

Thursday, October 21, 2004 – 9:00 a.m.

Minutes

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority

**GATEWAY CITIES
SERVICE SECTOR
GOVERNANCE COUNCIL**

**Metro Connections
Tour and Workshop**

The Gas Company
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

Called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

Council Members present:

Bonnie Lowenthal (Chair)
Jo Ann Eros-Delgado
Wally Shidler
Cynde Soto

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager
Sharon Sterling, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro[™]

Gateway Cities Transit Center Sites Tour

Departed from The Gas Company

Stopped at the Norwalk Metro Green Line Station

Stopped at the Artesia Metro Blue Line Station

Drove by Florence Metro Blue Line Station, City of Huntington Park potential locations including the intersection of Florence & Pacific

Returned to The Gas Company for Workshop

Metro Connections Workshop

1. DISCUSSED methods for determining locations for transit centers in the Gateway Cities

Mr. Shidler stated that bus service should be provided where people need it instead of cutting service just because the lines have been deemed “non-productive” due to low ridership. He suggested considering the use of smaller buses. He also feels that we need to expand service to provide connectivity to other Muni’s, and to provide service in affluent areas as well as less affluent communities in order to promote ridership.

2. DISCUSSED potential corridor improvements (such as signal synchronization, bus stop improvements, peak period dedicated lanes, etc.) – Nancy Michali

Mr. Shidler felt that in order to serve the needs of the community, the service center (or “transit village”) should be self-contained and should include amenities such as a bank, food service, pharmacy, restrooms, convenience stores, and a bike center where patrons would be able to lock up, rent, and repair bicycles.

If possible, message signs should be included at the stations (including at nearby on-site ATM’s) to show when the next bus will be arriving, i.e. “Next bus in ___ minutes”.

Transit Centers must be fully ADA compliant. Mr. Clifford feels that long-term use should be considered and would like to see mixed-use land, perhaps including joint development for some of the Transit Center locations. Ms. Michali mentioned that she has slide shows of what other cities are doing with Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and offered to share them with Council if they are interested.

Mr. Shidler felt that the Artesia Station could pose problems as a major Transit Center site because the Union Pacific (UP) uses it for trains. Also, he felt this station would need extensive renovation, especially to become ADA compliant. It was suggested that a formal request be made by MTA to the PUC to look into UP's use of the Artesia Station at the next meeting, which is scheduled for sometime in November. Mr. Clifford said that a long-term solution needs to be worked out for the problem with UP.

Ms. Lowenthal feels the Huntington Park site may be problematic because it is too "drastic" and that the Norwalk site would be a much better site for a Transit Center. She also suggested using the term 'Transit Village' to describe major Transit Centers.

Ms. Soto stated that the sidewalks in Huntington Park are either inaccessible or non-existent for getting into and out of a Transit Center, particularly for people with disabilities. Ms. Michali said that her department is looking to improve sidewalks throughout the MTA, as well as ways to become more ADA compliant.

Mr. Shidler brought up the issue of railroads blocking cross traffic along the Metro Blue Line Corridor. Ms. Lowenthal directed staff to set up a meeting with representatives from Union Pacific Railroad, the PUC and other MTA staff, including Metro Sheriff representatives, to attempt to resolve these issues. She also requested staff to draft a resolution representing the Council's position on this issue that will be presented to the railroad.

3. DISCUSSED program implementation coordination with other Gateway Cities transit providers – Alex Clifford

Mr. Clifford, Mr. Hershenson, Mr. Sieckert and Mr. Nguyen discussed what took place at the first joint meeting with transit providers and city representatives responsible for coordinating transit service in the Gateway Cities area. They reported the meeting went very well, and the group requested to meet on a regular basis. The next Gateway Cities Transit Provider meeting will be held at the sector office on November 9, 2004.

4. DISCUSSION about outreach strategies for customers, elected officials, city staff and residents throughout the Gateway Cities area will be covered in a future meeting. The group felt they did not have enough time to adequately address this important issue.
5. DISCUSSED the expectations and benefits associated with the implementation of the program – Nancy Michali.

Ms. Michali gave a brief presentation on the Six Performance Goals and provided more details about the Metro Connections program. Mr. Sieckert discussed a comparison of the current grid system to the Metro Connections hub and spoke concept.

All Councilmembers agreed that the tour was a great experience and they were glad they participated. Ms. Lowenthal felt that it would be very helpful for future discussions. She also stated that since she was so enlightened by the tour, she would like to participate in more ride-alongs.

6. Public Comment - NONE

Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Sheila Badji & D. Hershenson