



MINUTES

**SOUTH BAY SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CARSON COMMUNITY CENTER
801 E. CARSON, CARSON 90745**

Friday, December 12, 2003

Called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Council Members present:

Terisa Price (Chair)
Jim Hendrickson (Vice Chair)
Margaret Hudson
John McTaggart
Lou Mitchell
Howard Sachar

1. Safety 1st Contact

Jon Vandercook, Metro South Bay Safety Specialist, stated that during the holiday season the mall parking lots are crowded and people walk through them not paying attention, preoccupied with talking on the cell phones and carrying packages. He cautioned everyone to be careful because more accidents occur in parking lots than on the street with people walking into cars.

2. APPROVED Minutes of October 10, 2003 Council Meeting.

3. RECEIVED Comment – No Council Meeting was held for the month of November 2003.

4. RECEIVED a brief update of the Regional Transportation Plan Extension of Line 205 and Torrance service to the Del Amo Blue Line Station by Scott Greene, Service Development Manager.

Mr. Greene provided a copy of the report to the Council members. Ms. Hudson expressed the importance of improvements at 223rd Street. Chair Price thanked Mr. Greene for the update and said that communicating with the COG was an excellent idea.

5. RECEIVED brief update of the planning and development of a proposed Transit Center in San Pedro by Scott Greene.

Mr. Greene stated that this is a \$2.4 million project and there are no funds available. The money was programmed but not obligated in the 1999 call for projects.

6. RECEIVED brief update regarding the new service changes for Metro South Bay scheduled for February 2004 by Madeline Van Luevan, Service Development Manager.

Ms. Van Luevan provided a copy of the report to the Council members.

New Metro Rapid Bus Service – Line 710 Crenshaw Blvd.

New and Improved Limited Bus Service:
Line 312 La Brea Ave., Line 340 Crenshaw/King Blvds.,
Line 357 Western Ave. and Line 358 Slauson Ave.

Segment Discontinuation: Line 120-121, Line 124, Line 127 and Line 207-357.

Route Modifications: Line 42 and Line 305.

Improved Run Time: Added run time on 24 schedules for improved On Time Performance. Added run time to deadhead off route matrix for improved On Time Performance.

Ms. Price asked how much pay time was saved for the improved run time. Ms. Van Luevan will provide the

information at the next meeting.

7. RECEIVED a brief update on the Mobility Enhancement Project (hub & spoke) by Scott Greene.

Mr. Greene stated that they want to attract more riders with the same amount of resources. Mr. McTaggart asked what is the plan to communicate with customers. Mr. Greene stated that there would be community meetings and public hearings. Ms. Carolyn Flowers stated that they are talking to municipal operators to ensure there is a partnership when the network of service is built. Mr. Hendrickson asked how realistic is the time line. Ms. Price stated that many of the hubs already exist and would be used until additional resources are available. Ms. Flowers stated that the grid would be modified with the constrained resources since capital funds are not available. The same amount of buses and operators would be used to enhance the project.

Mr. Sachar asked what kind of service do they have in mind. Mr. Greene explained the 3-tier approach and stated that service would vary from region to region. Mr. Sachar stated that private operators should be encouraged to participate in the project. Further, he stated that major failures such as the Harbor Transitway project should be analyzed.

8. RECEIVED brief overview of Metro South Bay FY04 Budget Update Report by Cheryl Brown, Administrative & Financial Manager, Metro South Bay.

Ms. Brown provided a copy of the report to the Council members.

Ms. Carolyn Flowers, Executive Officer, Operations, stated that January 27, 2004 is the budget kick off. The budget will be presented to the Council members in March.

Ms. Flowers stated that the new fare becomes effective January 1, 2004. If the fare restructuring were delayed, MTA would have to cut service or reduce expenses. Ms. Flowers indicated that California has cut \$1.4 billion from the

transportation fund and more cuts are expected.

