

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

6:30-8:30 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: 6:30 p.m.

Council Members present:

Brad Robinson, Vice Chair
Greg Fischer
Carol Gross
Joyce Perkins
Glenn Rosten
Anny Semonco
Jerard Wright

Officers:

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



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. RECEIVED **Public Comment** for items not on the agenda

Ken Ruben, Southern California Transit Advocates
Complained about a fairly empty Line 720 bus going westbound at Wilshire and Fairfax, which would not pick up any passengers. Although, the next bus arrived 8 minutes later, it was not good customer service.

Mr. Ruben also noted that he attended the annual Service Sector Meet and Confer, and felt that the Council Members asked very relevant questions.

2. APPROVED **Minutes** from March 7, 2006

3. RECEIVED **General Managers Report**

- Mr. Armijo reported that February **Performance Indicators** are consistent with last month's numbers – The sector is still seeing the same success with regard to workers' compensation and complaints. On-time performance continues to lag. An agency-wide committee, to be headed by Jack Gabig, has been formed to address the on-time performance issue.

- **Budget FY07**

Underruns in overtime and workers' compensation and a reduction of 58 employees will result in a \$7.4 million reduction in next year's budget allocation.

Council Member Gross asked if there has been improved attendance and reduced overtime as a result of fewer workers' compensation claims. Staff responded that in 1999 there were 3,700 claims vs. only 1200 active claims agency wide in February 2006. Dave Armijo credited the Safety's First Program and a lower accident rate. Division 6 has gone a full year without a lost-time accident. He added that due to the shortage of operators, the impact is not seen in terms of a reduction in overtime.

Will promote 200 part-time operators and add more full time equivalent operators. This will give the operators a raise and save the agency in overtime costs. Contract changes are being sought in the current labor negotiations, which should allow for more successful recruitment efforts next year.

Council Member Robinson asked if promoting operators from part-time to full-time would increase benefit costs to the agency. Mr. Armijo responded affirmatively, explaining that part-timers receive benefits for themselves; full-time employees receive benefits for their families also. That cost is still lower than paying overtime.

- **Service Changes** for June 2006

There are currently 4 articulated buses on the Wilshire Rapid 720 Line. By the end of July, 100% of the buses on this line will be articulated.

No additional hours or service will be put on Fairfax at this time, and the start-up of the Santa Monica Rapid Line will be delayed for one year.

- Options for possible changes to align **terms of Council Members** and Officers

Council discussed the options of amending the Bylaws or seeking a 6-month extension to all terms.

Council Member Rosten spoke in favor of the latter option, as that would also allow enough time for members to learn enough to actually become valuable to the sector.

Mr. Armijo will draft a staff report for the Board and bring it back next month for further discussion. It was also noted that this might be a good topic for discussion at the next Meet and Confer.

Mr. Armijo commented on the large number of emails received during the last days before the Meet and Confer. He suggested that the Council Chairs might want to discuss a date for next year's meeting in order to get it calendared ahead of time, especially since there was an interest in inviting Board Members.

4. RECEIVED update on **Metro Connections and Ridership** - Roderick Goldman, Deputy Executive Officer Operations

Rod Goldman said Metro Connections is now in the network design process, during which the sectors look at the design of the system, select corridors and the way they should be linked with various hubs. TMD, the consultant hired to assist with the process, has set up 3 meetings per sector. The first round of meetings took place last month, when the sectors started outlining their own proposals. A second round of meetings will be held in April to look at the proposals in greater detail, followed by a series of sector workshops to help shape the networks.

Discussions have also been held with LADOT regarding service in the downtown Los Angeles area. The intent is to improve service that goes to, through and around downtown.

By the end of May staff hopes to complete a draft of the network plans and bring those back to the Councils in June and then to the Board. That will be followed by the resource plan, which will determine how much service will be required to operate the networks.

