

Minutes

San Fernando Valley Service Sector
Governance Council

Regular Meeting

Marvin Braude Constituent Svc Center
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Called to Order at 6:48 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Coby King, Chair
Brad Rosenheim, Vice-Chair
Kymberleigh Richards
Richard Arvizu
Joan H. Leonard
Nury Martinez
Jesus R. Ochoa
Marsha Ramos

Officers:

Richard Hunt, General Manager
William Walker, Council Secretary
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro[™]

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
San Fernando Valley Service Sector Governance Council Regular Meeting
Minutes – Wednesday, December 5, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.
2. **APPROVED Minutes** of Regular Governance Council Meetings held on November 7, 2007 and October 5, 2007.
3. **RECEIVED Public Comment:**

Goldy Norton, representing the United Transportation Union (UTU), announced Vic Baffoni, Vice Chairman of the Local Union and Chairman of Local 1608 representing Division 8 will be leaving to become Vice President and Director of the Bus Department of the UTU International Union effective January 1. Knowledgeable in labor contracts, the union and its members will miss Mr. Baffoni. He will be replaced by Aaron Montgomery.

Ray D. Lopez. Suggested that by 2010 Metro Express lines include the North/South Van Nuys bus route and operate with Lines 233 and 761 and Ventura Avenue East/West lines 150 and 750. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rick Rofman. Spoke of the 1955 “Honeymooner’s Show” about Ralph Kramden, a bus driver.

Phillip Johnson II submitted written public comment. Mr. Johnson expressed concerns regarding problems associated with bus routes 237 and 236 during peak hours. He suggested the route start near Victory and Woodley (or Sepulveda) in addition to an alternative suggestion to help increase on time performance. A copy of Mr. Johnson’s concerns and suggestions were distributed to the Governance Council.

Roberta Perez. Representative Jesus R. Ochoa translated. Ms. Perez reported buses that are not charging fare which she says is unfair to users who pay and are affected by the fare increase. She identified the line but has been on several buses where the operator says the fare boxes are broken but later see the operators remove the broken fare signs.

Chair Coby King and General Manager Richard Hunt thanked Ms. Perez and assured her that staff will investigate this major rule violation. Representative Kymberleigh Richards said she is heartened to see a patron make a connection between the fare box and the agency’s revenue

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
San Fernando Valley Service Sector Governance Council Regular Meeting
Minutes – Wednesday, December 5, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

shortfall. Translation was provided to Ms. Perez in the dialogue that continued. Mr. Hunt explained the complexities involving the new fare boxes and Metro protocol in the issues of possible conflicts with patrons. He personally thanked Ms. Perez for coming forward and presented her with a hotline number to report issues requiring further investigation.

Vince Garrafallo. Said the benches need to be moved to the proper stops with several being on Van Nuys. He shared a problem he had with a driver and his experience riding the bus. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Sam Altman said he got the notice for the meeting and thanked Mr. Hunt for his cooperation.

4. **CHAIR'S REMARKS.** Vice Chair Brad Rosenheim chaired the Governance Council until the arrival of Chair Coby King. Vice Chair Rosenheim shared his pleasure in working with the Council and wished everyone a happy holiday and new year. Chair Coby King spoke of his meeting with Los Angeles Councilwoman Wendy Gruel to discuss transportation possibilities. She has agreed to convene a meeting with LADOT (Los Angeles Department of Transportation) to discuss strategies and ideas presented in his report.
5. **RECEIVED** oral report of Richard Hunt, General Manager. General Manager Hunt thanked Goldy Norton for mentioning Vic Baffoni. He is a gentleman that has treated everyone with respect. Mr. Baffoni has been strength for the MTA with over 30 years experience as an Operator and labor leader. During his tenure, he was a mentor to both management and labor and will be missed. There will be a reception for him at the Sector.

The CTA is moving forward with the lawsuit against the State of California for diverting transportation money. Oral arguments were held prior to the sector meeting. A written decision is being prepared at the request of the state. A decision may be made within the next 30 days. The case involved \$1.3Billion.

Mr. William Waters retired. Ethics Officer Karen Gorman was appointed interim Inspector General.

The MTA Board approved a continuing feasibility study on "gating" at Metro Rail stations (fare barriers).

The MTA Board adopted the “Five Year Metro Ridership Plan.” The San Fernando Governance Council had considerable input.

The next Governance Council meeting is January 9th.

Mr. Hunt noted that the Sector is below target in the area of Bus Traffic Accidents per 100,000 hub miles. This is good news given the heavily congested operating area. He gave praise to Sector managers and a fine group of operators for achieving this goal. The operator assignment rate continues to climb. The UTU has been helpful in recruiting operators and in allowing for flexibility in assignments. In the category of Mean Miles between Mechanical Failures the Sector has done much better than the Metro average. Customer complaints continue to be an area of concern. On behalf of the Metro staff Mr. Hunt wished the Governance Council and the public a safe and prosperous holiday season.

