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San Gabriel Valley sector staff and Governance Council members listen to comments from a member of the public during a hearing earlier this month.



San Gabriel Valley Kicks Off Series of Public Hearings

- Hearings in four service sectors draw good crowds

By DAVE HERSHENSON

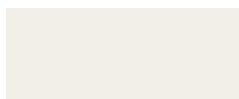
(Aug. 31, 2005) The San Gabriel Valley Service Sector got a series of public hearings off to a successful start earlier this month, with attendance by nearly 100 people. Approximately 45 shared their comments with the Governance Council and sector staff.

"We were very gratified with the turnout from the public; this was probably the largest public hearing audience we ever hosted" said General Manager Jack Gabig. "The whole idea behind these hearings is to invite the public to comment on proposed changes before they are finalized so adjustments can be made to our proposals if we hear a good reason to change our plans."

Prior to the public hearings, the San Gabriel Valley sector hosted two community meetings – one in Glendale and another in East Los Angeles – to discuss the proposed changes and to answer questions. Combined, these community meeting attracted more than 70 people.

"We like to hold community meetings prior to our public hearings if possible" said Scheduling Manager Jon Hillmer. "Besides being a less formal setting, community meetings allow us to answer patron's questions, which we generally we do not do at public hearings. We were very pleased with the turnout at both of our community meetings this month."

Photos: Dave Hershenson



A standing-room-only crowd looks on as Channel 35 cameras record the San Gabriel Valley public hearing. The program was broadcast the following day.



First of five hearings

The San Gabriel Valley public hearing was the first of five public hearings held throughout Los Angeles County to receive comment on the proposed service changes. The first four hearings were televised by the City of Los Angeles’ Channel 35, at the request of Councilman Bernard Parks, also a member of the Board of Directors.

The Westside/Central sector conducted a public hearing at the La Cienega Tennis Center in Beverly Hills, attracting close to 25 people. The South Bay sector held its public hearing, with around 70 in attendance, at Arthur Winston Division 5.

The Gateway Cities sector hosted two public hearings – one at The Gas Company in Downey, and a second hearing in Huntington Park. More than 50 people attended the two Gateway Cities public hearings. Since the San Fernando Valley did not have any significant proposed service changes, that sector did not conduct a public hearing this month.

The service changes are being proposed to best utilize existing resources and to improve service quality wherever possible. Poor performing lines, or segments of lines, may be cancelled or modified so that those service hours can be reinvested to enhance other bus service, such as adding weekend and/or weeknight service to some lines.

After considering all public comment, the four sectors will present their recommended service changes to their Governance Councils in September. Once approved, the service changes are scheduled to go into effect Dec. 18, 2005 or later.