Council Member Wright asked what has been discussed with LADOT regarding downtown service. Roy Gandara responded that Metro has a lot of service taking people to downtown. We would now like to tie that service into hub areas such as Union Station, 7th and Metro and the Staples Center area. LADOT is also doing a study of their downtown DASH service. To date, discussions have only been about the concept.

Council Member Robinson requested a timeline for Metro Connections in written or graph form and a study session to allow for Council input. Roy Gandara noted that the workshops would provide the opportunity for input from the Council as well as the public.

Council Member Robinson asked that Matt Raymond publicize the meetings.

Ridership – Matt Raymond reported growth in ridership on bus and rail over the past year.

Increase in rail ridership February 2006 vs. February 2005

Blue Line up 15%

Red Line up 13%

Green Line up 15%

Gold Line up 3%

Staff is now attempting to determine the cause of the increase. Some contributing factors are increased marketing efforts and gas prices. Implementation of the Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley has also had a positive impact on the Red Line.

Bus ridership is up 9.5% across the board over the same time period. Ridership on the top 20 lines has either remained constant or increased. The Orange Line has also positively impacted several other bus lines on Van Nuys and Sepulveda in the San Fernando Valley.

Ridership on lines operating out of the Westside in December 2005 was 270,000 boardings per weekday. Now in December 2006 it is over 311,000.

5. RECEIVED report on **Transit Services Policy** - Isaac Lim, Service Planning and Development, Transportation Planning Manager

Isaac Lim reported that the Transit Services Policy, which was adopted in September 2003, is designed to guide the decision-making during the service change process. It was last amended in September 2005 as a result of the Special Master's order. The current update incorporates the final order as it relates to minimum span and frequency of service, exception provisions for span and frequency (5 lines), reallocation limits when initiating new Rapids and bus stop guidelines. Next steps are on-going stakeholder review, briefing Sector Governance Councils, and preparing the Board Report for approval in July.

Council Member Robinson requested a copy of the draft policy when it is finalized.

6. RECEIVED report on Governance Council Change of **Meeting Day and Time** - Jody Litvak, Regional Community Relations Manager

Jody Litvak reported that Wednesday of the first or second week of the month seems

to work for everyone, but time remains an issue.

Council Member Rosten asked about holding meetings at Division 7. Ms. Litvak responded that there isn't really a good meeting room at that location.

After considerable discussion, the decision was made to hold meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. Scheduled next meeting for May 10, 2006 at 5 p.m. subject to comment from Chair Capone-Newton.

7. RECEIVED report on **Metro Communications Plan** - Matt Raymond, Executive Officer of Communications

Matt Raymond reported that his department is working on a 3-year communications plan which will focus on Metro Connections and TAP to promote ridership. He also announced the formation of cross-sectional support teams to assist the community relations representative assigned to each sector as sector needs become more complex.

Council Member Perkins asked what is the Council's role in community outreach? Mr. Raymond responded, basically what you are doing now with the monthly meetings and workshops. Mr. Raymond also added that he has a group within his department that handles all the large events, i.e., openings.

Council Member Rosten asked if they interface with governmental agencies. Mr. Raymond responded affirmatively. Mr. Rosten reported seeing vans parked on Wilshire when they could be parked in a driveway. He expressed concern about impact to the Rapids. Matt Raymond indicated he would look into the matter.

Council Member Robinson requested something in writing explaining the role of Matt Raymond and his staff.

Council Member Rosten requested a complete company hierarchy.

Council Member Gross mentioned that some sectors have requested their own marketing budgets. Mr. Raymond said there is a \$20,000 budget for the sectors to spend for their local needs, e.g. sponsorships, memberships to chambers, etc.

Council Member Semonco asked if there had been any discussion of putting service change information on the TV's inside the buses. Matt Raymond said that was a good idea and the meetings could be promoted in the same way.

8. Council Member's Remarks

Council Member Rosten reiterated his desire to mitigate the parking situation on Wilshire. Dave Armijo said staff would draft a letter to LADOT and LASD. Council Member Rosten asked to see the draft.

Adjourned at 8 p.m.

Mehle Jackson
