

Thursday, June 14, 2007 – 2:00 p.m.

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# Minutes

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

## GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Gas Company  
9240 Firestone Blvd.  
Downey, CA 90241

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Call to Order at 2:01 p.m.

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Council Members Present:

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

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Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager  
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call – Council Secretary Raynard Price called the roll. All Council Members were present.
3. Self Introductions
4. Public Comment: Rafi Katzir presented suggestions to line changes (on file). The Chair noted that five of his proposed changes involve lines in other sectors.
5. APPROVED **Minutes** of May 10, 2007 Council Meeting.
6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair. Council Member Jo Ann Eros-Delgado was unanimously elected as Chair. Council Member Cheri Kelly was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.
7. **Received** oral reports, and possible action on oral reports from General Manager. General Manger presented considered on the following report:
  - a. **Budget and Performance Update.** Mr. Clifford said the unfavorable budget variance in Labor accounts (\$3.5M) includes Contract Wages (\$1.2M) and Fringe Benefits accounts (\$2.8M), which is partially offset by a favorable variance of \$564K in Non-Work Time accounts. He mentioned that Metro will be hiring 22 more mechanics in FY2008 with four being allocated to Gateway Cities Sector. The unbudgeted allocated fringe benefit adjustments made by Accounting Department related to post-retirement benefits resulted in a \$28M charge to Metro overall with \$3M shared by Gateway. In Non Labor the favorable budget variance of \$1.8M is mostly in fuel. In Allocated Accounts the favorable budget variance of \$3.6M includes Public Liability/Property Damage Chargeback of \$2.9M and Workers Compensation Chargeback of \$901K. Data was not available for the month of April for Complaints Per 100,000 boardings and for In Service On Time Performance as the ATMS is being upgraded. Chair Shidler questioned the On-Time Performance. Mr. Clifford responded that traffic is the biggest issue in on time performance. New Workers Compensation claims Per 200,000 exposure hours for March year-to-date was at 11.01, which is lower than other sectors. He stated this new comparison was made at the request of Council Members in addition to other Key Performance indicators. Bus traffic accidents is at 4.01 per 100,000 miles. Council Member Bass asked if there is a relationship between good weather and accidents. He questioned if there was a method for recording accidents and the weather to make a comparison because there seems to be a relationship between good weather and a noted decrease in accidents. Mr. Clifford agreed to look into this possibility. Mr. Clifford introduced a slide showing 13 months of history regarding customer complaints. He spoke of operators who received commendations from the public: Oscar Torres, Audran Robinson, Adriennea Whaley, Jose Castro, Frank G. White, Tracie Anderson, Latrice Tyler and an operator identified as #7412 on Line 60. Operator #7412 received an exceptionally lengthy written commendation.
  - b. **Update on Antonovich Motion.** Mr. Clifford stated that Director Antonovich's Motion to assess the effectiveness of service sector operations and adherence to the original concept is included in the June Metro Operations Committee meeting agenda. Mr. Clifford advised the Council that page two of the report included the importance of and need for community relations as commented by the Council.
  - c. **Update on Metro Connections Meetings.** There was no meeting to report.

- d. **Update on Public Comment Re: Line 266 dysfunctional fare box.** The contractor is still using the old fare boxes but due to install new fare boxes on the 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.
- e. **Approved Fare Restructure Information.** The Council was provided with a handout of the new fare structure. The Chair indicated he attended the fare hearing along with Council Member Bass. He expressed his concern to Mr. Clifford regarding the senior monthly pass. He stated if the pass is stamped seniors are not charged for zone changes but if they pay cash they are charged. He said the fare is not clear. Dave Hershenson responded that according to a memo from Metro CFO Terry Matsumoto, the old policy will apply for seniors, Medi-care and disabled customers. They will not be charged zone changes if using a monthly pass. The Chair suggested this policy be made clear to bus drivers. The chair also asked if senior citizens will have to pay if the bus is late during off peak hours. Dave Hershenson agreed to return next month with an answer along with the Chair's concern about undocumented workers who do not have the proper identification to pay the appropriate fare.
- f. **Update on Artesia Blue Line Station.** Mike Sieckert said Facilities Maintenance and the Bus Engineering group have conducted 2-3 site surveys and noted that the station is generally full with very little parking available. He said staff is looking at a plan to expand the parking capacity. Council member Newcomer with the support of Council member Kelly expressed a concern that restriping the parking lot for compact parking does not solve the parking problem. Mr. Sieckert agreed to return with a plan. The Chair inquired about safety at the station. Mr. Sieckert responded that there is now a security guard at the station and that random patrols are performed by the Sheriff.
- g. **Update on Line 62 Shortline Turnaround.** Mr. Sieckert said the City of Norwalk requested Metro to reroute Line 62 because of a problem at Lyndale which is not large enough for buses to properly turn. Mr. Sieckert indicated Metro is waiting for a formal letter from the City of Norwalk to ensure the support of a new route.