Ms. Flowers stated that the labor contracts have not yet been signed for ATU, UTU, TCU and Teamsters (in-house security).

Ms. Flowers explained the impact of the strike and indicated that there was a \$7.4 million net savings. Staff was directed by the MTA Board to come back in January 2004 with a report on the savings and a proposal on how the funds will be used.

Ms. Price asked what percentage of part time operators makes up the FTEs. Ms. Flowers stated that there are 932 part time operators by union regulations. All of the current vacancies are in full time operators. The full time operators are used to fill overtime. There is a deficit of 180 operators.

There was public comment regarding the increase in fuel cost. Ms. Flowers stated the Procurement Department is investigating methods to reduce cost.

9. Chair's Remarks

Ms. Price wished everyone happy holidays and expressed her delight that the job action was over and employees were back to work.

At the December 4 meeting, the Board approved the appointment of the Westside/Central Governance Council members. Also the Board made a Motion regarding the annual travel for the Governance Council with a cap of \$7500. The Council requires further clarification. Staff report is due to the Board in 60 days.

Contract Line Service Changes became effective December 21. The fare increase becomes effective January 1, 2004.

10. Report of General Manager

Ms. Coffey stated that the Sector would continue to look at duplication of service to improve transit due to gridlock. More adjustments will be made in the future. Ms. Coffey will meet

with Madeline Van Leuvan and Scott Greene to coordinate this effort. She stated that customer feedback is an important part of this process and service is the #1 priority.

Ms. Coffey stated that Line 754 (Vermont Rapid) has been very successful. Line 711 (Florence Rapid) based on the comments from our customers, the South Bay's scheduling team is currently studying the ridership of the line to improve service to maximize its potential. Line 710 (Crenshaw) will start in February 2004.

September 2003 marked the one-year anniversary of Metro South Bay.

Two open houses are scheduled for 2004:

March 2004 – Arthur Winston Division

April 2004 – Carson Division

Ms. Coffey stated that the community would be invited to tour the divisions, meet and greet the management staff and employees. Metro South Bay wants to continue to be more responsive to the customer needs and improve transit service.

Lt. Martindale was invited to discuss public safety due to the robberies Ms. Mitchell indicated were occurring on the Blue and Green Lines. Lt. Martindale explained what the Sheriff Department is doing to protect the transit riders and the community. Uniformed officer presence has been increased on the trains to ensure rider safety. The fare inspectors are utilized to enforce fare payment and they provide increased eyes and ears on the train to alert the officers of problems. Mr. Sachar asked what is the rate of fare evasions. Lt. Martindale stated overall 6 – 7%, 1 ½ to 3% on the Blue Line and a citation for fare evasion is \$250.

Ms. Mitchell thanked Lt. Martindale for his presentation and the efforts of the Sheriff Department. She has talked to Lead Officer Sanchez and he is assisting to resolve problems in the community. Ms. Price stated that she appreciated the increase in uniform officer presence.

11. Public Comment – None

Mr. Sachar stated that an objective for next year is to have the Council meeting at each division once a year. Ms Price agreed and asked that the Sector consider having the meetings in conjunction with the open houses.

Ms. Hudson asked if the South Bay Governance Council has concerns with aspects of MTA other than bus service. Ms. Flowers stated that the Council is a community based review and oversight of transit. If the Council has recommendations regarding any other aspect of MTA, Ms. Flowers encouraged them to channel the information to Ms. Coffey or Ms. Price. Ms. Flowers also invited the Council to attending the MTA Planning and Programming Committee Meeting held the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Council Member Requests:

Ms. Price requested copies of the December 21 Service Change marketing materials.

Ms. Price requested report on how much pay time was saved by the improved run time in the February 2004 Shakeup.

Mr. Sachar suggested that the Council meetings be held at each division once a year.

Next Meeting:

Friday, January 9, 2003 – 9:30 a.m.
Carson Community Center

Adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Prepared by: Sharon Sterling
Council Secretary

