

Thursday, January 10, 2008 – 2:00
p.m.

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 2:06 p.m.

Council Members:

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

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



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1. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Representative George Bass.
2. **Roll Call** – Council Secretary Raynard Price called the roll.
3. **Self Introductions** – Introductions of all those present were made.
4. **Public Comments.**

Wayne Wright – Mr. Wright spoke of the June 2008 Service Changes. He requested Line 60 (Owl) be retained south of Artesia and North Long Beach. If the service is dropped there would be no service to Long Beach. It is a connection into OCTA 60 service into Orange County. He suggested that Line 53 not be rerouted to the Rosa Parks station. Doing so will add more time on the line going to and from downtown Los Angeles and Cal State Dominguez. Mr. Wright also requested the addition of a Metro Rapid stop at La Cienega and Olympic for the Line 705.

5. **APPROVED Minutes** of the December 13, 2007 meeting.
6. **Received** oral report from General Manager.

- **Council Proclamations.** The Chair and General Manager presented a Proclamation to former Council Representative Samuel Pena for his service on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Gateway Governance Council and commitment to the enhancement of public transportation and quality of life for residents of the Gateway Cities area. Mr. Pena thanked the Council and Metro staff.

Metro staffer Regina Chan was presented with a proclamation for her significant role in the Gateway Cities Service Sector improving the quality of life for workers, residents and businesses within the region. General Manager Alex Clifford said it is a major loss for the Sector to lose Regina Chan.

- **FY08 Budget & Performance Update.** The Sector continues to operate on the favorable side. The favorable budget variance in Labor accounts of \$576K is mostly in Contract Wages of \$1.0M which is partially offset by the unfavorable variance in Non-work Time Accounts and Fringe Benefits. The \$398K favorable budget variance in Non-Labor accounts is primarily in Fuel account which will be lower at the end of the year because of the hedging contract.

The \$3.2M favorable budget variance in Allocated Accounts includes Worker Compensation, Public Liability/Property Damage Chargeback

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and Regional Cost Chargeback. This item will be presented to Metro's Operations Committee to demonstrate a three year correlation between reduction in accidents and the reduction in Workers Comp payouts. Transportation Manager Sonja Owens will recognize two heroic Gateway Cities employees that detained an individual who was allegedly stealing day passes until the police arrived at an upcoming Operations Committee meeting.

In comparison with the other four sectors year-to-date through November, the following are results of GWC's performance:

- Ranks 3rd lowest in New Workers Comp claims system wide.
- Ranks 3rd lowest in Bus Traffic Accidents.
- Ranks lowest in Customer Complaints.
- Ranks best for in Service On-Time-Performance.
- Ranks 4th best in mean Miles between Mechanical failures. This move up is a slight improvement demonstrating the efforts of the two Division Managers.

Mr. Clifford noted a commendation received on behalf of Operator Alberto Balbuena. Other GM comments included:

- Update on Artesia Blue Line Station. The Sector continues to work with Rail on the parking capacity. The City Manager of Compton has agreed to meet to further discuss connectivity at the station.
- Update on Line 760 (Signal Priority). The City of Compton is now on board with signal priority being complete and fully operational. The City of Long Beach is still finalizing minor issues.
- Update on Line 577. Numbers were not available during this reporting period.
- Line 60 Night Owl Line Ride. Mr. Clifford invited Sector Representatives to participate in a Night Owl Line Ride. Vice Chair Kelley suggested the Council ride take place after the public hearings.
- Update on Metro's Passenger Code of Conduct. Metro is continuing to receive public feedback, and is looking at ways to get the information to the public. The internet will be one resource.

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7. **RECEIVED** oral report on ACCESS Services Incorporated (ASI), Arun Prem, Director, Strategic Planning. Mr. Prem complimented the Gateway Cities Governance Council for operating a cordial, harmonious and professional meeting. He described ACCESS Services as a consolidated public agency created by a delegation of ADA Paratransit service from 45 agencies with an annual \$89M budget. It originally started as Metro ACCESS, a non-profit.

The area transit providers have the obligation of providing ADA Para Transit (considered complementary service for those unable to use typical fixed route services). The entitlement by civil rights legislation known as ADA (Americans with Disability Act) is curb to curb transit services. The limitations are within the area of the fixed route services based on comparable fares and hours. The service is a seamless service within Los Angeles County. Although all funding comes from the Metro ACCESS is an independent entity. ACCESS is associated with CTSA (Consolidated Transportation Services Agency). ACCESS provides technical assistance and certified training. Governed by a Board of 9 Directors (one appointed by Metro) with two advisory committees: Community Advisory Committee (Gateway Representative Harley Rubenstein is one of the 27 members); and Technical Professional Advisory Committee (TPAC) which has 15 member.