6. **RECEIVED** report on **Canoga Transportation Corridor** by Dave Monks, Manager, Regional Communications Program. Mr. Monks presented an update on the Canoga Project. He said the project is going well thanks to a good team at Metro and consultant staff. There were two scoping meetings for the public held in July with feedback on seven build alternatives and two no build alternatives. Approximately 175 people attended both meetings. Two alternatives were chosen for further environmental impact study to be completed by the end of February 2008: 1) The Canoga on-street alternative requires a widening of Canoga heading up to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station and; 2) the busway alternative using the Canoga Rail right-of-way which will extend the current Orange Line to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station. Vice Chair Brad Rosenheim asked why the Topanga alternative was deleted. The topography is sensitive because of: petroglyphs, rock formations, and the difficulty in building a park and ride lot.

Vice Chair Brad Rosenheim inquired about community outreach. In mid-March Metro will have two community meetings that will include neighborhood councils and business organizations for comments that will be included in the final environmental impact report. Community members may comment and get updates at www.metro.net/canoga that also includes a Receive and File Board report. Representative Nury Martinez asked what other outreach is available for regular ridership. Mailers are sent to those who live within a half-mile of the alignment area (approximately 20,000 mailers). A consulting team also goes into the

community to do one-on-one surveys. In the five Metro corridor studies that are currently taking place, flyers are placed behind the bus operator to notify riders of upcoming meetings.

There is great interest in the possible extension of the Orange Line to the SR-118. Ridership studies are being conducted and discussions are being held to evaluate interest in De Soto as an on-street transit alternative to SR-118. A prior interest in the Topanga Canyon route has been dropped. Representative Richards suggested if the extension is going to the 118 there may be value in continuing on the 118 Freeway to the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink station. Mr. Monks concluded his report.

7. **RECEIVED on Budget Update** by Kathy Drayton, Financial and Administration Services Manager. Ms. Drayton announced the budget is under running at 2% or \$981,000 for the period ending October 31. Labor continues to be a concern because of overtime. Costs of revenue parts are over because of an aging fleet and costlier parts for the articulated buses. Efforts are made to ensure Metro is only paying for parts received. There is a positive variance in fuel of \$106,000 YTD and a positive variance in public liability property damage. There is a ½% budget overrun in regular bus operation with a positive variance in the Orange Line at 17% under budget. Cost per revenue service hour for total bus, Orange Line and regular bus, is slightly under budget .08%.

Total revenue for the Sector is \$48.4M for the first four months (69% is from taxes and grants, 16% from fare boxes, 12% from passes and the balance from tokens and miscellaneous.) Fare revenue per boarding averages 64 cents. Chair Coby King inquired about the cost per revenue service hour for either the Gold or Blue Lines. General Manger Hunt provided estimations but said this information is published monthly and can be brought back to the Sector. Ms. Drayton concluded her report.

8. **RECEIVED report on proposed service changes for June 2008 and established February 6, 2008 as public hearing DATE** by Michael Brewer, Service Development Manager. Mr. Brewer provided a report and list of alternatives to new service changes. General Manager Hunt added that the service changes are not a reduction in service but a reprogramming of service hours and resources. He reiterated there are several new Rapid Bus Lines with two in the San Fernando Valley (Lines 724 and 794). The service changes are a positive addition and new opportunities to move public transit better than in the past.

Mr. Brewer identified a timeline for advertisement for the public meetings to allow the public to come forward to give input into the service changes. Chair Coby King expressed his appreciation to Metro staff for a plan that includes options. He requested that staff produce material for the public hearings that will provide: 1) the extent the changes are mandated or protected against the Consent Decree and; 2) the numbers attached to some of the changes both in budget and ridership? Representative Richard Arvizu requested that for the public hearing and in the newspaper Metro identifies those lines that are duplicative services.

After much discussion it was agreed that the Governance Council will schedule a public hearing for February 6, 2008 to collect input on the proposed changes for June 2008. If time permits, governance council members and sector staff will use the latter part of this meeting to discuss related issues and concerns. Staff's recommendations will be presented at the March 2008 Governance Council meeting.

Mr. Brewer concluded his report.

9. Service Sector Representatives Closing Remarks.

Representative Marsha Ramos spoke of a petition regarding Line 92. She wished everyone a Happy Chanukah and Merry Christmas.

Representative Jesus Ochoa thanked the staff for their assistance and cooperation and the public for attending the meetings and providing suggestions to improve the service.

Representative Kimberly Richards reported her experience at the CTA Conference. The most interesting part was a report and update on CTA's litigation with the state which General Manager Hunt spoke of in the General Manager's report. She wished staff, colleagues and patrons the happiest of holiday season and look forward to working with everyone in 2008.

Chair Coby King wished everyone the same. He is pleased with the progress the Governance Council has made and stated the Sector has a great staff. He is pleased with their responsiveness and dedication to public service.

Vice Chair Brad Rosenheim told everyone to have a happy healthy safe new year.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
San Fernando Valley Service Sector Governance Council Regular Meeting
Minutes – Wednesday, December 5, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Representative Arvizu thanked everyone for a wonderful year and expressed appreciation for the comments of colleagues, public and staff. He wished everyone a great holiday season.

Representative Joan Leonard requested a report on savings realized from installation of the turnstiles. She wished everyone a happy new year.

Representative Nury Martinez looks forward to being at every meeting in the coming year. She thanked the public for giving up an evening to attend the meetings and would like to see the room full of people in the upcoming months. She thanked the staff and wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and prosperous new year.

Adjourned 7:41 p.m.

Prepared by:



Raynard Price