

Tuesday, January 6, 2004 3:00 P.M.

Minutes

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

METRO SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Gateway Conference Room, 3rd Floor
MTA Gateway Building
One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles CA 90012

Called to Order 3:15 P.M.

Council members

Bart Doyle, Chair
Sid Tyler, Vice chair
Harry Baldwin
Emile Bayle
Bruce Heard
Henry Lopez
Sharon Martinez
Dave Spence
Rosie Vasquez

Officers

Jack Gabig, General Manager
Helen Ortiz, Community Relations
Manager
Michele Jackson, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. APPROVED December 2, 2003 Governance Council Minutes.
2. Public Comment-none.
3. Safety Contact- Steve Rosenberg gave an overview of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, which facilitates disaster planning for San Gabriel Valley sector facilities by creating evacuation plans, instructing personnel on procedures, assigning building wardens, and conducting evacuation drills.

In order to adequately monitor any suspicious packages on buses, the agency intends to implement a plan to conduct inspections at checkpoints along Metro hub stations and transfer points.

4. RECEIVED report of the General Manager-Jack Gabig announced that the Safety Performance/Bus Operations Performance Indicators were not published for November as a result of the recent strike. A report showing the performance indicators for December will be available next month.

Financial Review (Rosenberg)

Transportation is \$5.9 million under budget; Maintenance is \$2.9 million under budget; the SGV sector overall, on a year to date budget of \$39 million, is \$8.2 million under budget.

Workers' Compensation charges are running 50% under year to date budget.

Councilmember Doyle asked if claims were subjected to greater scrutiny after the strike. Mr. Gabig responded in the affirmative, stating that there will be an additional emphasis on the return to work program. He also noted that the agency has been aggressive in managing workers' compensation claims and taking extra measures to deny illegitimate claims.

Mr. Catoe mentioned that under-expenditures in the budget are misleading. Mr. Tyler agreed with this, suggesting comparisons to budgets from prior years.

Mr. Catoe responded that the agency is fine-tuning ways to make charges to sectors and compare financial information across sectors and years. Currently, a

report that shows comparisons of financial information by sector is prepared monthly and sent to the Board of Directors for approval.

Future Agenda Items

Overview of East Side Gold Line Extension

Overview of Safety First and Workers' Compensation Programs

Overview of Maintenance & Material Management (M3) System

Update on Gold Line Operation

5. RECEIVED an oral report on **Community Relations**

Liz Armijo, Community Relations Officer, reported participation in six events, including securing 20 complimentary parking passes for Rose Court members and Tournament of Roses officials, distributing candy canes at Mission Gold Line Station in conjunction with Holiday Children's Concert, conducting Holiday Coffee and Donut Roll Out at Divisions 3 and 9 for Maintenance and Transportation Employees, attending VIP event for presentation of proclamation from City of Pasadena as Official Rose Parade Transportation, securing 30,000 candy canes for distribution to the public on Metro SGV buses, and a New Year's Day event in which Metro SGV Community Relations Manager assisted as Ambassador to Gold Line passengers en route to Rose Parade.

There will be two Community Relations meetings and a public hearing to discuss proposed changes to Metro Bus services operating in the San Gabriel Valley. The first community meeting will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 27, at Cal Poly University's Bronco Student Center-Building 35-Orion Room AB, 3801 W. Temple Boulevard in Pomona. The second meeting will be from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, January 31, at Plaza De La Raza, 3540 North Mission Road in Los Angeles. The public hearing will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10 at the Metro San Gabriel Valley sector office in El Monte. The hearing was originally planned on February 3, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. However, the hearing date was moved to February 10, 2004 to coincide with the date of the February Council meeting.

6. RECEIVED a briefing on **Proposed June 04 Service Changes** in San Gabriel Valley Sector by Jon Hillmer, Service Development Manager.

Mr. Hillmer noted that the major service changes were made primarily to improve bus speed and on-time performance, particularly on lines 484 and 490. He also stated that any changes were relatively minor compared with previous

changes. The agency will consider public comment before making any final decisions.

