


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom \(web\)](#)
[Ask the CEO](#)
[CEO Forum](#)
[Employee Recognition](#)
[Employee Activities](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/Library](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)
[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)


Kymberleigh Richards is a CAC member from the San Fernando Valley sector.

Citizens Advisory Council Members Have a Vision for LA Transit

By RICH MORALLO



Wally Shidler is a CAC member from the Gateway Cities sector.

(Nov. 18, 2005) Wally Shidler remembers growing up in the 1940s and riding the street car into Los Angeles.

"I was fascinated by the trolley operator," says Shidler, currently vice-chairman of the Gateway Cities Service Sector Governance Council.

Meanwhile, Shidler's counterpart on the San Fernando Valley governance council, Kymberleigh Richards, recalls writing a high school paper in the 1970s on the San Francisco BART construction project.

Years after their initial interest in mass transit both Shidler and Richards are still very much involved with public buses and trains, and transportation systems.

Recently they were asked to serve on the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC), the group of volunteer consultants appointed by the Board to study transit issues and provide recommendations.

A transit habit

"I made a habit of using transit systems in cities I visited," says Richards, who started riding the San Fernando Valley's bus service in 1991.

Richards later participated in the 1994 transit restructuring study for the Valley, served on the passenger advisory committee and secured an appointment to the sector governance council.

Richards, who works in media and web design, agreed to serve on the CAC when asked by Director David Fleming.

Shidler spent 44 years as a motion picture engineer in Hollywood before he retired. "I was the only one out of 100 people in that company who used public transportation."

"Public transit is much better today than it used to be," says Shidler, who believes that there is still room to add more service. "We need to look at discretionary drivers and get them out of their vehicles."

Vision for the future

On her goals for working transit issues with the CAC, Richards says she personally supports Mayor Villaraigosa's vision to set in motion a long-term vision for the future.

"While it may take many years to complete a system that will attract ridership, unless a start is made now, it can never happen," she says.

For Shidler, who received his CAC appointment from Director Bonnie Lowenthal, attracting more people to buses and trains is key.

"We need to convince new riders that public transit is more economical," he says.