, or federal public officeholder shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Committee.

The Committee members shall be subject to Metro's conflict of interest policies. The members shall have no legal action pending against Metro and are prohibited from acting in any commercial activity directly or indirectly involving Metro, such as being a consultant to Metro or to any party with pending legal actions against Metro during their tenure on this Committee. Committee members shall not have direct commercial interest

ATTACHMENT A

Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee Membership

or employment with any public or private entity, which receives sales tax funds authorized by this Ordinance.

Each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of five (5) years, and until a successor is appointed, except that initial appointments may be staggered with terms of three (3) years. A Committee member may be removed at any time by the appointing authority. Term limits for Committee members will be staggered to prevent significant turnover at any one time. There is no limit as to the number of terms that a Committee member may serve. Members will be compensated through a stipend and they may choose to waive.

Any member may, at any time, resign from the Committee upon written notice delivered to the Metro Board. Acceptance of any public office, the filing of intent to seek public office, including a filing under California Government Code Section 85200, or change of residence to outside the County shall constitute a Member's automatic resignation.

**Selection Panel Guideline
Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee**

Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee Selection

I. Solicitation/Outreach

Metro's Communications Department will be responsible for developing an outreach plan to solicit applicants for the Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee which requires the following seven (7) areas of expertise:

- A. A retired federal or state judge.
- B. A professional from the field of municipal/public finance and/or budgeting with a minimum of ten (10) years of relevant experience.
- C. A transit professional with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in senior-level decision making in transit operations and labor practices.
- D. A professional with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in management and administration of financial policies, performance measurements, and reviews
- E. A professional with demonstrated experience of ten (10) years or more in the management of large-scale construction projects.
- F. A licensed architect or engineer with appropriate credentials in the field of transportation project design or construction and a minimum of ten (10) years of relevant experience.
- G. A regional association of businesses representative with at least ten (10) years of senior-level decision making experience in the private sector.

Management Audit Services will partner with Information Technology Services and Communications in the maintenance and update of the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee Webpage that links to the Measure M website. The Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee Webpage will include the purpose, responsibilities, membership of the Committee including eligibility requirements as stipulated in the Ordinance, vacancies and recruitment information at a minimum. The website will also include links to the full Ordinance and online application; as well as a centralized email address for applicant inquiries. Inquiries on the application will be forwarded to the respective department or personnel and response time will be within three to five business days.

II. Application Process

Management Audit Services in partnership with various business units within Metro will develop the draft application questions for the Selection Panel's input and approval. Once approved, the questions will be converted to an online application. The online application and bulletin will be approved by the Selection Panel prior to posting on the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee Webpage which links to the Measure M website. The application will be open to the public for at least sixty (60) days to allow for adequate outreach.

III. Collection of Applications

Submitted application forms will be collected using the online application process approved by the Selection Panel. At the end of at least the 60 day period of online application process, a summary of applications received together with the completed

**Selection Panel Guideline
Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee**

applications and associated attachments will be turned in to the Selection Panel within seven business days after the online application closes. The summary will include but will not be limited to:

1. Total applicants received including areas of expertise that they applied for,
2. Total applicants that meet the eligibility requirements per area of expertise applied for, and
3. Total applicants that did not meet the eligibility requirements per area of expertise applied for.

IV. Selection Panel's Review of Applications

The Selection Panel, which will consist of Metro's Board Chair, Vice Chair, and second Vice Chair or designees, will be responsible for reviewing applications received from eligible applicants and for screening the applicants. The Panel shall recommend potential candidates for the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee membership to the Metro Board for approval. The successful candidates will receive notification from the Selection Panel at least three weeks prior to Metro Board Meeting.

V. Board Approval

Once the Selection Panel recommends the final candidates, it will be added as an agenda item for the Metro Board Meeting. The recommended candidates for Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee Membership shall be approved by the Metro Board by a simple majority.

VI. Term

Each member of the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee shall serve for a term of five (5) years, and until a successor is appointed, except that initial appointments may be staggered with terms of three (3) years. A Committee member may be removed at any time by the appointing authority. Term limits for Committee members will be staggered to prevent significant turnover at any one time. There is no limit as to the number of terms that a Committee member may serve.

