

Thursday, July 12, 2007 – 2:00 p.m.

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# MINUTES

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

## GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Gas Company  
9240 Firestone Blvd.  
Downey, CA 90241

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Called to Order at 2:00 p.m.

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### Council Members Present:

Jo Ann Eros-Delgado (Chair)  
Cheri Kelley (Vice Chair)  
Wally Shidler  
George Bass  
Larry R. Nelson  
Owen Newcomer  
Samuel Peña

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### Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager  
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Metro**

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call – Council Secretary Raynard Price called the roll. Absent were Representatives Vincent Torres and Harley Rubenstein.
3. Self Introductions – Introduction of all those present were made.
4. Passing of the Gavel Ceremony. Representative Jo Ann Eros-Delgado assumed Chair. She presented former Chair, Wally Shidler, with a plaque for his outstanding service that included his gavel.
5. **Received Public Comment.** Rafi Katzir presented suggestions to various line changes.
6. APPROVED **Minutes** of June 14, 2007 Council Meeting with the following corrections: **Lyndale should be Lindale** and Representative Kelley's name should be corrected.
7. **Received** oral report, and possible action, on oral report from General Manager

- **FY07 Budget & Performance Update**

Labor is operating with an unfavorable budget variance of (\$4.2M), which includes contract wages (\$1.5M) and fringe benefits (\$3.2M). This is partially offset by a favorable variance in non-work time accounts \$623K. Non-labor is operating with a favorable variance of \$1.9M because of savings in the fuel area. Additionally, PL/PD Liability is operating with a \$2.7M favorable variable and Workers' Compensation is under budget with a \$1.2M favorable variance.

In the Support Departments, Transit Operations is currently running a favorable variance of \$12,949, composed of an unfavorable variance due to unexpected labor charge of (\$339,936) related to major repairs done at the Regional Rebuild Center for buses involved in bus traffic accidents and accounting mischarges which is offset by favorable variance of \$379,380 in the non-labor account which is a result of an under-run in stops and zones charges, security and the Michelin tire lease. The mischarges are being corrected and should be finalized in the final FY'07 year end budget closing, which will be reported in August of 2007.

In the Workers' Comp area, the overall level of claims is slightly above budget but the severity of the claims has decreased.

Traffic Accidents YTD are 4.03, which is above the 3.50 target, passenger accidents are at 0.20 below 0.22 target, customer complaints are 1.78 well below the target, and In Service On Time Performance (ISOTP) is at 67.9% which is below the target.

In comparison with other four sectors, new charts were presented showing the following results of GWC's performances:

- The lowest in New Workers' Comp claims
- Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Bus Traffic Accidents
- The lowest in Customer Complaints
- Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in ISOTP
- Very low customer service complaints in the last 13 months

Mr. Clifford attributed the high ISOTP comparative ranking to the quality of bus operators, quality of service development team and the excellence in street supervision. He also informed the council of a new safety awareness program that includes reward dollars and

safety awareness messages that are being distributed to operators on all shifts. It is hoped that this safety campaign will lower the accident rate in FY2008.

Mr. Clifford shared with council members public commendations received for the following Operators: Drew L. Fowlkes (twice), Shemikea L. Robinson, Oscar R. Torres (twice), Francisco Guzman, Jose A. Pulgarin, and Regina Marin and her supervisor who were acknowledged for creating a safe, quality, caring and supportive atmosphere for customers.

- Update on Metro Connections Meetings – No update provided.
- Update on Artesia Blue Line Station – Mike Sieckert on options to increase parking capacity. One option is to lease space from one of the businesses nearby. A church property located at corner of Artesia and Acacia on the same block as the station. Church officials have indicated some interest in leasing the space. Staff is also working with the nearby casino owners to see if they will reopen their gate and possibly to explore leasing parking space.
- Update on Line 760 – Hassan Fakhro updated the council on the signal issues affecting Line 760. He indicated that Los Angeles County provided the signal plans to the city of Lynwood, who has not approved the plans yet. It is hoped that the plans will be approved, and by the end of the month the cities of South Gate and Compton should approve the plans with Huntington Park being the last city by late August.
- Update on Council Request for High Visibility of Public Hearing Notice. Mike Sieckert informed the council staff placed an add in Section B (California Section) with the Metro Logo announcing a public hearing with details in the classified section.
- Discussion on Adding Bio's to GC Website – Mr. Clifford stated he is updating the website to provide more information and resources. He suggested that the site include individual Bio's of council members with pictures. MOTION was made to direct staff to update the website with Council Member's bio and individual pictures. MOTION was unanimously passed.

