

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 6:30 p.m.

Service Sector Representatives present
were:

Brad Rosenheim, Chair
Richard Arvizu, Vice-Chair
Michael C. Cano
Kymberleigh Richards

Officers:
Richard Hunt, General Manager
Raynard V. Price, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** was held.
2. **APPROVED Minutes** of Regular Governance Council Meeting held on March 4, 2009 and April 1, 2009 respectively with the following changes: April's meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. and correct spelling of Cubic on page 9. Chair Rosenheim made it clear he does not make "demands" as implied in the minutes.

3. **RECEIVED Public Comment.**

Ray D. Lopez. Mr. Lopez said he received his TAP Card in the mail and asked if other bus agencies will be participating in TAP. Chair Rosenheim advised Mr. Lopez that other agencies will be participating in TAP and referred him to previous Sector minutes. Mr. Lopez wished everyone a pleasant Memorial holiday.

Vince Garofalo. Mr. Garofalo inquired if Operators are required to lower the ramp for patrons using walkers. He asked the Council to look into this issue. Mr. Garofalo asked if there could be a grace period for the purchase of bus passes because of the period when some disabled patrons receive disability payments. Representative Richards suggested that staff communicate with the TAP at Corporate to advise that some customers cannot purchase their TAP card on the first of the month. Mr. Garofalo also suggested that the bus traveling San Fernando Road should operate 24 hours. He wished everyone a happy Memorial Day.

Nate Zablén. Mr. Zablén suggested service enhancement. He said there should be better frequency on Lines 158 and 157 that connects with the Orange Line and Rapid. He suggested ridership on these lines is low because of the infrequency. He noted that Line 167 passes notable places such as the Veteran's Administration, Kaiser Hospital and travels from Studio City to Chastworth. He encouraged more frequency to attract riders.

4. **RECEIVED Chair's Remarks.** Chair Rosenheim announced that the Council will draft a letter to the Mayor of Los Angeles and respective cities requesting to expedite appointments to the Sector Council to fill three available seats.
5. **RECEIVED** report of Richard Hunt, General Manager. Kathy Drayton, Administration and Financial Service Manager, presented the General Manager's report on behalf of Mr. Hunt, who was in attendance at the APTA Transit Conference in Seattle Washington. Ms. Drayton announced that Metro won the 2009 APTA International Champion Roadeo. The winning Metro mechanics are from Division 5 and the Operator is from Division 3. In presenting the General Manager's report, Ms. Drayton advised the Council of a spike in the Workers Compensation Reserve and in the number of claims. The Workers Compensation Reserves is higher than budgeted. The Reserve for

March is \$1.5M, part of which is a Quarterly adjustment. Workers Comp claims per 200,000 exposure hours is 15.9 for the month but YTD is under target at 11.79.

There is a recent improvement in Mean Miles between Mechanical Failures from 2800 miles to 2900. Chair Rosenheim asked if the newer vehicles impact the Mean Miles between Mechanical Failures. Ms. Drayton says it will help the numbers to go down but they are not reflected in her current report. This continues to be lower than the target.

Complaints have slightly decreased to 3.4 per 100,000 boarding's but remains slightly over the target of 3.07. In-Service-On-Time-Performance is better than the goal of 67.5 at 69.58 with a 68.36 YTD. Ms. Drayton emphasized while this statistic is better than the set goal there remains an effort and campaign to target poor performing lines with notable results.

Ms. Drayton reported the Sector is delivering over 99% of the scheduled Revenue Service Hours. The Sector is on target at 1.18 in Operator Assignment Ratio.

Ms. Drayton submitted the Sector is doing very well with a positive budget variance of \$4.3M. She concluded her report.

6. **RECEIVED report FY10 Budget and Structural Deficit Update** by Michelle Caldwell, Executive Officer, Office of Management & Budget. Ms. Caldwell introduced herself and shared that she has a 27 year history with Metro with nine of those years as Budget Director. She introduced Frank Shapiro, Director of Budget and recognized his 18 years at Metro.

Ms. Caldwell presented an overview of the budget process that included a schedule of a Budget Workshop for the Board of Directors on May 14th and a required Public Hearing on May 20th. The Board of Directors will consider adopting the budget on May 28th at Metro's regular Board meeting.

Metro's budget was described at \$3.9B which is a \$506.6M increase over the FY09 budget. She said while the budget goes up and down in many areas, the single largest increase in FY10 is \$350M in the Highway Local Return Streets and Highway Program which contains about \$300M for I-405. This is the first time that MTA (Metro) will be responsible for construction management of a CALTRANS highway program.

