

MOTION by Sector Representative Richards

The public hearings for the first phase of Metro Connections resulted in concerns about the proposals for Line 91, Line 152, and Line 240. Staff responsibly removed those proposals from consideration because there was an insufficient length of time between the public hearing and the approval process to properly research these concerns without jeopardizing the Sector's ability to implement the service changes as scheduled.

At the same time, past experience has shown that these concerns do not necessarily, upon closer examination, mean that a proposal should be permanently abandoned. In fact, four of the Metro Connections concept routes – one of which was approved for implementation in December of this year – are based upon withdrawn proposals and comments received during the public hearing process in 2003 and 2005.

It is important that the Metro Connections process results in a functional service network that is compliant with the Metro system as a whole, and service change proposals brought forward by staff must be presumed to have merit within the scope of that process; therefore, when a service change proposal is removed from consideration the issue of attaining the goals of Metro Connections becomes an issue.

I therefore move that, during the Metro Connections process, a policy be established that whenever public comment results in the withdrawal of any San Fernando Valley Sector proposal by staff, said proposal be further researched and, if the concerns raised can be mitigated or the concerns are not supported by ridership data, that proposal be placed in a later phase of Metro Connections for reconsideration.