

Thursday, July 10, 2008

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 2:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

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

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



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1. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Shidler.
2. Roll Called.
3. Self Introductions were made.
4. **PASSED the Gavel.** Chair Jo Ann Eros-Delgado passed the gavel to newly elected Chair, Cheri Kelley. Chair Kelley presented a certificate of appreciation, signed by the entire Sector Council, to out-going Chair Delgado along with a plaque which acknowledges the completion of an outstanding job as chair.
5. **PRESENTED a Proclamation to the Gas Company.** Chair Kelley presented a proclamation to Julie Emerson representing the Gas Company for its support in accommodating the Gateway Governance Council. Ms. Emerson said public service is important to the Gas Company and that it is a pleasure to be of service to the Gateway Governance Council and the community.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Patterson. Ms. Patterson commented on Line 127. She indicated she was glad the line was saved from cuts but believes it now needs enhancing. She recommended Line 127 run every half hour Monday through Saturday as opposed to hourly. She also advocated that the line run hourly on Sundays and holidays up until 11:00 p.m. because of its access to the Blue Line for those who work evenings. Ms. Patterson voiced that if the service was improved it would be utilized. She indicated this line services a hospital, residents, restaurants and colleges. General Manager Alex Clifford noted Metro Director Antonovich's successful motion to increase the marketing budget. The Sector is investigating the possibility of providing additional service on Line 127.

7. **APPROVED Minutes** of June 12, 2008 Council Meeting. Representative Rubenstein abstained.
8. **RECEIVED** oral report from General Manager, Alex Clifford. Mr. Clifford said the numbers continue to improve from the previous month's report, which was also trending well.
 - **FY 08 Budget Performance Update.** There is a favorable variance in the Labor accounts at \$2.4M which is mostly in Contract Wages. The favorable budget variance in Non-Labor accounts of \$439K is primarily in the Fuel account. Allocated Accounts has a favorable variance of \$6.4M. This includes Public Liability of \$3.3M, Workers Comp at \$2.7M. Mr. Clifford said the fiscal year will close with the Sector in great financial shape. Unspent budget will return to the company's main budget. There was discussion from Council Representatives to consider requesting at the

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“Meet and Confer” with CEO Snoble the possibility of having surplus funds roll-over into the Sector’s next fiscal year’s budget. The Council decided to discuss this issue at it’s August meeting.

In the area of Key Performance Indicators, Workers Comp is below budget, which is good, with New Workers Comp Claims (one month lag) below budget. Bus Accidents are trending below the target number which is positive news, but Passenger Accidents are up requiring focus from the “Accident Reduction Program.” Complaints Per Boarding is below target with Service On-Time Performance continuing to trend in a good direction as a result of efforts from supervisors and managers who agreed on a target of 72% by year end of Fiscal Year 2009.

In comparison to the other four sectors, the GWC Sector’s performance ranks:

- 3rd best in Traffic Accidents.
- 2nd best in New Workers Comp Claims system wide.
- 1st (best) in Customer Complaints.
- 1st (best) in Service On-Time Performance.
- 5th (lowest) in Mean Miles Between Mechanical Failures. The current goal is to lower road calls by 25% in FY09. This will be a team effort by Division Managers, Maintenance Managers, Sector Staff, Bus Operators, Street Supervisors and the Bus Operations Control Center.

Mr. Clifford shared with the Council a sampling of commendations he received from customers who took the time out of their day to call-in to Metro to voice appreciation of the service provided (6 from Division 1, and 2 from Division 2). The following operators received commendations: Jesse A. Celaya, Pamela M. Thibodeaux-Talley (two), Henry F. Magana (three), Carlos E. Angulo and Michael D. Prudhomme. Of particular note, are customer’s commendations for services provided on Line 460.

- **Received update on FY09 Budget.** The Metro Board adopted the FY09 budget. Mr. Clifford acknowledged that the pending State budget could negatively affect this balanced budget. Mr. Clifford committed to continue to provide budget updates until the state adopts its budget.
- **Update on Blue line Compton Razor Fence Concern.** Community Relations Manager, Dave Hershenson, reported that there are on-going negotiations with a potential buyer for the hotel property. If those negotiations are successful and the new property owner agrees to open the eastside fence for pedestrian traffic, Metro will remove the razor wire from the fence.
- **Update on Lowenthal Motion.** Director Lowenthal championed a motion to add field supervision to the Sectors. The motion was passed giving each

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Sector two additional field supervisors. It may take as long as November/December before they are on-board due to the hiring process. This adopted motion will help improve In-Service On-Time Performance. In the GWC Sector, these two new positions will be dedicated to a “Service-Enhancement Team.”

- **Update on Incident Based Surveillance System.** This program was adopted by the Metro Board. Cameras will be mounted on the front of buses and are activated during a collision. The use of this technology will help reduce legal issues by recording the incident. Moving forward with this program will depend on the state’s budget.
 - **Update on Line 460.** Representative Shidler commented on his experience in riding Line 460 both on weekdays and early in the morning on weekends. Currently, the Line is crowded. Mr. Clifford indicated that high gas prices have increased ridership and wishes he could put more buses on the line. Representative Shidler said, “People want to ride, but we cannot give them the service.” He added. “According to a *Wall Street Journal* article, funding transit is a problem all over the country.” The line is being monitored closely to ensure balanced loading and schedule reliability.
9. **RECEIVED** oral report on East Side Corridor extension phase 2 study – Kimberly Yu, Transportation Planning Manager. Ms. Yu presented a Power Point presentation that identified the project area and the goals and purpose of the project. She said by year 2030 the population growth on the eastside will be greater than that of the city of San Francisco. The destination for this population tends to be towards central Los Angeles with over 50,000 trips daily.

