

MINUTES

San Fernando Valley Service Sector Governance Council

Regular Meeting

Kaiser Permanente Hospital (*)
5601 DeSoto Avenue, Auditorium A
(Entrance 5)
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Called to Order at 6:40 p.m.

Council Members present:

Coby King, Chair
Kymberleigh Richards, Vice Chair
Richard Arvizu
Joan H. Leonard
Jesus R. Ochoa
Mel Wilson

Officers:

Richard Hunt, General Manager
Christina Lumba-Gamboa, Council
Secretary

(*) Meeting location only for this month.

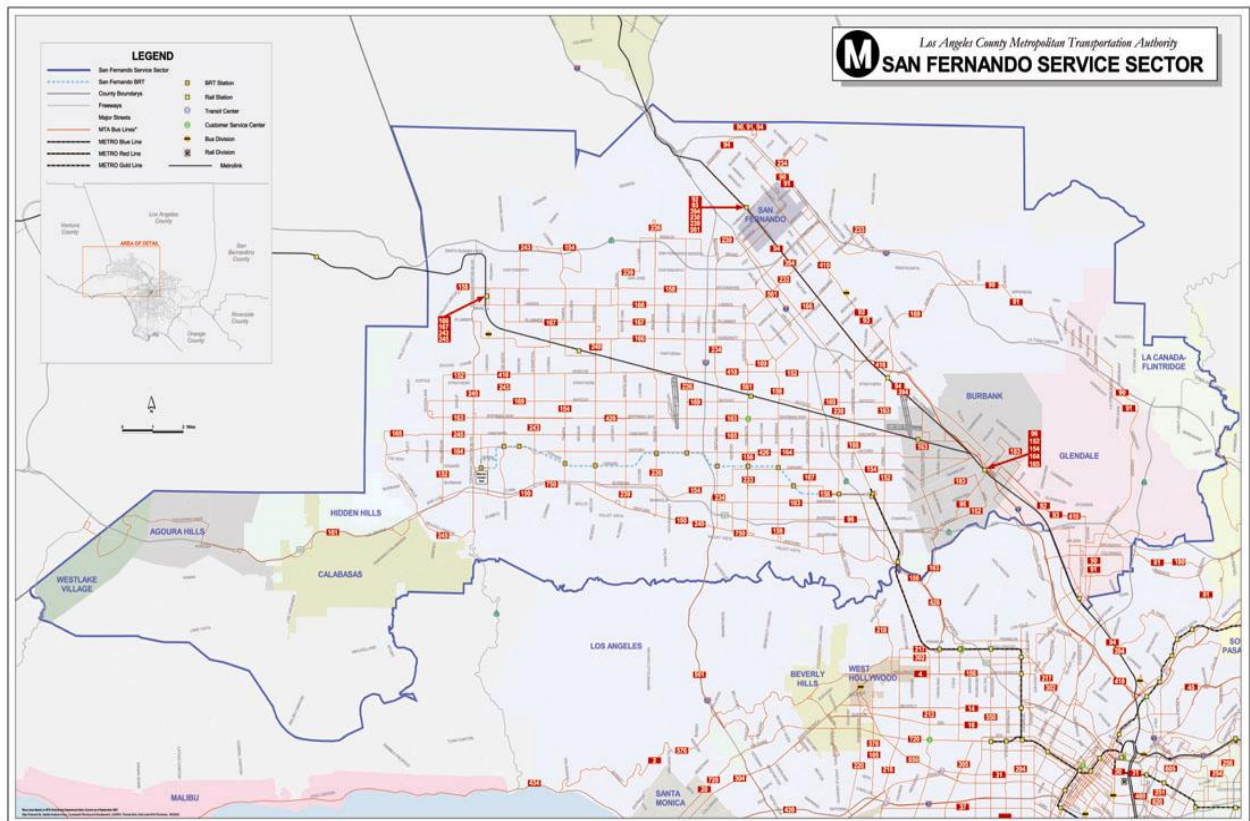


Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

METRO SAN FERNANDO VALLEY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

1) Area of responsibility:



- 2) The Governance Council is exclusively responsible for planning routes and schedules for Tier 1, 2, and 3 bus lines within the San Fernando Service Sector (except Metro Rapid lines and Metro Liner). Tier 1, 2, and 3 bus lines in the San Fernando Valley are:

Lines: 90/91, 92, 94/394, 96C, 150/240, 152, 154, 156, 158, 161, 163, 164/165, 166, 167C, 168, 169, 183/234, 230/239, 233, 236/237, 242/243, 244/245, 353/363 and 645. (C = Contract Service)

Metro Rapid Lines **750 & 761** and Metro Liner **901** are **NOT** under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Governance Council but jurisdiction may be exercised with the concurrence of other sector or Corporate.

