

Friday, May 14, 2004 – 9:30 A.M.

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# Minutes

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation  
Authority

## **METRO SOUTH BAY SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

Carson Community Center  
801 E. Carson Street  
Carson, CA 90745

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Called to Order at 9:40 A.M.

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Council Members present:

Terisa Price, Chair  
Jim Henrickson, Vice Chair  
Margaret Hudson  
John McTaggart  
Lou Mitchell  
Curren Price  
Howard Sachar

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Officers

Dana Coffey, General Manager  
Sharon Sterling, Council Secretary



**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

1. Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Contact

Ms. Van Leuvan advised if your car is in a parking lot overnight, clear the windshield and back window of dew in the morning for good visibility.

SAFETY PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Morallo stated that safety is our priority and the South Bay Sector outreach has partnered with schools and the community. Elementary school students entered the Metro South Bay Safety art contest and drew pictures of bus and rail safety. Certificates were presented to the winners, three students from Ritter Elementary School (Beatrice Pelayo, Libby Tracy, Derek Connors), accompanied by the school library administrator Ms. Gwen Thompson.

2. APPROVED Minutes of April 17, 2004 Council Meeting

3. RECEIVED highlights of the June FY04 Metro South Bay Shake-Up by Madeline Van Leuvan, Service Development Manager

Ms. Van Luevan discussed the Harbor Transitway focus on service improvements. Line 446 & 447 - rerouted to enter the Harbor Transitway from the Artesia Transit Center. There are over 900 parking spaces at the Artesia Transit Center and 8 parking lots along the Harbor Transitway.

Lines 444, 445, 446 & 447 - schedules dovetailed to provide service consistency on the Transitway between Artesia Transit Center and Downtown L.A.

The service expanded until shortly after midnight to provide late night express connections to the Green Line between San Pedro and Downtown L.A.

Ms. Van Leuvan detailed the proposed marketing strategies that would include distribution of information on Harbor Transitway Services in USC students' registration packets.

Ms. Van Leuvan indicated that staff is working with CalTrans for signage improvements on the Harbor Freeway.

Mr. Sachar stated that the report was outstanding and requested update at each meeting regarding the effect on ridership.

Ms. Van Leuvan stated that staff would continue to monitor the lots and count cars. Also, they will narrow the information down to the number of boardings to provide ridership data.

Ms. Hudson suggested the phone number for law enforcement be displayed at each location. Mr. McTaggart requested more police presence to patrol the area.

Ms. Price requested that staff agendize a report on the Harbor Transitway fare issues with an analysis of existing routes. Mr. Greene will provide the report.

4. RECEIVED update on the FY04 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Metro South Bay Budget by Myrine White, Administrative & Finance Manager

Ms. White explained the variances, detailed on a line-by-line comparison to the budget.

#### Labor

Contract Wages had a favorable variance due to wage savings during October/November union strike. Non-Contract Salaries had a favorable variance due to vacancies (full or partial): Assistant and Maintenance Managers, Analyst, TPMIV and Schedule Maker II. Workers' Compensation had an unfavorable variance due to increased number of employees on Long-Term Leave and an unequal FY04 Workers' Comp budget distribution. Allocated Fringe Benefits showed a favorable variance due to strike savings in labor line items.

#### Non-Labor

Uniforms, Tools & Other Benefits favorable variance due to unexpended uniform stipends during the strike. Expect an increase in the 4th Qtr of uniform stipend usage. Services - Favorable variance in professional services, majority of which are due to unexpended Professional Services in the Sector office.

Fuel/Lubricants - Revenue Equip had an unfavorable variance due to fuel price escalation. Parts/Tires - Revenue Equip 459,000 identified as parts savings during Oct/Nov union strike. Remaining favorable variance is minimal. Material & Supplies - \$90,000 identified as M/S savings during the strike. Unexpended travel funds of approximately \$26,000. Maintenance - Timing variances with the tools & expendable equipment line item and also with Facilities Maintenance. Credit card purchases of parts & equip. (February & March purchases are not reflected). Taxes had an unfavorable variance due to additional fuel dollars expended. Acquisitions - had a favorable variance due to unexpended funds for office furniture upgrades. Funds will be used in the latter quarter. Miscellaneous had a favorable variance due to unexpended travel funds of \$26,000 and unexpended funds in other misc. line items.

5. RECEIVED and FILED update on the Metro South Bay Adopt-A-Line Bus Observation Program by Scott Greene, Transportation Planning Manager.

Ms. Price asked how the lines were selected. Ms. Coffey stated that they evaluated the performance measures and selected lines with a high number of customer complaints and accidents.

