

# MINUTES

Westside/Central Service Sector  
Governance Council

Regular Meeting

La Cienega Tennis Center  
325 S. La Cienega Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

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Called to order at 3:20 p.m.

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Council Members present:

Carol Gross, Chair  
Presley Burroughs  
Stephanie Negriff  
Joyce Perkins  
Brad Robinson  
Anny Semonco

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Officers

Jim McElroy, General Manager  
Jody Litvak, Community Relations Manager  
Michele Jackson, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Metro**

1. APPROVED Minutes of August 5, 2004 meeting.

2. RECEIVED report from the General Manager

Jim McElroy reported great improvement in the maintenance area under the "How Ya Doin" Program, most notably Division 6 Maintenance. Division 10 has moved from the bottom end of that performance measure to the top.

CTA Conference is coming to L.A. in November, and will be hosted by the MTA.

Michael Davis reported on operating budget status. The 2005 budget is \$14.3 million less than last year's as a result of moving all overhead dollars from the sectors and putting them into central transit operations.

Council Member Negriff questioned the reduction in mechanic and driver labor. Mr. Davis explained that the reduction is caused by the new definition of non-work time. Other fringe benefit dollars were being captured in work time, and that is no longer the case.

3. APPROVED Staff Recommendations for December 2004 service changes **as amended**, Roy Gandara, Service Development Manager

- 2/302 (Sunset)
- 217 (Fairfax/Hollywood)
- 787 (Fairfax/Hollywood/Colorado)

Roy Gandara reported that staff is not recommending any change to the service on Routes 2/302. Regarding Line 217, staff is recommending a reduction in the frequency of daily service to eight minutes in peak and 16 minutes in off-peak, but is not cutting the line back to Hollywood and Vine. The headway change is for weekdays only. Weekend service will remain the same, and there will be no change to the alignment.

Staff is expecting a 33% shift, or approximately 5,666 passengers from Line 217 to the 787. Council Members asked about analysis to be done on this change. Mr. Gandara responded that the results of data gathered takes a while to come in, but the intent is to monitor the line very closely and make necessary adjustments quickly. Council Member Semonco noted longer waiting times as a result of a similar change to Line 105/705. Chair Gross asked Jim McElroy to convey concern about the issue of the 105/705 to the appropriate General Manager.

Jim McElroy expressed some wariness about the change because Line 217 has been a very good performer. Most of the stops for the 217/787 have been consolidated, and staff feels the frequency will be acceptable for those taking the 217. Staff will also be monitoring the effect of the length of the line, and would be willing to split the line, depending upon how it performs.

Council Member Burroughs expressed major reservations about the recommended changes. He stated that Line 217 is working well with good ridership and appropriate equipment. He feels that changing to rapid equipment will not only be longer, but it will also be slow due to mixing with the Eagle Rock, Glendale and Los Feliz congestion; and there are no parallel arterials to which the buses can go. Mr. Burroughs also commented that an origin and destination study should be done before the 787 begins operation.

Chair Gross questioned whether Governance Councils have purview over rapid bus. Jim McElroy responded that there is broad acceptance of the idea that the Councils do have that authority. He suggested going forward for a 6-month trial period, after which it could be modified. He also expressed confidence that neither ridership nor productivity would be negatively impacted as a result of these changes.

FAILED on a 3/3 vote- motion by Council Member Burroughs, seconded by Council Member Negriff to approve:

- a. findings of the Public Hearing conducted on Thursday, August 12, 2004 concerning Metro Westside/Central Sector's December 2004 Service Change Program;
- b. staff recommendations for Routes 2/302 as submitted; and
- c. implementation of Line 787, conditioned upon no service reductions to Line 217.

Unanimously APPROVED motion by Chair Gross, seconded by Council Member Negriff to approve:

- a. the findings of the Public Hearing conducted on Thursday, August 12, 2004 concerning Metro Westside/Central Sector's December 2004 Service Change Program;
- b. the Revised December 2004 Service Change Program

**Amendment:**

**provided that** the 217/787 issue comes back to the Council with the package of June service changes; that there is close monitoring of the functioning and headways on Line 787; close coordination with the San Gabriel Valley Sector and monthly reports to the Council.

RECEIVED public comment:

Diane Laux  
Prefers that Line 217 continue all the way to Sunset

Ken Rubin, Southern California Transit Advocates

In favor of staff recommended changes except those for Line 217

Joseph Dunn

Would like to see improved Owl Service on Line 217 and more service on Line 212

John Walsh

Feels that Line 787 is too long, and the impact of the local lines that have been cut should be analyzed

Francisca Porchas, BRU

Against reduction in service on Lines 180, 217, 185, 181

Norm Swerin

Against service cuts prior to final ruling on the Consent Decree

4. Chair's Remarks - None

5. Public Comment

John Walsh

Ken Ruben

Norm Swirin

Elzy Bryan

Joseph Dunn

Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Michele Jackson, Council Secretary