

Thursday, May 11, 2006 – 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 2:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Wally Shidler (Vice Chair)
George Bass
Jo Ann Eros-Delgado
Cheri Kelley
Owen Newcomer
Samuel Peña
Vincent Torres

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
Michelle Chau, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro[™]

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Called
3. Self Introductions

METRO CONNECTIONS WORKSHOP

4. RECEIVED & **Commented** on Metro Connections Workshop.

Mr. Sieckert stated that the purpose of Metro Connections is to develop a master plan for restructuring the Metro bus system. Some of the goals of the project include increasing ridership and improving operating efficiency. He provided an overview of service guiding principles, regional activity centers and travel flow, sub-regional centers, potential point-to-point services, Downtown plan, key elements and milestones, current status, and next steps. He also noted that one aim of Metro Connections is to ensure that local, Rapid, and Express services provide links between major activity centers.

Full implementation of Metro Connections is scheduled to occur in June 2009. Mr. Sieckert reviewed preliminary routing proposals for the Gateway Cities Sector. He mentioned that an update on additional changes and specific proposals on lines running through the San Gabriel Valley and Gateway Cities Sectors will be provided next month.

Proposed route changes impact the following Lines: 18, 26-51-52-352, 45-46, 53-753, 55, 60-760, 62, 65, 66-366, 102, 105-705, 127, 128, 200, 254, 265, 266, 270, 275, and 612.

Staff is completing the final round of Sector workshops. Board approval of the master plan will take place in July or August

Councilmember Bass noted that some Line numbers which were mentioned during the presentation are not shown on the slide. Mr. Sieckert stated that Lines which are not impacted by the proposed route changes (e.g., Line 130) are not included in the handout.

REGULAR GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING

5. APPROVED **Minutes** of April 13, 2006 Council Meeting.

6. RECEIVED **Report** from General Manager.

- Budget & Performance – Mr. Clifford reported that the end of the fiscal year is approaching. He reviewed the YTD budget variances as of March 2006. A negative variance in the area of Non-Labor represents a Sector-wide trend and is driven primarily by increasing fuel costs. An overrun in Allocated Accounts is attributable to PL/PD, or reserves and settlements from accidents. YTD actuals in the areas of Workers' Compensation costs, New Workers' Compensation Indemnity Claims per 200,000 Exposure Hours, and Complaints are below the YTD target. Bus Traffic Accidents per 100,000 Hub Miles and Passenger Accidents per 100,000 Boardings are above the YTD target. Performance in the latter two areas may be correlated. On-Time Performance continues to be strong.

Mr. Clifford announced that as of June 2006, the union will lift restrictions imposed on part-time bus operators, which will allow them to work longer hours if receiving overtime pay.

Councilmember Shidler asked if any improvements are being made to the hiring progression for operators.

Mr. Clifford responded that MTA staff is attempting to resolve this issue, and announced that Metro's Director of HR will present to the council next month.

He congratulated Division1 operator Sammy Morales for his outstanding performance at the 2006 APTA International Bus Rodeo held April 30. Mr. Clifford mentioned that the annual Sector presentation to the MTA Board is tentatively scheduled to take place on June 22.

He announced that the Gateway Cities Council of Governments recently re-appointed Council members Owen and Peña to serve another term on the Council. The terms of Councilmembers Soto and Eros-Delgado will expire in July this year, and the Gateway Cities COG is accepting applications for these two positions, with a vote scheduled for their June meeting.

The FY07 budget was presented to the MTA Board this past week. The budget will be adopted at a later time.

Councilmember Shidler noted that the Finance and Budget Committee will hold a public hearing on the proposed FY07 budget sometime next week.

- INTRODUCED New Service Development Manager Hassan Fakhro, who will be replacing Dan Nguyen. Also introduced new Assistant Transportation Manager Dan Dryden.

- INTRODUCED new citizen governance council member, George Bass.

7. RECEIVED **Update** on Line 612 – Mike Sieckert & Lt. Melva Mitchell.

Mr. Sieckert reported that the proposed Line 612 route change was approved at the last Council meeting, under the condition that monthly status reports are provided on boardings and alightings. He stated that the fare evasion problem has stopped and that boardings on the line have been light. A report will be provided next month with more information on ridership.

Councilmember Kelley asked about the Line's hours of operation.

Mr. Sieckert responded that the Line runs from approximately 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Councilmember Kelley asked about the number of women housed at the County Detention Center.

Lt. Mitchell responded that approximately 2,100 to 2,200 women are housed at this facility.

