

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Minutes

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Gas Company
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

Called to Order at 2:00pm

Council Members Present:

Wally Shidler (Chair)
Jo Ann Eros-Delgado (Vice Chair)
George Bass
Cheri Kelley
Larry R. Nelson
Owen Newcomer
Samuel Peña

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
William Walker, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
ACCEPTED Cynde Soto's resignation from the Council due to personal reasons.
3. Self Introductions
4. **APPROVED Minutes** of February 8, 2007 Council Meeting
5. **RECEIVED** Report from General Manager

Budget & Performance

Labor is operating with a favorable budget variance of \$606,000, primarily from fringe benefit accounts. This is offset by negative budget variances in contract wages (\$534,000), operational overtime costs (operators and mechanics), and lower fuel and natural gas costs.

Allocated accounts have a \$2.4 million favorable variance, which is primarily comprised of \$2 million in public liability/property damage chargebacks, and a negative variance of \$242,000 in Workers Compensation chargeback costs.

Gateway Cities is currently operating at a cost of \$92.72 per revenue service hour, which is about \$5 per hour below budget.

Other support departments have a favorable budget variance of \$271,000.

Performance Indicators

- Workers Compensation is over budget by \$242,000.
- Sector met the targets for passenger accidents and complaints per 100,000 boardings.
- Sector did not meet targets for bus traffic accidents per 100,000 hub miles or in-service, on-time performance in this month.
- Divisions have implemented other accident reduction training initiatives focused on clearances, fixed objects and bus zones.
- Questions from Sector Representatives for the general manager included inquiries about incidents versus accidents such as mirrors being hit, how Metro works with cities where incidents take place

(i.e. low tree limbs) and Metro's cost recovery policies.

- April Meeting will be held at the Downey Library, 11121 Brookshire Avenue.
- FY '08, Metro is facing a \$104 million deficit.
- A comprehensive fare increase presentation will be given to the MTA Board and the Gateway Cities Governance Council in April.
- The response to the Antonovich Motion is expected to go to the Metro Board of Directors in April or May and was delayed due to a need to include a corporate perspective.
- Metro Connections meetings have taken place with Los Angeles County and the cities of Long Beach, Huntington Park and Norwalk.
- In connection with the Line 48 reroute in Los Angeles near Santee High School, adjustments were made to a number of Gateway Cities school trippers that operate on Broadway and San Pedro.
- What comprises the \$20 million figure cited recently in the media as the cost of graffiti?
Metro's annual cost of eradicating graffiti is \$7 million, which includes Metro's labor costs and parts but does not include the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) costs attributed to catching these vandals.
- What happens to graffiti vandals?
Sometimes juvenile offenders are sent to the Metro Clean Diversion Program where they take classes and serve time by performing community service that may include cleaning bus stops or other restitution. Adult offenders may face civil prosecution from Metro and may serve "hard time" when they are successfully prosecuted. This sector and Metro are actively building files on taggers. One recent arrest was a 30 year old male who repeatedly tagged Division 1 and Division 2 buses.
- Representative Pena requests a presentation from the Sheriff's Department on how graffiti offenders are handled. This will be scheduled for the April meeting.

6. **RECEIVED & FILED Presentation** on 2007 Transit Service Policy by Steve Fox who reviewed the first two sections of the Transit Service Policy and discussed changes made to the Transit Service Policy, which was re-adopted in 2007. Some of the key changes include:
- Adding an appendix on bus stop guidelines
 - Adding bus line identification standards

- Amending the Metro Rapid Service Warrants

Sector Representatives were asked to submit comments to sector staff by March 16. The Transit Service Policy plan is scheduled for Board Adoption at the April 2007 meeting.

7. **RECEIVED** Representative Line Ride Report – George Bass
George Bass rode the 612 Huntington Park Shuttle which operates in Bell, Huntington Park, South Gate, Watts, Lynwood and Willowbrook. The bus was clean and the wait was not long. He rode the bus four times to experience all segments of the route. Only 15 passengers were on the bus at any given time. Nine people boarded in Huntington Park, where there were the most riders. Seven people boarded at Rosa Parks Station. The railroad right-of-way in this area was unreasonably dirty.