8. **Received** oral report, and possible action on Update on June 21 Operations Committee:

- South Bay 442 Line – Wally Shidler updated council on the length of line 442 and the voting decisions that took place during the MTA full board meeting. Mr. Clifford explained the motion was to provide a one-time continuation of Line 442 for a period one year at FY07 service levels with an allocation of \$332,000 in funding and that the line is to be marketed in an effort to increase ridership with quarterly reporting. He also said, the motion carried a stipulation that ridership must increase to a 60% capacity.
- Update on Antonovich Motion – Mr. Clifford explained the Board adopted the transfer of three FTE's (Community Relations) from the Communication Department to Operations and ½ FTE from Rail for a total of 3 ½ FTEs. Also, a budget of \$225,000 for focused marketing guided by the five general managers, CEO, COO and CCO. Line 442 will be the first project. Each sector will come up with additional marketing plans. Mr. Nelson asked and received clarification concerning Mr. Hershenson's status and that is that Mr. Hershenson will not be full time to the Gateway Service Sector.

9. **Received** oral report, and possible action on Update on Senior Fares and zone charges – Dave Hershenson provided a chart to explain the Senior Fares to clarify the confusion of the Senior Fare zone charges structure. He also explained the minimum age for seniors is age 62 but the new 25 cents off peak fair is age 65 and older. Mr. Hershenson that the MTA is offering a grace period for when the new fair goes into affect. He also said students do not

pay zone fares if they have monthly passes. Mr. Clifford congratulated, Dave Hershenson, Mike Sieckert and Hassan Fakhro for providing a matrix on a short notice on the fair changes which was placed on every bus within a short turnaround resulting in very few customer disputes on the fair change. Representative Pena questioned what the MTA was doing to provide buy down information for senior citizens. Mr. Hershenson will look into how cities are providing this information. Chair Delgado suggested the Sector website might be a good place to provide links to local cities with information on the senior buy down.

10. **Received** oral report, and possible action on Public Hearing Schedule for Proposed December '07 Service Changes and Approval of Public Hearing Notice – Mike Sieckert reiterated the approved public hearing date of August 9, 2007, 5:00 p.m. at the Gas Company and a second hearing in the sector at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Center on August 7, 2007, 7:00 p.m. Mr. Sieckert provided a presentation listing public hearings in other sectors identifying changes that will affect the Gateway sector. He passed around a copy of the July 1, 2007 advertisement of the public hearing published in the Los Angeles Times.
11. **Received** oral report, and possible action on Norwalk Request to Move Line 62 Short Line Turnaround. Mr. Clifford said that a formal letter was received from the City of Norwalk. The short line is running on detour and is being monitored closely.
12. **Received** oral report, and possible action on Governance Council Member Line Ride Report – Representative Kelley stated she rode the bus on the first day of the rate increase and did not witness any problems on the rate increase. She presented a Power Point report of her ride and noticed only minor issues such as the line dead ending and she was not sure which bus to take next. She enjoyed her ride and found the bus driver to be helpful, the busses where clean and the air conditioning working. Representative Kelley expressed a concern that program routes printed in orange on white paper may be difficult to read.
13. **Received** oral report, and possible action on Notification of Upcoming Line Rides – Alex Clifford indicated that Representative Nelson will be riding Line 130 and reporting on it next month and Representative Torres will be sent an email reminder on riding Line 265 in August and is scheduled to report on that line at the September meeting.
14. **Chairperson's Remarks.** The meeting stayed on time.
15. **Council Member's Remarks.** Each council member congratulated the Chair for her excellent handling of her first meeting. Would like agenized for August and monthly a report on the performance of the 577, ridership, on time performance and if the Orange County Transit Authority strike had any affect on the ridership of the 460 line.

**ADJOURNED at 3:40**



Prepared by: Raynard Price  
Assistant Board Secretary