- 3) The Governance Council is responsible for studying and planning service to improve efficiency within Metro San Fernando Valley, making recommendations to the MTA board regarding service issues, working with transit planners and local authorities and transit operators to ensure coordination of service and holding public hearings to gain input on proposed changes.
- 4) The Governance Council is **NOT** responsible for fare and pass structures, new project construction, or Metro Rail.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. APPROVED **Minutes** of Regular Governance Council Meeting held September 7, 2005 as corrected.
 - Delete Ms. Stacy Murphy from attendance cover page.

3. RECEIVED Public Comment

- Ms. Diana Silver commented that the Orange Line station at Warner Center has no bench available for passengers waiting for the bus and no line schedules are displayed.
- Ms. Terisa Brady said that in 1992 there was a proposal for improving the 405FW by constructing an elevated train which would solve a lot of problems on the 405FW. Ms. Brady expressed that she is opposed to shifting of funds from other sectors to fund the Orange Line. She said that Line 168 service was cut on weekdays and weekend service was totally removed because the funds for these services were shifted to the Orange Line.

4. RECEIVED Chair's remarks

Council Member King thanked Kaiser Permanente for accommodating the Service Sector Governance Council meeting and Ms. Richards for handling the meeting last month.

Council Member King expressed his excitement over the opening of the Orange Line and looks forward to its operation. He reported that the Service Sector Chairs gave their annual report to the MTA Board. Mr. King reported on Sector accomplishments and service changes on San Fernando bus lines. He asked the MTA Board for authority over Tier One lines within the Service Sector.

Mr. Hunt announced that the next Governance Council meeting will be held at Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys 91401.



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5. RECEIVED & FILED **Report of General Manager** by Richard Hunt:

Mr. Hunt reported that the Service Sectors reports to the Board were received very well, and the MTA Board is supportive of the sectors.

A. Sector Update:

Mr. Hunt expressed that staff, operators and supervisors of the Service Sector are excited and getting ready for the Orange Line Opening on the 29th. Key Performance indicators are on track. Miles between Road Calls are now counted using FTA guidelines for every service disruption. The FTA guidelines have a very tough standard but measure performance accurately. Passenger Complaints are below the Sector's goal and remain a top priority. On Time Performance next month will be reported using electronic data.

Mr. Hunt stated that Metro continues to experience a shortage of operators; 125 FTE's short system-wide. He commented that there has been a significant increase in ridership across the system and has expressed that the Service Sector may adjust its schedules due to heavier loads.

Council Member King commented that if the situation arises and adjustments are made, the Council would like to be informed.

Council Member Ochoa asked the time span of the On Time Performance. Mr. Hunt responded one minute early up to 5 minutes late, a total window of 6 minutes.

Public comment: Ms. Diana Silver commented that the televisions on the bus are very loud and distracting.

Council member Richards responded the decision to install the televisions was made by the MTA Board and not part of the Council's jurisdiction. The company that MTA contracts with pays for the equipment and the agency receives a share of the advertising.

Ms. Richards asked if the Council Members are part of the official dedication of the Orange Line. Mr. Hunt responded affirmatively. Invitations will be sent to the Governance Council members.

Public Comment: Ms. Mary Griswold inquired how the public can be informed of schedule change due to street repairs or when an obstruction occurs.

Mr. Hunt responded that the agency is working with the City and CalTrans to establish a communication network whereby major incidents are communicated to the various Communication Centers and operators and field supervisors who then can take action and redirect traffic. In an emergency such as the fire, operators are not allowed to operate their vehicle in an unsafe area.

Mr. Hunt also reported that the Orange Line will have a "Next Bus" information system. If there is a delay on the Orange Line, the data will be displayed on public information signs.

B. Consent Decree Update

Mr. Hunt reported that the agency submitted a plan to the Special Master which states that the MTA will comply with the rulings and add service. The Board authorized staff to proceed with purchasing up to 200 additional buses. These are buses that Metro would have purchased whether there was a Consent Decree or not. The agency is going to purchase gasoline hybrid vehicles and plan to purchase 100 45-foot composite buses.

Mr. Hunt reported that he attended the National American Public Transportation Committee meeting in Dallas, Texas. An operator from Division 1 placed 12th out of 100 operators, a better showing than the prior year. Metro's maintenance team placed 11th and overall when scores were combined among transportation operations among 100 agencies competing, MTA placed 7th nationally. Mr. Hunt said that he was proud of the performance of our employees.

Council Member King asked if the commitments MTA is making under the Consent Decree extend beyond the expiration date of the decree. Mr. Hunt responded that the Decree expires in October 2006; and the plan that was submitted states that the Board does not plan on changing the service, but made it clear that the Consent Decree will end on October 2006.

Chair King asked the status of the ATMS system. Mr. Hunt responded that the system is fully operational on 2400 buses. The newly purchased vehicles will be equipped with the automatic passenger counting system.

6. RECEIVED & FILED **Budget Update** by Kathy Drayton.

Ms. Drayton reported on three areas: Fiscal Year Ending June 30,2005, Fiscal-Year 2006 Budget, and Fiscal Year-to-Date through July 2005.