It was noted that Eastside Extension construction expenses are going down since the project is near completion but the expenses are up for the Canoga Orange Line Extension. She said sales taxes are down for FY10 but Measure R increased the budget by \$358M. She said the Board will receive a "proposed" budget which is available on www.metro.net. The budget is accompanied by a detailed board report which includes amendments that have occurred since the proposed budget book was prepared.

Ms. Caldwell advised the Council that Chief Financial Officer, Terry Matsumoto has been advising the Board of the Structural Deficit based on a ten year forecast completed in the fall of 2008 after the adoption of the FY09 budget. In explaining the structural deficit she did so in the context of the FY10 budget. It was noted that a balanced budget will be presented to the Board. Ms. Caldwell advised the Council that tax forecasts are based on taxes received in FY08 and FY09 to-date as well as the UCLA Forecasts for FY08, FY09 and what is to be expected in FY10. The revised FY09 forecast predicts a 5% reduction over the FY08 actuals and the FY10 forecast is another 5% reduction for a total 10% reduction in sales tax in a two-year period. Measure R taxes are projected using the first year of Prop C compared to Prop A. Because it takes time for the State Board of Equalization and local business to respond to new taxes, the first year of Prop C is 58% of what was received by Prop A – which had a ten year history.

Ms. Caldwell presented a chart detailing how expenses are funded such as: Operating revenues which is not expected to increase; Formula/Shared Revenue (from Props A & C and TDA); stated revenue (which for FY10 is -\$97M).

Ms. Caldwell said there will be a deficit in FY10 of \$378M. A solution to the deficit is one time revenues such as the Congestion Reduction Demonstration Project of which \$80M will go toward bus operations and capital.

Ms. Caldwell spoke of Sustainability projects for Metro in the Operations Divisions to look at ways of reducing Metro's carbon footprints with projects such as solar panel energy, saving water and reducing electricity.

Representative Cano spoke of a need for creating a policy for unprogrammed Measure R Operations for New Rail 5% dollars.

In discussing the "risks" with the budget, particularly the economy, Ms. Caldwell said the budget is based on a conservative forecast in terms of revenue. She commented that Ms. Drayton in her report noted how well the Sector is doing financially and stated that all of the Sectors are under "expended" but Metro is more "under revenue" than under expended. She noted that MTA had planned on \$220M of STA money in the budget but will only receive \$45M causing the agency to end the year with a deficit despite the hard work of the Sectors and agency staff staying under budget. Included in the budget "risks" are union negotiations and the end result of service restructuring.

In response to a question from Chair Rosenheim, Ms. Caldwell stated that in the last 10 years Metro has added one million service hours to bus operating service. The Council thanked Ms. Caldwell for her informative report.

7. **RECEIVED** report [Short Range Transit Plan for FY 2010-2014](#) by Rod Goldman - Principal, Diversified Transportation Solutions. Mr. Goldman stated he made a previous presentation regarding the development of the Short Range Transit

Plan (SRTP) to get comments from the Sector Council and staff. His presence on this evening is to provide a summary of the draft developed plan for FY10 – FY14. He said the plan is a comprehensive operational plan designed to bring together Metro’s operational goals, issues and actions. He added the plan is a transitional plan that does not resolve every issue but does identify many of Metro’s issues.

Mr. Goldman presented a Power Point presentation that provided an overview of the SRTP. He indicated that the SRTP is designed to: 1) develop multi-year strategic plan to improve transit quality, accessibility, costs effectiveness and efficiency and; 2) provide short-term action plan for transit activities towards meeting metro’s long-term objectives.

Mr. Goldman identified the goals of the SRTP as:

- Evaluate current operational and financial condition of Metro Operations.
- Project trends in transit demand and transit funding over a five year period.
- Identify probably impacts to Metro bus and rail services and facilities.
- Identify strategies to address future service needs and align with long-term agency goals.
- Create framework for development of future operational policies.
- Establish priorities for service development for the next five years.

In providing an overview of Metro, Mr. Goldman noted the 1,433 square mile service area with 194 bus routes that include the Local, Rapid and Express. He stated in FY08 Metro provided 2,213 peak buses in operation with an average of 1.3 million boardings. He identified the five Metro rail routes (Light rail: Blue, Green, and Gold lines and Heavy: Red and Purple lines), with 73.1 miles of rail service, 65 rail stations with an average weekday boarding of 320,000.

In reviewing trends for FY10 and FY14, Mr. Goldman identified the following:

Growth in bus ridership of 5%.

Growth in rail ridership of 20%.

No increase in bus revenue vehicle hours.

Rail service to increase 197,550 revenue vehicle hours by FY10.

