

Friday, March 11, 2005 – 9:30 A.M.

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# Minutes

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation  
Authority

## **SOUTH BAY SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

Carson Community Center  
801 E. Carson Street  
Carson, CA 90745

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Called to Order at 9:40 A.M.

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Council Members present:

Terisa Price, Chair  
John McTaggart, Vice Chair  
John Addleman  
Margaret Hudson  
Lou Mitchell  
Curren Price  
Howard Sachar

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Officers:

Dana Coffey, General Manager  
Rich Morallo, Community Relations Manager  
Sharon Sterling, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Metro**

1. Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Contact

Mr. Craig Smith cautioned everyone to keep their heads up, eyes open and moving due to all of the traffic and equipment inside and outside of the division.

2. PRESENTATION of safety award certificate by Dana M. Coffey, General Manager, Metro South Bay.

PRESENTED safety certificate to Ronald Smith, 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Leapwood Avenue Elementary School.

3. APPROVED Minutes of February 11, 2005 Council Meeting.

4. RECEIVED briefing on the Metro Connections Project by Nancy Michali, Director Service Performance & Analysis, Transit Operations Support Services Department.

Ms. Michali reported that since the last Metro Connections update in October, 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 include 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. They have also suggested that the agency market and coordinate bus and rail schedules more effectively. Customers have rated the system with a "C" grade.

Mr. Sachar commented that it would be wise to do a comparative analysis to similar transit organizations. Ms. Michali stated that an analysis was done at the beginning comparing cities such as Seattle, Portland and San Diego.

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.

Ms. Price commented that Metro Connections would provide opportunities for public comment in the future. It is wonderful to have service partners that meet monthly to share a regional perspective for the agencies to operate more cost effectively.

5. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED UNDER RECONSIDERATION:

- a. findings of the February 22, 2005 Public Hearing; and
- b. adopting the following specific Metro South Bay bus service changes for implementation in Fiscal Year 2006 effective June 26, 2005 or later.

**Line 107 (54<sup>th</sup> St -- Fairview Bl.):** defer reaffirmation of cancellation until the MTA Board considers a motion later this month.

**Line 115 (Manchester Av. -- Firestone Bl.):** straightline the route in Westchester on Manchester Ave. between Loyola Bl. and Emerson Ave. with the exception of school trippers.

**Line 202 (Willowbrook – Compton – Wilmington):** cancel midday service but continue to provide 30-minute peak period service between Rosa Parks Station and the Del Amo Blue Line Station.

**Line 205 (Willowbrook – Harbor City – San Pedro):** no change, keep existing route in San Pedro with south terminal at 13<sup>th</sup>/Gaffey.

**Line 207/357 (Western Av. – 120<sup>th</sup> St.):** two recommendations: (1) interline some Line 207/357 trips with local Line 204 (Vermont Ave.) to reduce service on Garfield Place; and (2) eliminate all service between Imperial/Western and the Harbor Green Line Station.

**Line 211/215 (Prairie Av./Inglewood Av.):** cancel midday service and add service in the peak periods to provide 30-minute frequency.

**Line 225/226 (Palos Verdes Peninsula):** transfer service operations to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority (PVPTA).

**Line 305 (Crosstown Bus from Rosa Parks Station to Westwood):** continue to provide service 7 days a week, but reduce service levels to 30-minute peak frequency and 40 to 60 minutes non-peak.

**Line 357 (Western Ave. Limited):** continue to operate service until December 2005 or later, then cancel with implementation of Western Metro Rapid (staff to return with an update prior to cancellation).

**Line 439 (L.A. – LAX – Redondo Beach):** no changes recommended until identification of adequate replacement service.

**Line 442 (L.A. – Manchester Av. – Hawthorne Bl. Express):** continue to operate existing schedule and conduct marketing campaign to promote the service.

**Line 711 (Florence Av. Metro Rapid):** extend service in December 2005 to LAX Transit Center via La Brea Ave. and Century Bl. (staff to return with an update prior to implementation).

**Line 757 (Western Av. Rapid Bus):** implement new Rapid service in December 2005 or later (staff to return with an update prior to implementation).

Public Comment:

Pat Holmes stated Line 205 stops on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 6 blocks away from Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Anthony Ford stated that it was great no change will be made on Line 439. He asked Council to vote on Line 107 today.

Lionel Jones expressed concern regarding the transfer of Line 225/226 to PVPTA because the transit agency's fare is \$2.00 and the MTA pass is not accepted. He asked that the Sector make fare arrangements prior to final approval. He thanked the Sector for their diligent efforts on the San Pedro issue.

Fredrick Davis stated Line 107 and 211 service is needed to transport elderly customers to the senior citizen center.

Dorothy Weiss-Carver commented that there are approximately 74 buses a day traveling on 13<sup>th</sup> Street in San Pedro. This is a residential street and over a two-week period, more than 200 empty buses pass by. She wants fewer and smaller buses assigned to the route.

Jan Scott wants information on who to petition next to remove the buses from 13<sup>th</sup> Street in San Pedro.

Apostle Coe complained that Line 107 comments were not included in the staff report.

Ms. Price stated that the decision on Line 107 was deferred until next month due to the Ludlow Motion.

