



MINUTES/PROCEEDINGS

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARVIN BRAUDE CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTER
COMMUNITY ROOM
6262 VAN NUYS BOULEVARD
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA 91401

DECEMBER 3, 2003

Called to order at 6:50 p.m.

Council Members present:

Coby King, Chair
Joan H. Leonard
Jesus Ochoa
Bart Reed
Kymberleigh Richards
Brad Rosenheim

1. **APPROVED AS CORRECTED Minutes** of October 1, 2003 Council Meeting to reflect item 7 as “Approved revised King/**Richards** motion”.
2. **RECEIVED** Public Comment:
 - Vince Garofalo regarding an incident that happened to him on the Santa Monica bus line with regards to his fare and commented that there should be a 3-day grace period for monthly pass holders.

3. **RECOGNIZED** staff of Divisions 8 and 15

APPROVED Richards motion to recognize staff of Divisions 8 and 15 for a job well done. Ms. Richards commented that when service resumed after the work stoppage, San Fernando Service Sector deployed 92 % of service on the first day of work back and 100% resumption of service on the second day. Chair King commended staff for continuous updates during the work stoppage. Ms. Leonard commented that customers were happy to have the service back and were pleased with the “Welcome Back” sign on the buses. Mr. Ochoa requested staff to report back at the next Council meeting with comments from customers after the strike.

4. **RECEIVED** report of the General Manager

Mr. Armijo handed out a summary of the year-to-date Metro SFV Bus Operations Key Performance Indicators and financial information. He reported that the workers compensation costs for the month of September were a little high and commented that there is a continuing effort to raise the on-time performance percentage.

5. **RECEIVED** an oral report on MTA Operations Financial & Budget Overview

Ms. Carolyn Flowers, Operations Executive Officer presented the goals and objectives of the Service Sector as identified by Executive Management Team. She stated that the Service Sectors have been charged with efficient allocation and utilization of resources, increasing communications with stakeholders and the community, enhancing quality of service, and improving customer satisfaction and meeting performance indicators. Ms. Flowers discussed the FY04 budget assumptions. She commented that service changes in October will be delayed and will have an impact on the budget. She also, stated that there are current issues with federal funding. Ms. Flowers discussed the budget direction and issues to be resolved for FY05 including determining manpower allocations, centralizing roster and how to manage that roster, fleet composition and management, restructuring of bus service, looking at mobility enhancement, direct charging of allocated costs from centralized functions, developing an accurate system of passenger counting and how to decentralize the issues of the consent decree service and costs. Ms. Flowers further

discussed the impact of labor negotiations settlement and ratifications for the rest of the fiscal year.

Chair King asked if the books for FY02-03 are closed. Ms. Flowers responded that the closing of the books is delayed due to work stoppage. Chair King requested Ms. Flowers to report back in the January Council meeting and to share the final numbers with the Council. Mr. Rosenheim asked about savings and revenue.

Ms. Flowers discussed decentralizing ways to determine the revenue that belongs to each Service Sector. She emphasized the need to get an accurate passenger count with the implementation of new technology and system like the Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) and Universal Fare System. She discussed that in FY05, a charge back methodology may be considered for the Service Sectors. She stated that recovering of costs is done on strict proportional basis. Costs and revenue for planning are allocated on a proportional basis and not based on performance and size of the Service Sector. She further stated that a cost allocation plan is developed in conjunction with internal auditors.

Chair King requested Ms. Flowers to come back with an overview on the cost allocation plan in January.

6. **RECEIVED** an oral report on Community Relations

Eric Rapp reported on the outreach activities of the Community Relations department as follows:

- Christmas Parade on December 12th and 13th
- Email updates to Council members and publication of meetings.
- Planned tours and encouraging group and public input

Ms. Leonard commented that MTA should be more sensitive in scheduling their meetings in the valley. She noted that the Rapidway Rail meeting is occurring at the same time as the Service Sector meeting. Mr. Rosenheim expressed his frustrations regarding the lack of communication between the Planning Department of the MTA and the Operations Department of the Service Sectors.

Mr. John Bwarie, South Valley Area Director from the Mayor Hahn's Office spoke in behalf of the Mayor commending the Service Sector Council and their efforts to improve the service in the valley and its outreach activities. He extended the Mayor's wishes to work with the Council on community issues.

APPROVED unanimously Richards motion to send a message to MTA Rapidway staff to reschedule all previous meetings that occur at the same time as the Service Sector Governance Council meetings, so that public can attend and express their issues.

Ms. Richards also suggested that the Planning staff of the MTA communicate with the Service Sector regarding scheduling meetings in the valley.

7. **Metro Rapid** Update

Rex Gephart, Director, Regional Transportation Planning & Development gave an update on the Rapidway Program.

- He stated that there are five Rapidway lines operating in the valley as follows: Ventura, Van Nuys, Reseda, Sepulveda and Lankershim.
- Major increase in the ridership of the Rapidway
- Van Nuys Rapidway line is delayed due to the delayed installation of the ADSAC by the City
- Crenshaw Corridor will be open by February

Mr. Rosenheim asked if there were any other Rapidway lines started without the ADSAC and if the MTA contribute to the ADSAC implementation. Mr. Gephart responded that there's an MOU with the City and a penalty clause in contractor's contract.

APPROVED unanimously Rosenheim motion that no Rapidway line be implemented in the valley Service Sector until all the attributes (i.e. ADSAC) are in place.

8. Chair's Remarks

The Council discussed at length the Yaroslavsky motion agendized for the full MTA Board meeting scheduled for December 4, 2003, which is:

“YAROSLAVSKY MOTION: In light of MTA’s budget situation, I move that the Sector Governance Council bylaws be amended to remove the travel allowance provision for Sector Council members. I further move that MTA staff return in 60 days with a report on the costs associated with the sectors and sector governance councils and recommendations on further changes to the bylaws that will help streamline these costs”.

Mr. Rosenheim commented that the motion trivializes the Service Sector.

ADOPTED unanimously King resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the Service Sector Governing Councils (SSGCs) are a response to legitimate complaints that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is too centralized and that decisions made by headquarters do not always result in the best local service; and

WHEREAS, the SSGCs have significant responsibilities in the oversight of bus operations within their sector; and

WHEREAS, travel to participate in transit-oriented conferences and programs is a legitimate means of increasing the expertise and education of SSGC members, and that such travel is often utilized by members of the MTA Board; and

WHEREAS, the amount of money actually expended for such travel by SSGC members is extremely small; and

WHEREAS, to eliminate the travel allowance provision of the SSGC By-Laws would have the effect of trivializing the SSGC and would call into question the commitment of the MTA Board to the Sector structure; and

WHEREAS, the MTA has on its December 4, 2003 agenda a motion to remove the travel allowance provision of the SSGC By-Laws;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Fernando Valley Service Sector Governing Council urges the MTA Board to defeat any attempt to amend the SSGC By-Laws to remove the travel allowance provisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Fernando Valley Service Sector Governing Council authorizes any of its members in attendance at an MTA Board meeting where such an item is on the agenda to communicate this Resolution to the Board.

9. Council Members Comments

- Mr. Reed requested an overview of the Hub and Spoke system in the January Council meeting
- Mr. Ochoa requested information regarding customer ridership and revenue.

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 7, 2003 – 6:30 p.m.
Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center
Community Room
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Christina Lumba-Gamboa
Council Secretary