

Thursday, December 2, 2004

3:00-5:00 PM

MINUTES

Westside/Central Service Sector Governance Council

Regular Meeting

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

Called to order at: 3:06 p.m.

Council Members present:

Carol Gross, Chair
Peter Capone-Newton, Vice Chair
Presley Burroughs
Joyce Perkins
Brad Robinson
Anny Semonco

Officers

David J. Armijo, General Manager
Michele Jackson, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. APPROVED November 4, 2004 Minutes

2. RECEIVED General Manager's report from Michael Davis, Administrative and Financial Manager

Michael Davis announced that Council Member Helen Ann Johnson passed away and expressed sincere condolences to her family on behalf of General Manager David Armijo.

Key Performance Indicators:

1. Workers' Compensation target is \$803,000
 - year-to-date is \$895,000

2. OSHA Recordable Incidents target is 7.67/month
 - Nine incidents occurred in October

3. Traffic Incidents per 100,000 hub miles target is 3.7
 - 4.48 in October

4. Mean Miles between Chargeable Mechanical Failures target is 7,500
 - 6,752 in October

5. Complaints per 100,000 Boardings target is 3.75
 - year-to-date is 4.60

6. Passenger Boardings target is 7.73
 - year-to-date is 7.48

7. In Service, On-Time Performance target is 70%
 - year-to-date is 64%

8. "How You Doin'?" Program
 - Div. 10 received 2nd place for Maintenance.

Significant Items:

Transportation labor is .9% over budget for the month and, slightly under budget year-to-date.

Maintenance labor is \$63,000 over budget for the month and \$192,000 for the year-to-date.

Fringe benefits are 4% under budget year-to-date.

Fuel expenses are \$143,000 over budget for the month and 25% (\$716,000) for the year-to-date.

Parts expenses are 34% under budget for the month, and 6% (\$158,000) under budget for the year-to-date.

Council Member Robinson requested a report on what is being looked at for savings to offset the revenue shortfall, especially from low passenger boardings.

Council Member Burroughs questioned whether pressure is put on operators not to call in problems or to get buses back in service in a timeframe that does not amount to a chargeable incident. Mr. Burroughs also asked if operator and mechanic representatives at the Sector level are involved in identifying cost reductions. Michael Davis responded that he was not aware of what discussions take place with Division Managers during the decision-making process.

Council Member Burroughs asked if incidents of vandalism had gone down. Michael Davis said he was not sure, but believes that the increased visibility of the Sheriff's Department Ride-Along program has had a positive impact.

Several Council Members questioned why Division 7 consistently ranks last in the "How You Doin'?" Program." Chair Gross suggested that discussion take place with David Armijo.

Council Member Robinson requested the exact performance numbers for each Division in the "How You Doin'?" Program in order to see if a Division is improving or how close they are to each other.

Michael Davis explained that the anticipated overruns in workers' compensation, fuel and direct labor associated with maintenance would total approximately \$2.1 million. Other Sector Support is \$1.9 million over budget year-to-date.

3. RECEIVED report on Community Relations from Jody Litvak, Community Relations Manager

Jody Litvak reported that the draft EIR for the new transportation division on Jefferson went out in late October for comments through December 21. Selected individuals from the neighboring area were invited to tour a transportation facility operated by Long Beach Transit on November 6, 2004. The facility was very clean and modern. The Design Review Committee mandated by Director Yvonne Burke is continuing to meet. Outreach efforts also continue. Recent presentations have been made to the Empowerment Congress West Neighborhood Council; Culver City Council and the Blair Hills Homeowners' Association. The EIR will go back to the Board in early 2005. Councilman Ludlow spoke at the Bahai Center at La Cienega and Rodeo formally indicating his opposition to the project and offering some alternative proposals.

West Hollywood Division 7 improvements are underway. They will include replacing pavement in the yard, new hoists and remodeling the transportation building. Staff is working closely with the City of West Hollywood and has purchased all the metered space in front of the building for layover use. Notices have been delivered to the neighbors; work will continue through June.

The City Council voted to make permanent the peak hour dedicated bus lane in West Los Angeles. Staff is working with Los Angeles County and also with the City of Santa Monica regarding extending the lane.

Staff is also working with Los Angeles City Councilman Jack Weiss' office regarding two layover space issues. In Westwood, a large number of buses layover on the west side of Veteran, next to the Federal Building creating traffic and potential safety issues. In Century City, the MGM Tower includes an off-street layover zone, but the agreement between MTA, City of Los Angeles and building owner/developer is still being finalized. It is critical to get this resolved by the end of the year. In January the shopping center will be remodeling and taking over traffic lanes to set up a crane.

