

Thursday, March 11, 2004 – 2:00 p.m.

Minutes

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority

GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Gas Company
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

Called to Order at 2:10 p.m.

Council Members present:

Samuel Peña (Chair)
Bonnie Lowenthal (Vice Chair)
JoAnn Eros-Delgado
Larry R. Nelson
Wally Shidler
Cynde Soto (via teleconference)

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
Sharon Sterling, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call/Self Introductions
3. Public Comment

Mr. James Gusky stated that at the Norwalk Station the Ticket Vending Machines are not equipped to dispense a Day Pass purchased with tokens. Mr. Dave Hershenson will follow-up with Mr. Gusky on this matter.

4. APPROVED Minutes of February 12, 2004 Council Meeting
5. RECEIVED oral report of General Manager

➤ Consent Decree:

Mr. Clifford reported that the MTA Board voted to comply with the majority of the court order, but to appeal a limited portion. The agency is willing to add the additional hours of service but believes that staff should have the flexibility to determine how many buses would be required to do so.

Mr. Clifford reported that the BRU requested a 6-year extension of the consent decree.

- Town Hall Meetings on March 24 and 25 (discussed in Dave Hershenson's Community Relations report)
- Additional June service change plans will be discussed next month with focus on lines in the index .60 and below. Also, one-hour headway service will be reviewed.

Mr. Shidler expressed his concerns regarding the elimination of line 107 (54th St. – Fairview Bl.) and the modifications on line 681 (Huntington Park – Watts Shuttle). Mr. Shidler stated that Gateway Cities Sector should have control over lines that operate in the sector and this should be resolved internally by MTA. Mr. Clifford stated they would have staff discussions and develop strategy.

- Feedback on Open House and thanks to Governance Councilmembers for participating. Mr. Clifford expressed appreciation to the staff for their backup plan due to adverse weather conditions.
- Monthly Bus Ride-Alongs to be scheduled. Mr. Clifford will begin riding the lines and also extended the invitation to the Councilmembers.

- Metro Connections workshop scheduled next month following April Governance Council meeting.

- Legislative update presentation scheduled for May 2004.

- Long Beach Transit Issues:

Signage – Long Beach Transit signs in the City of Long Beach will be modified to include the MTA line number and destination. Outside of the City of Long Beach, MTA signage that had been removed to accommodate the new LB signage will be replaced. Melissa, Long Beach Transit, stated notices have been posted in English and Spanish.

Long Beach Transit is now accepting Metro to Muni transfers if accompanied with a current Metro ticket or pass.

- In response to Chairman Peña's request for information concerning other transit services in Gateway Sector, Mr. Clifford has directed staff to prepare a report that details the various carriers that operate in this area. This will include the three major carriers in the sector - Long Beach, Norwalk and Montebello - as well as smaller local carriers provided by local cities such as Downey and Paramount. A presentation will be scheduled in the near future.

- Chairman Peña will comment on governance council meeting hours.

- Mr. Clifford provided a copy of the January 2004 Gateway Operations Report to the Councilmembers. He explained the variances, detailed on a line-by-line comparison to the budget.

Mr. Clifford indicated that the strike-related overage might be channeled into the Consent Decree to purchase additional buses.

6. RECEIVED oral report on FY2005 Budget by Alex Clifford, General Manager

Mr. Clifford reported that the MTA Board members expressed disappointment with the staff presentation; and directed staff to provide better definition of the core services and establish criteria for evaluating cuts in other areas.

7. RECEIVED oral report on Community Relations Outreach by David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager

Mr. Hershenson reported that the Gateway Cities Community Relations team supports the projects and plans of the MTA and the Gateway Cities Service Sector, reporting to Lynda Bybee, DEO, Community Relations and Alex Clifford, Metro Gateway Cities General Manager. Mr. Hershenson provided the Councilmembers with a report that detailed staff responsibilities which include: representing agency and sector plans and programs; external communications for Gateway Cities; community

outreach; internal (division) communications and relations; participation in various transit related meetings and conflict resolution.

Upcoming Events

March Town Hall Meetings:

March 24

City of Bell – Bell Community Center, 6250 Pine Ave, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

City of Cudahy – Clara St. Park, 4835 Clara St., 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

March 25

South Gate – Girl Club House, 4930 Southern Ave, 6:00 p.m.

City of Bell Senior Presentation – Murray Place, 4324 Florence Ave., 11:30 a.m.

8. RECEIVED oral report and demonstration on MTA ADA Training by Monique Ramos, Administrative Analyst, Information and Technology and Chip Hazen, Transit Operations Supervisor, BOS

Ms. Ramos provided a video of the ADA Training to the sector. Mr. Peña inquired how ASI customers are persuaded to ride MTA. Ms. Ramos stated there are many opportunities to provide information to seniors and the disabled at community events such as the Seniors on the Move Program. This program is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Councilmember Cynde Soto uses a wheelchair and reports that she has difficulty using the MTA because: 1) operators do not announce major stops and 2) she must ask the operator to secure her wheelchair in the bus. This should be done automatically as the Long Beach Transit operators do. Ms. Soto further states this is frustrating and unsafe. Mr. Clifford stated this would be addressed in the operator sensitivity training.

9. Councilmembers' Remarks

Mr. Shidler stated that something must be done regarding ASI. Cynde was not picked up twice and one night someone waited with her because the van was late.

Ms. Eros-Delgado expressed her concerns regarding Ms. Soto's transportation dilemma. Also, Ms. Lowenthal inquired regarding the ASI complaint procedures.

Mr. Clifford stated a follow-up report will be provided.

Mr. Nelson inquired regarding an annual meeting with the other Governance Councilmembers. Mr. Hershenson will provide follow-up.

10. Chair's Remarks

Mr. Peña received a letter from the Southern California Advocacy Board to request the council meeting time be changed to 6:30 p.m. Mr. Shidler stated that he has attended other meetings and unless there is an issue of concern to them, people do not attend. Mr. Peña stated that the Council would continue holding the meetings at the established time, date and location. Mr. Shidler will attend the SCA meeting and report back to the Council.

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

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 8, 2004 – 2:00 p.m.

The Gas Company

9240 Firestone Blvd.

Downey, CA 90241

Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



Prepared by: Sharon Sterling
Council Secretary