Six (6) months prior to expiration of term, the Selection Panel will convene to determine if there is any need to replace any of the Committee members. The Selection Panel will also confirm whether the incumbent Committee members still wish to serve for additional term(s).

VII. Compensation

Members will be compensated through a stipend, the amount of which is approved by the Metro Board. Members may choose to waive stipend.

VIII. Resignation/Replacement of Committee Members

Any member may, at any time, resign from the Committee upon written notice delivered to the Metro Board. Acceptance of any public office, the filing of intent to seek public office,

**Selection Panel Guideline
Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee**

including a filing under California Government Code Section 85200, or change of residence to outside Los Angeles County shall constitute a Member's automatic resignation.

The filling of membership vacancies, due to removals and reappointments will follow the above procedures in this Guideline.

IX. Committee Orientation

Management Audit Services will work with various departments to prepare an orientation handbook and presentation will conduct the orientation at least one month prior to the first scheduled Independent Taxpayer's Oversight Committee.

X. Establishment of Committee Officers and Bylaws

Subsequent to the orientation, the Independent Taxpayer's Oversight Committee may elect to develop their own bylaws including rules for the establishment of Committee Officers (e.g. Chair, Vice Chair, etc.) including a rotation schedule for these positions.

Jesse Soto Bio

Jesse Soto is a seasoned accounting leader with over 40 years of experience, including nearly three decades in governmental accounting at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). As Senior Executive Officer, Finance/Controller, Jesse directed all core accounting functions—including payroll, accounts receivable, credit and collections, accounts payable, general ledger, grants, and accounting systems—while managing high-performing teams and ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Throughout his career, Jesse has driven efficiency through process improvements, financial system upgrades, and internal controls, contributing to multiple years of clean audits and award-winning financial reporting. Notable achievements include the earliest completion of LA Metro's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report with zero findings and successful oversight of multimillion-dollar audits tied to key transportation funding measures.

He retired from Metro in 2024 and is recognized for his strategic leadership, operational insight, and commitment to public service excellence. Jesse holds a B.B.A. in Finance from Loyola Marymount University.

Michael Moore Bio

Michael J. Moore is a seasoned rail transportation leader with over 30 years of experience in public transit operations at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). With a career that began as a bus operator and progressed through every level of rail operations, Michael has led major initiatives in safety, performance optimization, labor relations, and regulatory compliance. As Transportation Operations Director for Rail, he managed multi-million dollar budgets, directed large teams, and played a pivotal role in the successful launch and expansion of key LA Metro rail lines, including the Gold Line.

Michael's strategic leadership has resulted in measurable improvements in safety, operational efficiency, and on-time performance, along with notable cost reductions. He has served as a panelist for the National Academies of Sciences Transportation Research Board and holds multiple certifications from the Transportation Safety Institute. A champion of operational excellence and collaboration, Michael retired from Metro in 2021 and holds a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of La Verne and is widely recognized for his commitment to public service and transit innovation.

Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee – Recruitment

Kimberly Houston
Deputy Chief Auditor

May 15, 2025



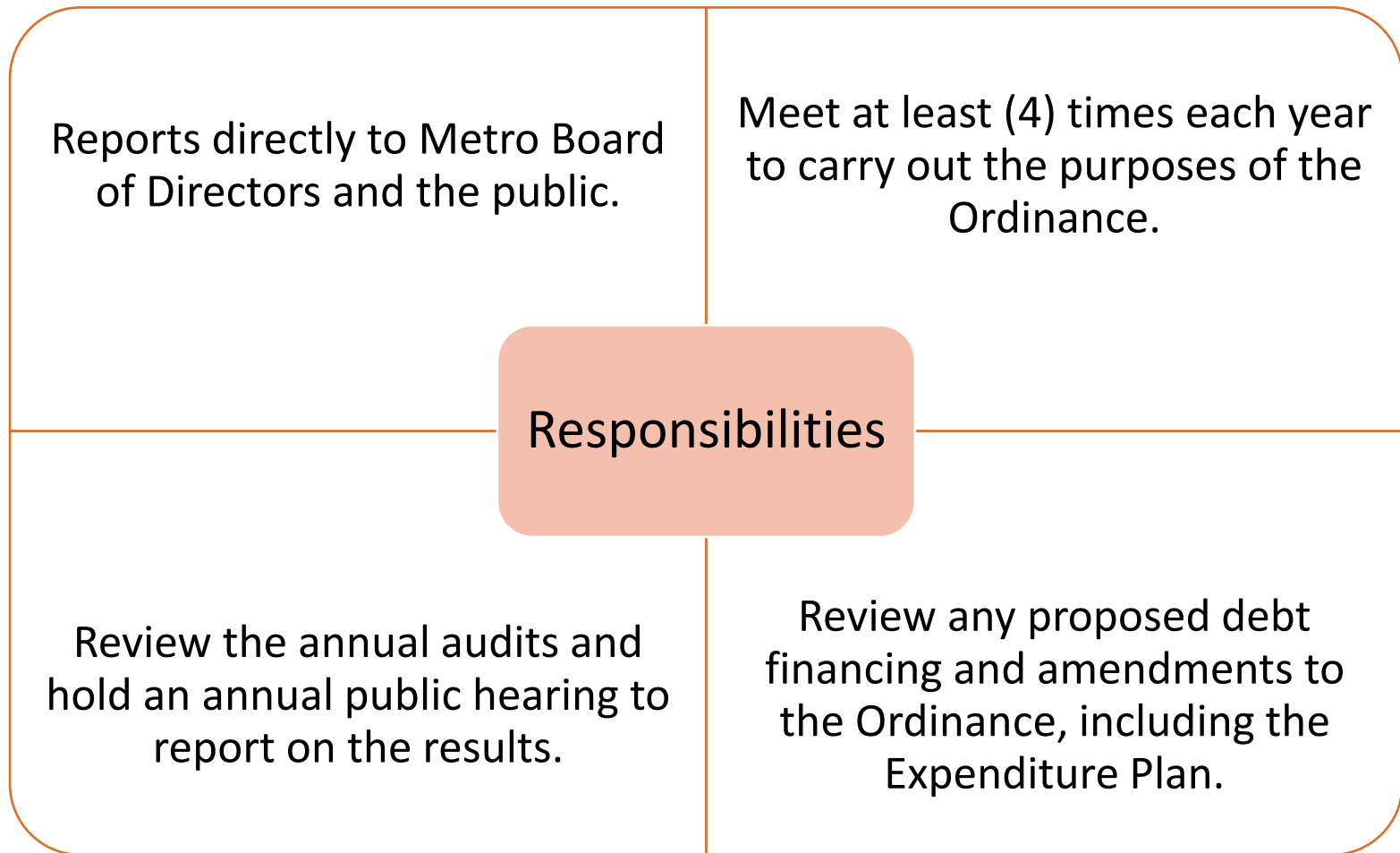
MANAGEMENT
AUDIT SERVICES



Committee Composition

	Area	Member	Start Date	Vacant Date
1.	Retired Federal / State Judge	Vacant		October 2020
2.	Municipal / Public Finance / Budget	Vacant		June 2024
3.	Transit (Operations and Labor Practices) Professional	R. Stanger (Vacant)	August 2020	Resignation pending new appointment
4.	Financial Policies, Performance Measurements and Reviews	R. Campbell	June 2017	
5.	Management of Large-Scale Construction Projects	P. Rajmaira	October 2022	
6.	Licensed Architect or Engineer	V. Tanzmann	June 2017	Resignation pending new appointment
7.	Business Representative	L. Briskman	June 2017	

Committee Responsibilities



Recommended Applicants

Michael Moore

- Retired 2021
- Transit Operations Director, Rail
- 30+ years public transit experience, specializing in rail/bus safety. Led major initiatives in safety, performance, labor relations, and regulatory compliance

Jesse Soto

- Retired 2024
- Senior Executive Officer, Finance/Controller
- 40+ years governmental accounting experience, including ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Next Steps

- Conduct orientation sessions for new committee members.
- Continue Recruitment Efforts for the remaining vacancies.

Thank you.