

Thursday, May 6, 2004

3:00 - 5:00 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 3:06 p.m.

Council Members present:

Carol Gross, Chair
Peter Capone-Newton, Vice Chair
Presley Burroughs
Helen Johnson
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 April 1, 2004 Minutes as corrected.

2. RECEIVED Public Comment

Peter Force, Transit Coalition

Opposed to cutting the first and last hours of service on all Metro light rail systems. Would prefer to see only one train cut during the first and last hours of service.

Jay Handal, President of West L.A. Chamber of Commerce

Reported negative impact to businesses in the Wilshire corridor between the Veteran's Administration and Centinela due to removal of on-street parking to accommodate the Wilshire Rapid Line. Brentwood Community Council requested meeting between MTA and the Wilshire businesses within the next 10 days.

Inga Wolgart regarding service on Lines 720 and 20, and elimination of Line 560.

3. RECEIVED report from the General Manager

Budget expenditures are trending positively – budgeted \$140.6 million, now projecting \$130.8 million. Could be even lower, as the original projection was based on an allocation formula for certain items such as fringes and workers' compensation. Any savings will go toward contract service and other non sector-related costs from the strike.

Council Member Newton asked if the Sector would be expected to meet a budget number 10% less than originally forecast because the 35-day strike was approximately 10% of the budget. Jim McElroy responded that the expected savings would be approximately 7-8% because there were still on-going fixed costs during the strike.

Fuel costs are up, but the budget is not being overrun due to savings in workers' compensation. Council Member Burroughs asked how MTA purchases fuel. Jim McElroy introduced Chief Financial Analyst, Maria Lasco, who responded that the agency contracts with Trillium for the compressors and the gas comes from the Gas Company. Chair Gross asked if costs were lower at Division 6 since they only have diesel. Staff will report back with the response.

Michael Davis explained the major components of the \$83.82 cost per revenue service hour, which are salaries & wages, fringe benefits, workers' compensation, fuel and parts. Council Member Robinson asked if the cost had ever been analyzed with depreciation of the fleet included. Jim McElroy indicated that this is analyzed in annual state and federal reporting but the number is not relevant as MTA does not accumulate a reserve fund for replacement. Council Member Newton asked how the cost per revenue service hour varies by sector. Staff responded that The Westside cost tends to be higher than San Fernando, San

Gabriel or Gateway because of the size of the sector and the number of hours of service provided. Jim McElroy added that while the Westside cost per hour might be higher, the cost per passenger might be lower. Council Member Burroughs said he would like to see a comparison of the cost per revenue service hour with some of the other carriers.

Regarding key performance indicators, Chair Gross pointed out that the handout shows the target and the current achievement. She would like to see a comparison with the past. Michael Davis reported that miles between mechanical failures and traffic accidents have been trending positively for the past 3 months. Council Member Newton requested a report on bus accidents and specific complaints received.

4. RECEIVED AND FILED report on update of June 2004 service change recommendations, Roy Gandara, Service Development Manager

As directed by the Council, sector staff sought and received approval for the changes to Routes 10, 11 & 48 from police and fire departments, and has not been notified of any problem by LADOT.

Routes 20, 21 and 720 – staff proposes adding additional stops at Wilshire and 26th, Wilshire and 20th, and Wilshire and Lincoln for the Wilshire Rapid 720 if local Wilshire service is shortlined at Wilshire/Westwood. Due to the absence of transfers to count, staff is unable to determine how many people are being forced to make an additional transfer due to the current shortlining of some of the Rapid 720 buses.

Staff will consider council input, finalization of the FY05 budget, June service change results and Consent Decree dictates, and return to the Council with additional information and recommendations.

Responding to Chair Gross, staff indicated that the Special Master's decision on the Consent Decree is expected at any moment.

Council Member Newton asked how this fits into the Metro Connections discussions. Roy Gandara replied that these issues fit like hand in glove with Metro Connections, which calls for the elimination of duplicate service such as that on Lines 20, 720 and Line 2. MTA should be providing regional service and allowing Muni's to provide local service.

Council Member Robinson would like an overall idea of how many people would benefit by running all Rapid 720 service through to Santa Monica compared to the number of people who would have to transfer from the local 20/21.

Chair Gross suggested that Council Members volunteer to go and stand on the corner and see what happens and talk to people. Council Member Newton indicated that he had recently been there and talked to riders. People are adverse to transferring, and stops need to be consolidated if possible.

Council Member Burroughs suggested that staff look at the ease of use of the system. He noted that Santa Monica is very easy to use and has not changed routes in 20 years.

Chair Gross requested additional information that gives a better sense of the on-time performance for the 720 line.

5. RECEIVED report on fares and transfers between Metro buses and between Metro and other transit operators, Jody Litvak, Community Relations Manager

Chair Gross asked if there was an internal system that tracks the money from transfers between agencies. Council Member Newton asked if there are statistics on the numbers of daily riders using each type of fare media. Staff will report back next month on the methods of fare payment and the Universal Fare System.

6. Chair's Remarks

Chair Gross reported on the MTA Board proposal to change some of the rules and regulations of the Governance Councils, e.g. quarterly meetings, lower limit on travel, ability of the MTA Board to change Council Bylaws or remove Council Members with a majority vote. One proposed compromise is to meet every two months. She has suggested that the Westside Council request to continue having monthly meetings for at least six months in order to get past the learning curve.

Chair Gross also reported on activities of other Governance Councils. She posed the question of how the Council sees its role? How proactive and involved do we want to be? She listed the following things being done by other Councils:

Visit Neighborhood Councils

Provide feedback letter to constituents

Email database to send out information to interested parties, e.g. organization leaders, those who have spoken at meetings, elected officials, neighborhood councils

Attend Chamber and business and association meetings

Attend public events in their areas

Adopt-a-Line Program where each member takes responsibility for riding a certain line periodically from one end to the other to make observations, look at how it functions, the on time performance, etc. and interview riders.

Track questions and complaints and safety numbers in their sector

Hold Town Hall Meetings

Targeted marketing

Council Member Semonco expressed the opinion that some of the councils are going outside their mandate.

Council Member Burroughs responded that the Councils represent the transit customer as well as affected public and to the extent possible, should fight for their independence.

7. Consideration of Items not on the Posted Agenda – NONE

Requests

- Council Members requested a presentation at the next meeting regarding Wilshire Rapid Bus issues, outreach and impacts and asked staff to facilitate setting up a meeting for Mr. Handal.
- Council Member Burroughs requested a tour of transportation housing developments.

Chair Gross announced a joint meeting of all Service Sector Council Members on June 22, 2004 at 6 p.m. at the Gateway Building.

Adjourned 5:26 p.m.

Michele Jackson, Council Secretary