Riders are very familiar with the bus. The drivers were friendly and courteous. Riders helped each other on and off the bus. The 612 is a fun, worthwhile complement to the Metro system.

8. **RECEIVED** Line 577X Status Report – Gary Hewitt
Operational problems with contract Line 577X were discussed. Problems with service deployment include:

- Parts issues with the North American Bus Industries (NABI) buses assigned to Southland lines
- Relationship issues between Southland Transit and NABI
- Lead time issues in acquiring parts in a timely fashion
- Loss of key personnel

Southland Transit General Manager informed Council the company has developed an action plan that solves their parts acquisition problem, fills their Maintenance Manager vacancy, and provides additional resources to fix out-of-service buses.

Service on Line 577X has improved between December 2006 and February 2007. Schedule performance related complaints went down from 9 to 2. Missed service hours decreased from 100 in December 2006 to 16 in February 2007

Mr. Clifford stated the importance of the success of the 577X and that the success is wholly dependent upon the contractor's ability to provide on-time and dependable service.

9. Unanimously **APPROVED** Proposed June '07 Service Changes – Michael Sieckert presented the results of the Public Hearing, and the Recommended Service Plan.

Sixty-one individuals and agencies submitted written and oral testimony on the service proposal as of February 14, the close of the public record. In addition, three petitions represented the views of 552 persons. Overall, public reaction to the proposals was mixed. 56% opposed the truncation of routes or reduction in service levels. 42% either supported the changes or suggested modifications to make them more effective. 75% of public comment in the Gateway Sector focused on three lines: 275 (33%), 60/360/760 (27%), and the 577X (14%).

Two members of the public commented on service changes to Lines 265 and 275. Requests were made to retain service to Montebello Town Center on Line 265 and to retain service on Line 275 for a six month trial period, with additional service evenings and weekends, and a new timed transfer point at Norwalk and Beverly Boulevards.

Representative Newcomer noted his support for the Line 275 change given the service will be replaced entirely by Norwalk Transit (NTS). He asked about transfers between NTS and Metro and Norwalk Transit General Manager said the municipal fare transfer agreement allows for 25-cent transfers between municipal operators and Metro.

In response to a representative's question about Long Beach Transit serving Artesia Station, Mr. Clifford said a security guard has been hired to work at Artesia Station between 5:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. LASD will also ramp up their attention to this facility and Sector staff will investigate upgrading the lighting at the facility. In response to a question posed by Chairman Shidler, Metro and the LASD will monitor the Long Beach Boulevard/Artesia Boulevard Transfer Point and in response to a question posed by Mr. Nelson, Metro will monitor the parking space utilization at the Artesia Blue Line Station.

10. **RECEIVED** Chairperson's Remarks

- Adopt-a-Line Schedule – Jo Ann Delgado will provide a report on Line 270 at the April meeting.

11. **RECEIVED** Council Member's Remarks

Representative Newcomer thanked staff and the public for their hard work

and participation in the service changes process.

Representative Pena thanked the public for their comments.

Representative Kelly thanked everyone for their hard work and thanked Mr. Parker and Norwalk Transit for their cooperation with providing replacement service on Line 275.

Sector General Manager Alex Clifford thanked the Sector Council for their active participation in one of Gateway Cities' largest service changes to date and for challenging him to be flexible and to seek alternatives that would minimize the impact of service changes to our customers. This particular service change included internal partnerships with the South Bay Sector and the San Gabriel Valley Sector as well as external partnerships with Long Beach Transit, Montebello Bus Lines and Norwalk Transit.

12. Consideration of Items not posted on the Agenda

NONE

13. **RECEIVED** Public Comment on Items not posted on the Agenda

Rafi Katzir spoke against some of the proposed service changes and proposed alternate changes to several lines including the 45, 46 and 102.

ADJOURNED at 3:45 p.m.



Prepared by:

William Walker
Council Secretary