Week before last, Sector Staff attended the West Hollywood Transportation Commission to introduce Sector General Manager David Armijo and Division 7 Transportation Manager Yvonne Brewer-Smith,

Ms. Litvak also noted that Mayor Hahn would be bringing a motion to the MTA Board next week regarding Line 787, the Metro Rapid Line that had originally been proposed to run from Pasadena to Hollywood and down Fairfax to the West Los Angeles Transit Center. It was decided, for now, that an alternate Rapid, Line 780, would run between Pasadena and Hollywood. Mayor Hahn has questions and concerns about how that decision was made.

Roy Gandara explained that the Governance Council did not pass a motion that would have authorized implementation of the originally proposed 787 Line only if local 217 service on Fairfax would not be impacted. They then did pass a motion to implement the full 787 Line and corresponding cutback to local 217 service. They further directed staff to monitor and report back regarding changes to the 217. If this did not work out as planned, there would be adjustments in June 2005. The Council also expressed concerns about the ability of the 787 Line to stay on schedule through such a long route traveling through highly congested areas of Los Feliz, Hollywood and Fairfax. They further noted the impacts of frequent street and lane closures due to special events in Hollywood.

As the route would be planned and scheduled out of the San Gabriel Valley, Chair Gross did attend the San Gabriel Valley Governance Council meeting to express the concerns of the Westside/Central Governance Council. Subsequently, an MTA decision to shorten the route took into account many of the Council's concerns. It was decided that the line would go from Hollywood and Vine to Pasadena City College. There was no time to bring this alternative back to the council if the change was to be implemented in December. Chair Gross noted that when the Council acted on the original service changes proposed by staff, the timing was such that the decision had to be made that day in order to make the December schedule changes.

4. RECEIVED report on Service Policy Standards by Isaac Lim, Transportation Planning Manager

Mr. Lim reported that service in the Sectors is audited to monitor progress and to identify possible improvements. The Westside has the highest compliance rate of all Sectors. Many of the lines are top performers.

Possible improvement areas in Westside/Central include: bus stop spacing and passenger loading.

Council Member Capone-Newton asked if there is a fixed timeline seeking 100% compliance by a certain date. Mr. Lim responded that at present it is more of a guideline to assist in reaching a goal. A fixed timeline will be considered in the future. He added that the 220 Line is the only one in the Westside/Central Sector that does not comply with the new minimum 30-minute headway.

5. RECEIVED report on Service Policy Requirement Compliance from Roy Gandara, Service Development Manager

Roy Gandara explained that the policy was adopted in 1986 and revised in 1993 to coincide with the opening of the rail. In 2003 work was begun on a new service policy to encompass changes in the operating environment, implementation of Service Sectors and an emphasis on MTA's regional role. The new policy will go to the Board for adoption in January 2005.

Council Member Capone-Newton asked if "next bus" data is included in the new policy. Mr. Gandara will check and respond at the next meeting.

Mr. Gandara covered areas highlighting Westside/Central compliance with Transit Service Policy criteria. The focus in 2006 will be on service improvements, Metro Connections and new service implementation within budget constraints. Staff will also look at bus stop spacing and elimination of duplicative service. Will return in January to set February public hearing for June 2005 service changes.

6. Chair's Remarks - None

Council Member Remarks

Council Member Robinson commented regarding consideration and approval of service changes for this December. One change that was not focused on very much was the elimination of Line 576 that went through the Westside.

Mr. Robinson requested that the Council be made specifically aware of proposed changes to all lines running through the Westside Sector, even those for which the Westside Sector is not responsible.

Council Member Burroughs asked if the operators would be represented on the Division 6 Design Advisory Group. Jody Litvak responded that the Design Advisory Group is a community group intended to advise on the exterior aesthetic of the building. There is also an internal design team that includes people from Maintenance and Operations.

Council Member Capone-Newton commented that the ATMS system is in place on some Line 20 buses, and that it is impressive. He asked if the information could also be provided in Spanish and the scheduled roll out for the system. Staff will provide an update on ATMS.

7. RECEIVED Public Comment

Kevin Devlin

Ken Rubin – offered condolences to the family of Helen Ann Johnson on behalf of the Southern California Transit Advocates

Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Michele Jackson, Council Secretary