

SGV Staff Gathers Comments on Proposed Bus Service Changes

By DAVE SOTERO

(Sept. 10, 2003) The San Gabriel Valley Service Sector has worked closely with the community to gather comments on proposed bus service changes planned for October or later.



Transportation Planning Manager Callier Beard reviews proposed San Gabriel Valley bus service changes with members of the community.

In preparation for its public hearing, Sept. 2, the sector provided two opportunities for community members to discuss proposed changes to Metro Bus lines 177, 250, 253, 254, 256, 270, 471, 620 and 751.

All comments gathered from the community meetings and the public hearing will be reviewed for action by the San Gabriel Valley Governance Council at its Oct. 7 meeting.

MTA is considering whether to consolidate bus lines in the San Gabriel Valley in an effort to improve the efficiency of countywide bus operations. The meetings, held in the City of Industry and Boyle Heights, also provided an excellent opportunity for the sector staff to communicate directly with customers.

"Overall, I think we got some excellent feedback from the public on proposed changes," said General Manager Jack Gabig. "I think the community really appreciated being able to contribute their issues and concerns on three separate occasions. It really bolsters our goal to be more accessible to our local transit riders."

Most public comments were directed at the proposed cancellation of Line 471, which travels to Puente Hills, Whitwood and Brea Mall. Several community members said they depended on that line to get to and from work, and said they didn't know how they would get to work if the line was cancelled.

Jon Hillmer, manager, Service Development, said the proposed cancellation was a worse case scenario, and that MTA would consider a number of alternatives to canceling service, including working with other transit providers to pick up the service.

One community member thanked MTA for holding the meeting at a location with a Line 471 bus stop in front of it. He said it showed that MTA cares about its customers and is sensitive to their needs.

If approved, the proposed contracted bus line changes are scheduled to go into effect Oct. 26 or later. MTA-operated bus line changes, pending San Gabriel Valley Governance Council review, would take effect in December or later.

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