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,2005

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, the Sector ended with a positive variance in the amount of \$2.4 million. Significant items include a negative variance for fuel in the amount of \$160,000; a positive variance for parts in the amount of \$1 million; a positive variance for workers compensation in the amount of \$600,000; and a positive labor variance in the amount of \$161,000.

Fiscal-Year 2006 Budget

The FY06 budget increased over FY05 by \$19.5 million, 17.41%, from \$113,626,920 to \$133,404,414. A major portion of the increase in the budget is due to the operation of the Orange Line. Major changes include an increase of \$5 million, 9%, for contract labor; \$1.8 million, 25%, for fuel; \$3.8 million, 20%, in fringe benefits; \$6 million for security; and a \$1.7 million line item change to general liability from casualty & liability. The Sector and support departments added 80 new positions: 50 operators, 5 service attendants, 7 security officers and various other support positions for the Orange Line.

Fiscal Year-to-Date through July 2005

Fiscal Year to Date through July 31, 2005, the Sector ended with a positive variance of \$1.8 million. Significant variances include \$55,000 positive variance for fuel; positive workers compensation variance in the amount of \$620,000; positive parts variance in the amount of \$91,000; and a small negative variance in the amount of \$31,000 for labor.

7. RECEIVED & FILED **Customer Complaints Report** by Richard Hunt.

Mr. Hunt reported that he expects customer complaints to be higher next month due to the fire in Chatsworth, which is close to Division 8. Buses were not on time due to the traffic created by the fire.

8. RECEIVED **Orange Line Update** from Gary Spivack, Division 15 Transportation Manager.

George Trudeau, Assistant Transportation Manager, Division 15 gave an update on the Orange Line on behalf of Gary Spivack. Mr. Trudeau reported that training continues on the street and alignment. There are over 145 operators

and 17 instructors trained. He stated that by mid-October all mechanics will be fully qualified.

Public safety education DVD's are now available for use in schools. Safety education was conducted at 36 schools and 19 more are scheduled. Mr. Trudeau announced that the opening day service on October 29th will be from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. October 30th will have a special schedule all day and will be a free ride weekend. October 31st will be the first day of regular revenue operation.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept. is patrolling the alignment and giving warnings and ticketing individuals who are roller skating, skate boarding, biking etc. on the alignment. LADOT is completing the signage. Staff is providing a preview of the Metroliner at events for neighborhood councils, rideshare fairs, etc. Two emergency drills are planned during this month to test the readiness and response by all agencies. Mr. Trudeau extended an invitation to the Council Members to observe the drills. Integrated Systems testing is delayed pending review of "Next Bus" software.

Mr. Trudeau stated that by the end of the month, service changes for Lines 156 and 233 will be complete.

Council Member Arvizu suggested publishing the initial schedule of the Orange Line in various newspapers. Mr. Hunt stated that during peak hours, the Orange Line will run service every 6 to 8 minutes and off peak hours every 12 to 14 minutes.

9. **DISCUSSED Line 167**

Mr. Hunt reported that the Service Sector implemented a minor route change to Line 167. This happens regularly, and routinely throughout the Service Sectors. In accordance with the statute under which the Sectors operate, minor route changes with minimal impact may be made without a public hearing or Council approval. It is a long-standing practice.

Council Member Richards expressed that it is not the route change that she objects to, but that the Governance Council was not advised in a timely manner that any change was in process. Ms. Richards inquired if the Governance Council has the authority to be advised of or override any permanent changes by the Service Sector, and should the Council have been advised sooner.

Chair King responded that the issue of notifying the Governance Council and authority to approve minor service route changes before implementation are separate issues. Mr. King stated that the Service Sector has the authority to make minor route changes according to the Transit Policy without Council approval. Mr. King stated that he believes that the Governance Council should not meddle on minor route changes. But it would be prudent for staff to bring it to the Governance Council's attention as a matter of courtesy in a timely manner.

Council Member Arvizu concurred.

10. Chair and Council Members Closing Remarks.

- Ms. Richards reported that the CAC considered and approved a resolution in support of the Lankershim Depot; former Council Member Fleming appointed her to the CAC Board.
- Council Member Ochoa reminded the Council Member of the upcoming Mobility 21
- Council Member Leonard commented on the parking fee at Kaiser. She is concerned that the public may not attend the meetings if there is a parking fee. She asked staff to make sure that future meeting locations have free parking and are accessible to bus riders. Ms. Leonard commended Ms. Stacy Murphy's effort of starting a shuttle pilot program between the subway and the Burbank airport. She inquired if there is a way to proceed with the program now that Ms. Murphy is no longer with the Burbank Council.

11. **CLOSED SESSION:**

Personnel Matters – G.C. 54957:

Public Employee Performance Evaluation – General Manager

The Governance Council received information from Mr. Hunt and will agendize Closed Session for next month's meeting to deliberate further.



Prepared by: Christina Lumba-Gamboa
Council Secretary