Mr. Goldman advised the Council of potential new markets and partnerships with the business and educational communities. In indicating issues for FY10 – FY14, Mr. Goldman identified: promoting transit ridership; service quality; operating facility capacity; bus maintenance; impacts to Expo line implementation; economic factors; structural operating deficit; and potential acceleration of capital projects.

In discussing Measure R, Mr. Goldman identified it as a ½ cent sales tax to finance new regional transportation projects that will generate \$40B over the next

30 years which will: Provide capital funding for major transit and highway projects; funding for bus and rail operations and funding to local cities for transportation projects. He said the Measure R bus system improvement plan includes the establishment of priorities for Measure R operating funds. He advised that Measure R will provide both opportunities as well as challenges.

Mr. Goldman announced that once the SRTP is finalized he will make a presentation to the Metro Board for approval.

Chair Rosenheim requested that the SRTP include the identification of grade separations on the Orange Line which is included in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He also suggested that the Sector may send other requests to be included into the SRTP. In response to the Chair's questions regarding marketing of service at the Sector level, Ms. Drayton suggested that Matt Raymond visit the Sector to discuss this issue. Chair Rosenheim suggested Mr. Raymond attend with a proposal of how the Sector can assist in marketing efforts. Representative Richards requested a copy of the full document once revisions are made (an emailed PDF version).

8. **RECEIVED** oral report [Emergency Procedures](#) by Dave Miklic, Sr. Safety Specialist. Mr. Miklic advised the Council that he is responsible for the safety of Metro employees following an emergency event. He said the Division has an emergency action plan that includes evacuation plans and assembly points on-going drills. The plan is updated annually. Representative Arvizu requested to see the plan. The plan outlines the chain of command with contact numbers for outside agencies. Critical shutoffs have been identified with photos and instructions. There are tools and supplies available for rescue and storage locations away from fueling locations. Mr. Miklic said staff is trained in emergency response and that one of the Divisions is successful in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training.

In response to a question from Representative Arvizu, Mr. Miklic responded that there is a Division emergency plan and an overall agency plan with aid agreements in place at the agency level but not at the Sector level. There is an agreement with Los Angeles County for major emergencies. Representatives are dispatched from the BOC. Executives at various agencies are assigned various roles depending on the type of emergency. The person on the scene has the initial responsibility. Mr. Miklic spoke further regarding the Division's capabilities in an emergency and concluded his report.

9. **RECEIVED** report [Orange Line Update](#) by Maria Reynolds, Division Transportation Manager. In making her presentation, Ms. Reynolds presented a new Orange Line map that includes the Canoga Park n' Ride station. She said that the weekday boardings far exceeds the 2010 projection of 22,000. The highest boarding was in the month of September in 2008 with 27,596 boardings. As of

March the boardings is at 22,334. She says the parking and ride usage is low and that Marketing is working to increase use of the lots. Future projects on Sepulveda may increase usage. Ms. Reynolds presented a chart of connecting bus service. She said the feeder service into the Orange Line is successful by both the Rapid and Local.

Accidents on the Orange Line continue to be low with an average of one accident every other month which is caused by red light violators. She contributes the low accident rate to the public's familiarity with the Line. The accident rate per 100,000 scheduled miles for the month of March is .70 with a YTD of .95. In providing an update to safety enhancements, Ms. Reynolds noted that the green signal light for Operators is now a flashing yellow signal to encourage Operators to cross cautiously. She said if this pilot program currently at Woodman and Balboa avenues in both directions) is successful changes will be made at other major intersections.

In an overview of the Line, Ms. Reynolds identified the Line as 14.5 miles long running East – West from North Hollywood to Warner Center; Five existing Park n' Ride lots with 3,200 parking spaces; a 4 mile Canoga extension planned to open in 2012 with new stations at Sherman Way, Roscoe, Nordhoff and Chatsworth Metrolink Station; and that parking will be added at Sherman Way and Chatsworth Metrolink stations with landscaping similar to the existing Line. She said currently the four mile Canoga Extension is planned to have eight minute headway from NoHo to Warner Center. This will continue to be evaluated when in operation. An artist concept of the Lassen overcrossing was shown to the Council in addition to the Marilla lot satellite bus parking to provide additional bus storage (9 additional buses to the 34 current number of buses).

Ms. Reynolds said the Orange Line continues to receive high customer satisfaction with a low accident rate and increased interest in the 4 mile extension. Construction of the Metro Orange Line Canoga extension may start in September but this date may be extended. Chair Rosenheim requested a Quarterly report on the Orange Line.

10. Service Sector Representatives Closing Remarks. **None.**

Adjourned: 8:35 p.m.

Prepared by:



Raynard V. Price
Council Secretary