Some of the lines that will be affected are: 376 (Valley Blvd. Limited), 350 (Soto Street Limited), 751 (Soto Street), 484 (LA-El Monte-La Puente-Pomona), and 490 (LA-El Monte-Baldwin Park-Covina-Walnut-Pomona-Brea Mall). Line 350 will be replaced by new Rapid bus line 751 along Soto Street between Cypress Park and the City of Huntington Park. The changes on line 350 would allow buses to cycle through faster and increase the frequency of services provided. Discontinued route segments of lines 484 and 490 will be replaced by new shuttle service (line 684). The proposed Limited line 376 would operate between El Monte Station and downtown Los Angeles over the route of line 76 (Valley Blvd.) and if implemented, would provide expedited transit service through the cities of Alhambra, El Monte, Rosemead, and San Gabriel. Services on line 376 are anticipated to run only during peak periods. The agency hopes to partner with the City of Glendale to acquire additional vehicles to extend service on line 177, which would allow express service to Old Town Pasadena and Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The service changes, if approved, will be implemented on June 27, 2004 or later.

7. RECEIVED an oral briefing on **New Fare Structure** by April McKay, Transportation Manager

The fare restructuring, which went into effect January 1, 2004, represents the first change in fare in nine years, and was implemented in part because of the state fiscal crisis. The Board of Directors approved an increase at the April 2003 public hearing. The shift in fares has been a smooth one so far, and cash box counts have increased since the restructuring took place.

The base fare was reduced from \$1.35 to \$1.25. A new Metro Day Pass was introduced at a cost of \$3. The rates of monthly passes increased from \$42 to \$52, which is within the inflation rate. Further, the number of zones has been consolidated from four to two.

Tokens, which previously cost \$.90 each are now \$1.10 each. Ms. McKay noted that once the Universal Fare System is implemented, the tokens will be phased out. Fares for senior citizens, students, and the disabled remain unchanged. The fare for the Easy Transit Pass will also remain unchanged.

Ms. McKay pointed out that the agency is expecting revenue from fare box collection to increase by approximately \$30-40 million per year as a result of the fare restructuring. This would represent a net 15% increase in revenue.

Councilmember Tyler asked if the fare restructuring will have any effect on sector revenues.

Mr. Catoe responded that the exact impact has not yet been examined, and that he anticipates receiving a ruling from the Special Master sometime this week.

8. CONSIDERED setting new day for future Council meetings.

The Council announced its intention to move future Council meetings from the first Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month.

9. RECEIVED an oral **Security Update** by Lt. Mike Herek, L.A.S.D.

Lt. Herek stated that since the strike, the agency has made anti-graffiti efforts a priority. \$1.2 million has been spent on damage to buses for Divisions 3 and 9.

The Sheriff 's Transit Services Bureau intends to enforce its anti-graffiti stance by adopting such measures as collaborating with local school officials, school police, and local police, conducting truancy sweeps during school hours, matching bus graffiti to graffiti in the community, and entering graffiti types, monikers, and patterns in a database.

Lt. Herek gave an overview of search warrants served over the past few months. He also reviewed the judicial process, which may involve transit services bureau detectives filing felony and misdemeanor cases with the District Attorney. Once an offender is convicted, the judge may sentence him/her to a fine, custody, restitution, and/or community service to MTA properties.

10. RECEIVED an oral overview of **ATMS** by Tom Jasmin, Director of Operations Control.

Mr. Jasmin reported that ATMS (Advanced Transportation Management System) would provide voice and data radios and cameras on buses to allow for two-way communication between buses and the control center.

Implementation of ATMS would allow for the ability to track issues that operators are experiencing, the location of a particular bus within 3 ft.(with

additional aid from GPS), the location of the nearest supervisor, the number of passengers on the bus, whether a bus is on schedule, events occurring on the bus, and main problem areas. Mr. Jasmin noted that ATMS has already been implemented nationwide. He proceeded to give an overview of various components that would work in conjunction with ATMS, including SmartMDT (bus operators), Video Surveillance System (VSS), Automatic Voice Annunciator, and Emergency Dispatch Center (EDC). ATMS benefits include increasing driver and passenger safety, increasing communication capability, improving controller productivity, managing and sharing data among departments, and resolving customer complaints.

Mr. Jasmin stated that the agency's ATMS contract was originally for \$100 million. Councilmember Tyler mentioned that the net impact of ATMS will decrease the net cost for passengers. Since September 2002, ATMS has been installed in 1,200 buses within the agency.

11. Chair's Remarks

Chairman Doyle announced an upcoming League of Cities meeting on March 9; therefore, some Councilmembers will be in Washington, D.C and unable to attend the Council meeting on that date. He stated that the Council will look into the issue at the next Council meeting.

12. Consideration of items not on the Posted Agenda-None.

13. Recess to Closed Session: Personnel Matters – G.C. 54957
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Jack Gabig, General Manager

REVIEWED procedures for evaluation of staff.

Adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Michele Chau, Council Secretary