Mr. Greene provided an overview of the lines and explained the information they should capture on the data form, i.e., bus number, operator badge number. Next month a report will be given on the integration of staff observations.

Mr. Sachar asked if there was a way to work on bus stop signage. Mr. Greene stated they must go through the Marketing Department. Ms. Price requested a Marketing Department representative speak on this issue.

6. Chair's Remarks

Ms. Price stated that she attended the FY05 Budget Briefing on May 12, 2004 and provided Council members with an update of the information discussed. She advised Council members of important meetings at the MTA headquarters:

May 19 at 2:00 p.m. – EMAC Meeting – Service Sector Bylaw Changes

May 20 at 10:30 a.m. – Budget Public Hearing

May 27 at 9:30 a.m. – Board Meeting

June 7 at 9:30 a.m. – Special Board Meeting

Mr. McTaggart objected to change in Service Sector Bylaws Item 3 and does not know how the Council can be effective only having quarterly meetings. Mr. Price concurred. Mr. Hendrickson stated this would be a dramatic recasting of the Council purpose to be centralized and improve bus service. Ms. Hudson stated that quarterly meetings should be held only if the organization has met all of its goals. Mr. Sachar stated that quarterly meetings serve no purpose and if that is approved the Council should be abolished. He further commented that they should be a real operating unit, not just a complaint unit. Ms. Mitchell stated the Council cannot be effective with only four meetings per year. Ms. Price stated all cost saving measures should be explored.

The Council concurred with the following recommended changes to the Service Sector Bylaws:

Support each item except Item 3 – Meetings and Item 4 – recommend MTA Board approve a 2/3 super majority vote to amend the bylaws.

Ms. Price will attend the EMAC and Board meetings to present South Bay Council report.

Joint Sector Council annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2004. Council instructed to email Mr. Morallo their confirmation.

7. Report of General Manager

Mr. Hendrickson, Mr. Price and Mr. McTaggart will not be able to attend the MTA EMAC and Board Meetings.

Ms. Coffey stated that May 20, 2004 is Metro South Bay "Apprentice Day". Washington Prep High School was adopted by the sector and ten students selected to experience how MTA service operates. Their agenda includes data on the expense of graffiti removal, seat inserts, and window etching.

8. Public Comment

Council Members

Mr. Sachar stated it is important to attend the May 19 Executive Management and Audit Committee Meeting and the May 27 Board Meeting.

Ms. Hudson requested a report on the next agenda regarding the Artesia Transit Center Shuttle to Home Depot Stadium.

Mr. McTaggart complimented the Council Secretary Ms. Sterling for the Minutes she provides each month.

Ms. Price stated that the Beach Cities Transportation Plan would be presented at the Manhattan Beach City Council meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in June. The Bike-to-Work Day would be Thursday, May 20 and activities are scheduled at the Redondo Beach City Hall.

Public

Jose Melendez inquired regarding the Harbor Transitway changes and Ms. Van Luevan provided explanation.

Evaristo Ramos is a Carson resident and depends on line 446/447. Mr. Ramos thanked the Council for continuing the Senior Citizen Pass for \$12. He inquired regarding a \$6.00 pass for Carson senior citizens. Ms. Hudson stated that there are a number of reduced pass city programs funded with block grant. Ms. Price instructed Mr. Ramos to contact the City of Carson to determine if they sponsor a discount program.

Ralph Staunton stated that line 445 ends too early and should also be extended to the Korean Bell. He stated that line 446/447 is mainly local and the Harbor Department employees do not ride it. He is concerned regarding the Harbor Freeway service, beautiful stations that serve no useful purpose. Mr. Staunton stated line 550 is not marketed and it serves USC. He stated the bus skips stops, lack of late night service and the parking lots are not safe. Also, he stated the MTA marketing material does not have a date.

Devon Deming stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike to Work Challenge is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2004 from 6 – 10 a.m. The Areospace Employee Association Cycling/Bike Commuter Club and the Los Angeles Air Force Base are sponsoring this year's event to see which local employer can bring in the most bicycle commuters.

Susie Meekins stated that County Supervisor Burke in District 2 offers a \$6.00 discount pass for the elderly and disabled. She stated that it should be publicized.

June Saleman asked what are the changes to line 550. Staff will discuss with her. Ms. Price stated she is working with Scott Greene to keep informed of the changes.

Ken Reuben expressed his concerns regarding line 550.

**Next Meeting:**

**Friday, June 11, 2004 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Carson Community Center**

**801 E. Carson St.**

**Carson, CA 90745**

Adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Prepared by: Sharon Sterling  
Council Secretary

