

Thursday, March 10, 2005 – 2:00 p.m.

---

# Minutes

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation  
Authority

## **GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE SECTOR GOVERNANCE COUNCIL**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

The Gas Company  
9240 Firestone Blvd.  
Downey, CA 90241

---

Called to Order at 2:05 p.m.

---

Council Members present:

Larry R. Nelson (Vice Chair)  
JoAnn Eros-Delgado  
Jacqueline Rynerson  
Wally Shidler  
Cynde Soto

---

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager  
David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager  
Sharon Sterling, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Vice Chair Larry R. Nelson announced that he would preside over the Council Meeting in Chair Bonnie Lowenthal's absence. Ms. Lowenthal and Councilmember Peña were attending the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington D.C.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Called
3. Self Introductions
4. APPROVED Minutes of February 10, 2005 Council Meeting
5. RECEIVED Report of General Manager

Mr. Clifford announced that the Gateway Cities COG voted to re-appoint Gateway Cities Governance Councilmembers Larry R. Nelson, Jacqueline Rynerson and Wally Shidler to new three-year terms. The MTA Board may consider approving the re-appointments at the next meeting.

Ms. Soto will provide an update on Metro's Securement Policy next month.

Kimball Johnson, Senior Ethics Officer, announced that the deadline to file the Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) is April 1, 2005. A penalty of \$10 per day will be assessed for forms filed thereafter.

The Service Sector Annual Meet and Confer is tentatively scheduled for April 11 at 4:00 p.m. in the MTA Board Room.

A bus ride-along was not scheduled for this Friday and the Line 130 ride-along will be scheduled soon.

Mr. Clifford reviewed the January 2005 Gateway Cities Operations Report with the Councilmembers.

Last year's statistics have been included in the report at the request of Mr. Peña for a month-to-month as well as year-to-year comparison.

Mr. Nelson inquired about the job opportunities link on the MTA website. Mr. Hershenson will follow-up with city webmasters within Gateway Cities to determine if they would include a link to Metro job opportunities and/or the Sector webpage.

6. RECEIVED a presentation on Metro Gateway Cities June 2005 Minor Service Adjustments and Low Productivity Trip Thinning by Dan Nguyen, Metro Gateway Service Development Manager.

Highlights of these trip reductions include: Lines 18, 26, 45, 53 55 60, 65, 66, 105, 200, 265-275, 362, 460, 611, 612, 681, 705 and 745.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED June 2005 Minor Service Change Adjustments.

Trip Thinning for bus lines operated by other sectors that travel in the Gateway Cities area include: South Bay Sector Lines 108, 110, 111, 115, 117, 120 and 711; San Gabriel Valley Sector Lines 258-259 and 260; and Westside/Central Sector Lines 10-720.

Mr. Shidler asked what is done with the hours saved.

Mr. Clifford stated that in the normal course of business, poor productivity hours are trimmed and re-invested in other Sector service. In FY06 the budgeted bus Revenue Service Hours (RSH) for the Metro system (systemwide) must be maintained at the December 2004 annualized level. With the addition of the Orange Line in FY06, the system RSH will grow by approximately 60,000 if no offsetting adjustments are made. In order to maintain the systemwide RSH balanced at the annualized December 2004 level, each Sector is responsible for reducing the equivalent of 11,000 RSH in poor productivity trips through trip thinning. Without this adjustment, each Sector's budget would be out of balance by approximately \$1.1 million. Given the FY06 constrained budget and no new sources of revenues, it would be an impossible task for a Sector to provide an alternative to the trip thinning concept and achieve a \$1.1 million budget reduction.

Ms. Rynerson stated that the agency spends money on brochures when some of those funds could be used in areas that are more essential.

RYNERSON MOTION to direct staff to investigate other avenues to seek funds to avoid the Sector falling short. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

7. DISCUSSION on Councilmember Shidler's Request to Craft a Motion on Behalf of the Gateway Cities Governance Council Regarding Low Productivity Trip Thinning Hours by Councilmember Shidler.