There is a need to: 1) Identify ways to provide transit connections to the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension; 2) link eastside cities to regional transit networks; 3) improve mobility through enhanced transit options and; 4) plan for growth on the eastside. Ms. Yu provided an overview of other studies that are being done (Westside, Crenshaw Corridor, and the Regional Connector study) to meet future demand.

The Eastside study area is from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Fe Springs, which incorporates roughly 13 cities and unincorporated parts of Los Angeles county. The study started September 2007. Since then, there have been several community meetings. Once completed, the findings and recommendations will go to the Metro Board for action.

Overall, the communities are supporting transit development with light rail technology being the preferred transit mode. Ms. Yu reviewed the recommendation and alternatives. The draft report will be presented to the Board in September 2008. There will continue to be community meetings after the Board’s decision. Ms. Yu responded to questions from the Council and concluded her report. She said the public can receive updates at:

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http://www.metro.net/projects_studies/eastside_phase2/default.htm.

10. **Received** oral report on TAP and Gating – Jane Matsumoto, Deputy Executive Officer Project Management. Ms. Matsumoto provided an update on the Regional TAP Program and Fare Gating Project. She noted that she last visited the Council in August 2007. Since that time, there has been much activity and the program is now in full production. The installation of all bus and rail equipment, including Culver City and Santa Clarita Transit who are partners in TAP, is complete. The program is in the process of getting the TAP card to customers.

As of July 2008, Metro is installing sales equipment at 17 downtown locations with the greatest preponderance in distributing the fare media. In August, sales devices will be implemented along the Wilshire Corridor for third party vendors. The goal will be to implement devices in both the San Fernando Valley and the San Gabriel Valley thereafter.

The TAP program has available data from transactions that are being captured from riders. Ms. Matsumoto presented a chart demonstrating TAP usage, particularly from the UCLA student and employees pilot testing. Data is currently available from non-test sites showing a huge growth of regular monthly and weekly TAP card holders.

Customers have become adept at reloading the passes off the station equipment, rather than standing in line at a Metro Store without training or advertised instruction from Metro. Thus far, compliance of riders using TAP on the Gold Line far exceeds those who ride the Red Line although the TAP validators are less convenient. Regarding the gating update, Ms. Matsumoto reviewed the arguments for and against gating. Metro is virtually the only major transit authority in the World that does not have a barrier subway system.

Metro received Prop 1B funding from Homeland Security that will partially fund the gating project which will include closed circuit monitoring infrastructure. It was decided to capture 84% of the ridership by gating the subway and light rail. Ms. Matsumoto responded to questions from the Council.

11. **RECEIVED** oral report on Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan – Dave Hershenson. Mr. Hershenson reviewed with the Council the June Board meeting that included the Long Range Transportation Plan, ½ cent sales tax and Congestion Pricing. He advised the Council that the Board voted to place on the November ballot a ½ cent sales tax increase to fund numerous transportation projects. The Board decided to put off a decision on the Long Range Transportation Plan until after the ½ cents sales tax issue is decided. All total the tax is estimated to generate \$40 Billion over 30 years. There is a possibility that 20% of this amount would go back to the cities which would be approximately \$8 Billion. Mr. Hershenson informed the Council that Director Lowenthal voted against the ½ cent sales tax out of concern for the "lack" of projects designated

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- for Gateway Cities. The Gateway COG voted not to support the sales tax. After some discussion, Mr. Hershenson concluded his report.
12. **APPROVED** GWC Sector FY 09 Work Plan. Mr. Clifford informed the Council he did not receive comments from the Council regarding the Work Plan. The Council unanimously approved the plan. Sector staff will post the plan on the Gateway website for public viewing.
 13. **DISCUSSED** upcoming “Meet and Confer” meeting with CEO Roger Snoble. Representative Shidler suggested the GWC Sector have an agenda of topics to present at the meeting. It was decided to discuss suggestions for these topics at the August Sector Council meeting. Representative Kelley asked the Council to call General Manager Clifford with ideas for discussion. The Council will seek approval from the CEO to roll-over savings” from the previous fiscal year into the current budget.
 14. **RECEIVED** oral report on Governance Council Member Line Ride Report – Cheri Kelley. Chair Kelley discussed Line 128. The Line ride was enjoyable. The bus was clean and no major issues were reported.
 15. **RECEIVED** report on Notification of Upcoming Governance Council Member Line Ride Report and Upcoming Line Rides – Alex Clifford. The ride will take place from the Sector office on Friday, July 11 at 8:00 a.m. Representative Wally Shilder will present a Line Ride Report at the August meeting.
 16. **Chair’s Remark.** The Chair spoke about rising gas prices forcing people to take public transportation. Metro should take this opportunity to provide services such as parking before this opportunity to get the public out of cars and off of freeways is lost. The Chair also noted that Representatives Larry Nelson and Cynde Soto requested to be excused from the meeting.
 17. **Council Member’s Remarks.** Representative Rubenstein apologized for missing the previous meeting. His daughter was graduating from high school. He thanked former Chair Delgado for doing a fabulous job as chair.

Representative Delgado thanked everyone for their support during her term as Chair.

Representative Newcomer thanked former Chair Delgado for doing a good job as Chair.

Representative Bass spoke on the parking at the stations. He stated that it is important to have parking at the stations. He compared the good planning of the Bay Area (BART) system to Los Angeles’ poorly planned station parking. Chair Kelley agreed.

Adjourned. 4:15 p.m.

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Prepared by

Raynard Vincent Price
Council Secretary