

Thursday, February 26, 2004

7:00 - 9:00 PM

MINUTES

**Westside/Central Service Sector
Governance Council**

Regular Meeting

La Cienega Tennis Center
325 S. La Cienega Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Called to Order at 7:05 p.m.

Council Members:

Carol Gross, Chair
Peter Capone-Newton, Vice Chair
Helen Johnson
Stephanie Negriff
Joyce Perkins
Brad Robinson
Anny Semonco

Officers

Jim McElroy, General Manager
Jody Litvak, Community Relations Manager
Michele Jackson, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. APPROVED February 5, 2004 Minutes

2. RECEIVED Public Comment

Dana Gabbard, So. Calif. Transit Advocates

3. Safety Contact – Paul Magallanes reminded everyone to slow down and allow more space when driving in the rain.

4. Award Presentation

Jim McElroy introduced Sal Llamas, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, Division 7, Ron Whitney, Maintenance Manager and Mike Harnish, Assistant Manager. Sal Llamas was called into active duty last year. Ron and Mike maintained contact with his family while he was away. This helped him to remain sane and focus on his mission. Sal wanted to be sure that they received recognition for what they did. He presented them with a plaque from the National Committee for Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve.

5. RECEIVE report from the General Manager

Mr. McElroy reported that the sector has been requested to submit a 5% budget cut, and the Board will further direct staff on April 1. The sector has also been requested to cut 25% of Administrative Analyst staff, which would be one person.

Budget Performance – January's numbers are tracking right on target. Sector performance analyses will be mailed in the next two weeks. The daily pass was implemented on January 1, and it went very smoothly. There is a need to set a date for a public planning session on Metro Connections. The first community meeting was held today. It is a work in progress; attendance was not good. Another meeting is planned for next Wednesday night.

Received public comment from Ken Rubin, Culver City resident and member of Southern California Transit advocates, who works in Santa Monica. Mr. Rubin thanked the Council for holding night meetings.

6. RECEIVE an oral report on Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) by Tom Jasmin, Director of Operations Control

Two radios are being installed on each bus, one for voice and one for data. Wheelchair boardings have to be reported. In the past that reporting required two phone calls per wheelchair passenger. It now requires only the push of a button. Twelve trunk channels allow contact with 48 people at any one time. No wait is

required for an operator to get through to the Control Center. The system also has GPS which can tell you within three feet where a bus is. Some streets also have signal controller lines that also track the bus. The same system is in the Field Supervisor's cars allowing them to handle some of the calls. Roving mechanics will also have the system in their cars allowing dispatch of the nearest vehicle. One hundred percent of buses will have passenger counters. Video surveillance can record what's happening on the bus. People in the control center and field supervisors will know if the bus is on time or if it goes off route. It will also collect data to allow for customized reports. A screen on the bus can display detour messages. Drivers can also send messages. There is a silent alarm system and a covert microphone to allow someone to listen to what's happening on the bus. There is an automatic voice annunciator to announce stops. An off-site emergency dispatch center with 12 work stations allows for uninterrupted dispatching in the event the Gateway building is evacuated. The next increment will be a yard management system. System installation began September 2, 2003 and will finish up in mid April.

7. RECEIVE an oral report on 2005 budget and service change impact on budget changes by Michael Davis, Administrative and Financial Manager

Mr. Davis reported that the Westside Sector budget has been completed and uploaded. Copies will be sent to Council Members later in March following a budget review meeting with the Deputy CEO.

Budget Assumptions – 2.5% wage increase. Current \$141 million budget supports only the current number of revenue service hours. The sector portion is \$2.2 million, and we have been asked to reduce that by 5%. A 5% reduction in sector staff is 65 people. Responding to query from Chair Gross, Mr. Davis indicated that in excess of 50% of the budget is personnel cost. Direct labor is \$64 million plus \$33 million in fringes. Cost per revenue service hour is \$92-\$85, fully burdened it's \$105.

Budget Concern – Additional 290,000 hours of revenue service required by the latest Consent Decree ruling.

8. UPDATE on Service Planning for June 2004 by Roy Gandara, Service Development Manager

Responding to a question regarding the outreach done on the service changes, Mr. Gandara stated that formal notice of the hearing was published in four newspapers, take-ones are prepared and placed on buses, notice of the hearing is sent out electronically as well as press releases from Media Relations. A paid ad will also run in the Times next week. The message on Sector phone lines will also contain information about the community meetings and the hearing.

- a. Staff Recommendations

Route 10/11/48 are proposed to be rerouted from Maple over to Main Street between Adams and 8th Street to improve operational safety, as Maple is very narrow and has significant traffic through the Fashion District. There is also school construction in the area bordered by Washington, 23rd Street and Adams. Frequency would be decreased on Route 48 from 6 to 10 minutes during peak hours. Line 20 on Wilshire currently goes to Main and Pico in Santa Monica. The proposal is to bring it back to the Westwood area and expand the Owl service to overlap that on Santa Monica Line 2 to eliminate duplication of service.

Route 21 between Wilshire and Westwood and the UCLA Ackerman bus terminal is proposed for elimination. It duplicates service provided by Culver City Line 6 and Santa Monica Super 12. All service that is now on Route 21 would become Route 20.

Extend Route 720, Wilshire Rapid route so that all trips currently ending at Wilshire/Westwood area would be extended to Santa Monica.

b. Consent Decree impacts

There are four basic elements to the changes, i.e. implementation of contract changes, schedule maintenance, Consent Decree service additions, and June service change recommendations.

290,000 hours must be added by December 2004. What the changes will be at the next shake-up is unknown at this time. Chair Gross inquired if route changes to different streets are coordinated with law enforcement, traffic, fire and Public Works. Mr. Gandara responded that he believed that type of coordination is done by the Stops and Zones Department. Jim McElroy said he would provide a complete response at a later date.

c. Budget Impacts on the Service

Not expecting any net increase in boardings on Rt. 10, but whatever is lost on Maple should be regained on Main Street.

On Route 20 539,000 riders would be impacted by the change, as it represents a 12,500 annual service hour reduction.

Route 720 – 21,994 annual service hour increase. Projected boardings of 747,000 and an increase of \$975,000 in cost.

The intent was to fund these proposals through efficiencies.

Bart Reed commented that the proposed change to Line 20 and 21 will force passengers to purchase an EZ pass or inconvenience them.

9. ADOPTED agenda for public meeting on March 9, 2004 by Roy Gandara, Service Development Manager

Council Member Perkins commented that she had been contacted by a homeowner close to the maintenance yard being developed at La Cienega and Jefferson who expressed concern about the amount of public outreach being done. Ms. Perkins requested a report at the April meeting.

10. Chair's Remarks

Chair Gross offered her apologies for being unable to attend the March 9 Public Hearing.

11. Consideration of Items not on the Posted Agenda - None

Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Michele Jackson, Council Secretary