Councilmember Kelley asked if inmates are released daily, and inquired about the approximate distance from the facility to Imperial Hwy.

Lt. Mitchell responded that inmates are released daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The facility is about 1 block from Imperial Hwy.

Councilmember Peña requested more information on the number of riders impacted. Councilmember Kelley stated that this information is necessary to determine if the changes are justified. Councilmember Eros-Delgado questioned why the inmates couldn't walk the 1 block to Imperial Hwy.

Lt. Mitchell responded that the decision to modify the route was not one that LASD made. She remarked that she did not know the history of the changes and that Supervisor Burke's office initially requested that the changes be implemented.

Councilmember Shidler expressed concern about possible delays caused by trucks traveling on Industry Way.

Mr. Clifford stated that staff will need to collect more information over the next 60 days and come back with a report in July.

8. RECEIVED & FILED **Update** on Line 577- Mike Sieckert.

Mr. Sieckert reported that in March, staff requested that Line 577 be detoured due to a secondary roadway breaking up at the VA Hospital. As a result, a new layover area was established on 7th St. at the existing bus stop for this Line. Staff is working with hospital management to discuss the possibility of resuming bus service directly to the hospital via another route.

9. RECEIVED & FILED **Update** on Line 26 – Mike Sieckert.

Mr. Sieckert stated that last December, service levels on Line 26 were reduced along Franklin and Hillhurst Avenues due to low ridership and poor line performance. Because of service duplication by the DASH bus, which is operated by the City of Los Angeles, most riders were not adversely impacted by the changes. However, a small group of riders indicated that they did not have transit options early in the morning since the DASH route did not begin operating as early as Line 26. As a result, a total of five early morning trips were retained on weekdays to accommodate these riders. This action was considered a temporary step as staff was in discussions with the City of Los Angeles to determine its interest in accommodating the early morning riders. After several on-going field checks, the first early morning trip was eliminated due to low ridership. Staff now recommends that service be eliminated on the other four trips due to low demand. The City of Los Angeles declined to provide earlier trips on their line due to low rider demand. Mr. Sieckert stated that at the June Council meeting, staff will recommend formal approval to eliminate shuttle operation on Line 26 effective with the June 2006 Shakeup. Passenger notices will be distributed later this month.

Councilmember Newcomer suggested that the passenger notices state that the changes are being recommended or proposed since the Council has not officially approved them.

Mr. Sieckert stated that staff will make this correction.

Councilmember Shidler asked if there is data on where passengers are boarding on Franklin Ave.

Mr. Sieckert responded that riders are not concentrated at any one stop.

Councilmember Bass asked if any handicapped passengers ride this Line.

Mr. Clifford responded affirmatively, and noted that some senior citizens may be able to use Access Services, Inc.

10. RECEIVED **Oral Report** on Public Hearing for proposed December '06 service changes – Mike Sieckert.

Mr. Sieckert stated that staff will come back to the Council in June with a public hearing notice which details the lines that will be impacted. A public hearing will be held in August for the proposed December 2006 service changes. Council members discussed their preferences regarding holding the regular Council meeting on the same day as the public hearing. Mr. Clifford suggested that staff come back next month with a menu of options regarding when the meetings will be held.

11. Chairperson's Remarks – none.

12. Council Member's Remarks:

Councilmember Newcomer announced that the Whittier Founders Day celebration is taking place this Saturday.

Councilmember Kelley welcomed the two new Sector employees and Councilmember Bass.

13. Consideration of Items not posted on the Agenda – none.

14. Public Comment on Items not posted on the Agenda:

Philip Cupo, transit user, expressed concern about splitting Line 266 into three routes. He suggested adding late night service to the Line, and stated that owl service should not be run by Long Beach Transit. He mentioned the need for better coordination between the MTA and municipal providers in scheduling public

hearing dates and providing night services. In addition, he noted that regarding Line 26 changes, passengers may have difficulty walking from Franklin Ave. to Hollywood Blvd. as some areas may be hilly.

Mark Strickert, Southern California Transit Advocates, stated cutting back service on the 270 Line will result in a lack of connection between downtown Whittier and the Rio Hondo College area. He added that municipal operators do not run late service. Mr. Strickert asked staff if there are plans to convert Line 366 into a Rapid line.

Mr. Sieckert responded that staff is only in the process of developing a route network. It may be possible to implement peak-only service on the Line.

Councilmember Shidler stated that proposed changes to Line 270 will be addressed at the next meeting.

ADJOURNED at 3:55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Chau".

Michele Chau
Council Secretary