**Update on Line 760.** The County is behind with signal priority modifications for the area which continues to delay the 760. There is a decision to operate Line 760, not as a Rapid Line but faster than a regular line. The line will use regular size buses until articulated buses become available in December 2007

- 8. **Received** oral report on GWC Sector FY '08 Work Plan – General Manager Alex Clifford presented an overview of the FY08 Work Plan (on file).
- 9. **Received** oral report on Line 270 Status Report w/Recommendations. This item was combined with Item 10 in a presentation by Mike Sieckert.
- 10. **Received** oral report, and considered possible action on Scheduling of Public Hearing for Proposed December '07 Service Changes and Approval of Public Hearing Notice. Mike Sieckert pointed out that other Sector Councils are participating in the upcoming public hearing process and have already approved their public hearing dates. To ensure

coordination between the sectors and safeguarding - the public process, staff recommended: 1) approving Sunday, July 1, 2007 as the date to publish public hearing notice in the Los Angeles Times; 2) Scheduling Thursday, August 9, at 5:00 p.m. to hold a public hearing at the Gas Company in the City of Downey following the regular Council Meeting; 3) Presented other dates, locations and times for an optional second public hearing. Mr. Sieckert stated that the service changes discussed today are directly controlled by the Gateway Cities Sector. He said he will return next month with an update of proposed changes by other sectors that could have an impact on Gateway services.

Mr. Sieckert identified proposed route modifications to existing lines (five local lines and one Express line) and proposed implementation of three new local lines. The overall program goals are to:(1) Improve customer service by reducing travel times, increase travel speeds, and improve access to major passenger destinations and;(2)Improve operational efficiency by ensuring a balanced FY 2008 budget, reallocate existing resources from poorly performing lines and line segments and to eliminate unnecessary service duplication.

Line 270 (Agenda Item 9) restructuring has been discussed with Norwalk Transit. The proposed change to this line will provide new service along Bloomfield and Santa Fe Springs Avenue into Norwalk Civic Center with service along Firestone Blvd. into the Green Line. This change will also eliminate needless duplication with Norwalk and other MTA lines along portions of the discontinued route.

Mr. Sieckert mentioned the public hearing dates of other sector councils as follows: Westside on August 8 at 5 P.M., and San Gabriel Valley on August 13 at 6 P.M. He also discussed optional dates and times for the Gateway Sector meetings. Chair Shidler expressed concern that public notices are published in the classified section of the paper. Director Delgado suggested staff look into the Norwalk Sport Center to see if there is flexibility for a weekday evening meeting around 7:00 p.m. as an additional hearing. APPROVED MOTION to hold the public hearing on August 9, at 5 P.M. and to have the Chair, Co-Chair and Past Chair act as a subcommittee to determine a date for a second hearing. The MOTION was amended to direct staff to publish the notice in a more visual part of the Los Angeles Times.

11. **Received** oral report on Representative Line Ride Report – Owen Newcomer. Council Member Newcomer said the ride was good. He took a ride from the Whitward Center down to the Green line on L121 and returned. In both cases the buses were clean, on time, and drivers were polite. He said approximately 20 people rode the bus each way. He said it was his intent to ride from the Green Line to Whitwood Mall and back, but was unable to find a parking space at the Green Line, which caused him to drive to Whitwood Mall to board the bus. Next month Council Member Cheri Kelly will participate in the ride report.
12. **Received** oral report on Notification of Upcoming Line Rides – Mr. Clifford reminded Council Member Cheri Kelly will be riding on the 460 and Council Member Larry Nelson will be riding in August on the 130. Chair Shidler stated that Council Members are welcome to select a line to ride.
13. Chairperson's Remarks. Chair thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

14. Council Member's Remarks

Representative Pena - Wished everyone a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Representative Newcomer – Enjoy the 4<sup>th</sup>

Representative Delgado – Pleased to have been nominated and looks forward to the upcoming year and the support of all Council Members.

Representative Bass – Wished everyone a happy forthcoming holiday and upcoming Father's day.

Representative Kelly – Thanked the Council for the honor serving as Vice-Chair for next year and looks forward to working with new Chair Delgado and upcoming ride on the 460.

15. Consideration of items not posted on the Agenda – None.

16. Closed Session: Personnel Matters – G.C. 54957 Public Employee Performance Evaluation Goals for FY07 – General Manager

**ADJOURNED at 4:15**

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Raynard Price, Council Secretary