ACCESS service is demand driven. Customers call to make a reservation for the curb to curb service. Up to six reservations can be made in one phone call including to and from with stops in between. Each trip is a separate fare. Customers are allowed to be accompanied by one companion. Customers and trips are logged into a data base. Mr. Prem responded to several questions from Representatives Kelly, Bass, Newcomer and Shidler. Mr. Prem announced that ACCESS received funding to implement TAP (Transit Access Pass). Representative Shidler suggested Mr. Prem return to discuss the implementation of TAP. Mr. Prem agreed and concluded his report.

8. **RECEIVED** oral report on Metro's Natural Gas Hedging Program, Mike Smith, Metro Assistant Treasurer. Mr. Smith presented a Power Point presentation of the Natural Gas Hedging Program. He stated as Metro converts its bus fleet to compressed natural gas (CNG), fuel has become a significant budget item at \$45M. Because of significant fluctuating gas prices from 2001 to 2005, the MTA Board looked for a way to stabilize the cost of fuel. The Hedging Program was implemented in June 2007 to lock in a fixed rate to increase budget certainty for compressed natural gas for FY08 and part of FY09. The hedging process is completed prior to budget development. This allows for more effective use of budget resources diminishing the possibility of a budget overrun at the end of the year for CNG. The price is competitively bid among six pre-qualified buyers. 95% of planned therms are hedged. Changes in market price results in a gain or loss. The gain or loss is allocated to each division's CNG costs. Representative

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Newcomer discussed hedging with futures. Representative Nelson asked if the program is working. Mr. Smith stated the program is working. He responded to further questions and demonstrated the effectiveness of the program and concluded his report.

9. **RECEIVED** oral report and Update on Proposed June '08 Service Changes, Mike Sieckert, Metro Gateway Cities Planning Manager. Mr. Sieckert presented a list of the proposed service changes system-wide. He reviewed the public hearings being held by the Gateway Cities Sector, and mentioned the other hearings, including the system-wide hearing at Metro headquarters on February 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Clifford suggested the Council consider providing the San Gabriel Valley Sector with their concerns and comments on Line 258 service changes. Representative Shidler expressed concerns regarding Line 110. These two items will be presented on the February agenda for further discussion.
10. **RECEIVED** oral report on Governance Council Member Line Ride. Chairperson Delgado spoke about Line 121 she has taken at various times from the Green Line towards the Whittier area. The morning ride had good ridership. The bus was full. The midday ridership seemed to be neighborhood people who get on and off but is also constantly full. The bus was clean with a friendly operator who is well known as the regular driver. The operator reported there are several wheel chair riders he is unable to take. Chair Delgado noted that the new ACCESS shuttle service will help and that today's ACCESS presentation was helpful. She noted the on bus "Rider Alert" was not updated to inform the riders of upcoming line changes. She expressed a concern about a stop that used to be on Florence near a large senior complex in Santa Fe Springs.
11. **RECEIVED** oral report on Governance Council Member Line Ride. Representative Owen Newcomer shared his ride on Line 270 on a Monday at midday from Whittier to El Monte. The bus was on time, clean and the operator was courteous. There were no schedules on the northbound bus. There was a flyer announcing changes at the El Monte station. The return trip was full and running about 4 minutes late stopping at every stop. The bus overheated and stopped but soon restarted. He spoke of a new transit museum at the Whittier Depot. It is an old 1888 Southern Pacific Railroad Station relocated from its original site. A 1937 Rapid Transit Schedule included a stop called Laguna. Representative Newcomer asked Representative Shidler the location of Laguna and where is it today. Representative Shidler said the line ended in 1936. He will provide a map.
12. **RECEIVED** oral report on Upcoming Governance Council Member Line Ride Report and Upcoming Line Rides. General Manager Clifford said the line ride will be at the Sector office at 9:30 a.m. Representative Shidler will ride Line 128.

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He also spoke of the Grand Opening event of San Gabriel's Division 9.
Representative Kelley will ride Line 128 in February.

13. **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS.** No Comments.

14. **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REMARKS:** Representative Newcomer wished everyone a Happy New Year. Representative Kelley wished everyone a Happy and Healthy 2008; she commented on Representative Larry Nelson's comments to the COG and shared with the Council suggested improvements in the Sector application notice for the Governance Council. Representative Nelson also spoke of the application notice. Representative Shidler read the By-laws of who qualifies for Governance Council seats.

Adjourned: 4:15

Prepared by:



Raynard Price
Council Secretary