Mary Waters stated that the most recent route change on Line 107 does not serve the community.

Francisca Porchas expected a conversation from the Council on Line 107. She expects the Council to play a leadership role at the MTA Board meeting regarding the service changes in South Bay.

Lisa Adles expected the Council to comment on Line 107 instead of sending the decision back to the MTA Board like a ping-pong game. She asked that the Council take public comment seriously.

Mark Anthony Johnson stated that it is unacceptable for the Council to be hiding behind a parliamentary process relative to Line 107 and the other service changes. The Gateway Cities Service Sector Council is writing a letter to the MTA Board. He states that the South Bay Service Council should do likewise.

Norman P. Hobson stated that the bus system does not serve the needs of the riders (letter submitted).

Dean Shettle has ridden Line 439 six or seven times since the public hearing. He suggested that when taking a count, more attention be paid to boarding than alighting passengers. He commended the work done by the bus operators.

Syvoko Bryant requested restoration of Line 107 service.

Debra Macko appreciated the decision to maintain the Line 439 service. She stated that some of the bus stops are similar to those in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. This limits travel appeal for many people since there are no benches and shelters. The bus stops need to be improved. She asked that the two stops that were eliminated be restored.

William Leggett was happy that there were no changes on Line 439.

Devon Deming thanked the Council for continuing Line 439. She stated that service delays at the Green Line Station need to be addressed. She waited for an extended period and eventually had to call someone to pick her up.

Michael Bazemore expressed appreciation that Line 442 was not cancelled. He stated that the line needs more marketing and regular bus drivers. Many of the drivers are unfamiliar with the route.

Mario Virorio stated that he expects the Council to make a fair decision regarding Line 107.

Ms. Price stated that after the Public Hearing process last year, the Council voted to cancel Line 107 in June 2004. Since then, there was public outcry to reinstate the service. At the Operations Committee meeting in February, Director Ludlow introduced a motion to address the issue. The Council is reinvestigating the service needs/options and will report to the Operations Committee. Action will be taken on Line 107 in April.

Ms. Price stated there would be no reductions on Line 439 at this time; however, 17 boardings an hour will not keep the service alive. Although the Council recognizes the problems, the needs of the community are not being adequately met. It costs \$110 an hour to operate the service and this is not cost effective. LADOT alternatives are being reviewed.

Mr. McTaggart stated that bus shelters were installed in Rancho Palos Verdes and the City of El Segundo should be able to do the same. He plans to attend the next El Segundo meeting and recommends that the residents attend also.

Ms. Hudson expressed concern regarding the fare disparity when PVPTA starts operating Line 225/226.

Ms. Price stated that PVPTA is reviewing the possibility of accepting the EZ pass. They would have to enter an MOU with MTA.

Mr. McTaggart indicated that all of the comments would be presented to the MTA Board.

J. K. Drummond stated that the Council should refuse to contribute 10% to support the Orange Line. He requested that Council ask PVPTA to accept the EZ pass. Staff should invite First Transit to the Council meeting. Seniors on the Move in San Pedro was not well publicized.

6. RECEIVED Chair's Remarks

No further comments

7. RECEIVED report of General Manager

Ms. Coffey stated that Metro South Bay would continue to review service to improve efficiency. They will work with the community and other municipal operators to provide the best possible service.

Ludlow Motion that the Board direct staff to report back at the March meeting regarding Line 107. Council will make a decision in April.

Line 439 is a very long route and in fairness to the operators they are providing the best service possible. The route will not be abandoned without replacement service. The Sector is considering using smaller buses in residential areas.

Staff has met with the BRU, and Ms. Coffey reminded them that they could call the Sector office at any time.

Ms. Price commented that the Council has addressed the issues of the San Pedro residents over the last two years and service was moved from one street to another. The change from Averill Ave. was made against her best judgment as an attempt to compromise with Councilmember Janice Hahn's office. Then the 13<sup>th</sup> Street residents complained. Their requests have not been ignored, however, it may be necessary for the buses to remain there.

8. RECEIVED Public Comment

June Saleman is a San Pedro Community Development liaison and they have formed the San Pedro Transit Advocates. The first meeting was February 15.

George Hoopes stated Line 125 is consistently late on the entire route and more layover time is needed in El Segundo. Schedules are never on the bus. More turnaround time is needed on Line 439.

Lionel Jones stated that the Harbor Transitway drivers are inconsistent with checking for express fare. This causes confusion.

Councilmember Comments:

Ms. Mitchell commented that she learned a lot from the public comment and appreciated the interaction between Council, staff and the public to resolve issues.

Ms. Price commented that the rail system is easier to keep on schedule than the bus system, which has the challenge of traffic congestion.

Mr. Addleman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their comments on the proposed service changes, especially Line 107. He will contact the South Bay Council of Governments regarding the amenities for the City of El Segundo.

Mr. McTaggart requested report next month on the progress of getting a Transit Center in San Pedro.

**Next Meeting:**

**Saturday, April 16, 2005 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Arthur Winston Division**

**5425 Van Ness Ave**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Adjourned at 11:25 a.m.



Prepared by: Sharon Sterling