Mr. Shidler stated that the agency spent \$40,000 to place the new logo on buses. This was a waste of money because the logos were non-reflective and must be replaced. Customers are interested in the bus being on time, clean and reasonably priced. Items such as new bus stop signs are not important. He gave a comparison of the cost for bus stop signs printed in-house vs. outside. Due to the union contract, in-house printing is considerably higher. Mr. Clifford noted that this area is not under his direct jurisdiction and that Ms. Carolyn Flowers, Executive Officer of Operations, is carefully reviewing the proposed charges to the Operating Enterprise fund from non-operations departments. These comments will be shared with her.

SHIDLER MOTION to direct staff to draft a letter for Council to submit to DCEO John Catoe regarding the Council's opposition to transferring Low Productivity Trip Thinning Hours outside of the Gateway Cities Sector.  
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

8. RECEIVED a presentation on Metro Connections Program Update by Nancy Michali, Metro Director.

Ms. Michali reported that since the last Metro connections update in August, she has met with the Gateway Cities COG and given a presentation to the Board in January. She has met with six focus groups to address the challenges of a more than 25-year-old system, which includes stagnant ridership, increasing costs and a funding shortfall. Customers have expressed that their needs would be better met with an upgrade in reliability, improved service experience and an integrated system that would operate more like rail service. Customers have suggested that the agency market and coordinate bus and rail schedules more effectively. Customers have rated the system with a "C" grade.

Mr. Shidler inquired about how the Sector service improvements would be made without funds. No answer was available.

Mr. Shidler asked if the cost has been determined. Ms. Michali responded that the approach has not been determined.

Mr. Shidler requested a cost benefit analysis. Ms. Michali stated that would be included in the Draft Plan.

Ms. Michali presented maps showing locations of system centers (regional and subregional), corridor travel activity, and system plan. She noted that the maps do not reflect recent updates in subregional and regional centers identified. Implementation of the service plan will likely occur in 2008, and implementation of the capital plan will likely take place in 2015. Ms. Michali reviewed the project schedule, which includes a Draft Plan presentation in June and final plan approval in September.

9. Councilmember Remarks

- o Discussion on improving sector communications. Sectors considering service changes in areas outside their sector boundaries should ensure the impacted sector(s) receive proper notification prior to finalizing proposed changes.

Mr. Shidler stated that in the December changes, service was reduced on Line 111 without prior notice to the Gateway Cities Sector. The change was brought to the attention of the staff at the January Council meeting. Staff should be made aware of all changes that affect the Sector.

Ms. Soto asked if the different sectors meet. Mr. Clifford replied in the affirmative. Mr. Nguyen stated the service development managers meet twice a month. Mr. Clifford noted they will work to improve coordination as directed by the CEO to tear down the barriers.

Mr. Shidler distributed to Councilmembers the DCEO's report that was presented at the February 2005 Operations Committee Meeting.

- o Discussion on a bus 'checklist' for Councilmembers to use on ride-alongs and other bus rides.

Councilmember Eros-Delgado shared her experience from a recent bus ride-along and encouraged the other Councilmembers to participate. She asked Mr. Hershenson what to look for and used the helpful checklist as a guide. She learned a lot especially from the transit expert, Councilmember Shidler. She also visited Rail Operations Control and stated that it was very impressive.

Mr. Shidler reported there has been a lot of operator cell phone use.

Mr. Hershenson indicated that the mystery ride program will include a bus 'checklist' that will be distributed to Councilmembers at a future meeting.

- o CARRIED OVER TO APRIL COUNCIL MEETING Discussion on Governance Council recognition for Gateway Cities employee accomplishments.

10. Chairman's Remarks

- o Vice Chair Nelson announced that Director Beatrice Proo was defeated in Tuesday's election. She worked 24/7. Councilmembers Lowenthal and Peña are interested in the MTA Board position.
- o Gateway Cities Sector Council and staff have learned to become family and it is nice to agree to disagree. The meetings are enjoyable and no matter what, one man or woman can make a difference. "We are all winners".

11. Consideration of Items not posted on the Agenda – None

12. Public Comment on Items not posted on the Agenda – None

***Next Meeting:***

**Thursday, April 14, 2005**

**The Gas Company  
9240 Firestone Blvd.  
Downey, CA 90241**

Adjourned at 3:32 p.m.



Prepared by: Sharon Sterling  
Council Secretary