

Thursday, May 13, 2004 – 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 2:05 p.m.

Council Members present:

Samuel Peña (Chair)
Bonnie Lowenthal (Vice Chair)
JoAnn Eros-Delgado
Larry R. Nelson
Jacqueline Rynerson
Wally Shidler
Cynde Soto

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
Sharon Sterling, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call/Self Introductions
3. Public Comment

Mr. Jose Melendez is pleased that the new Metro Rapid Line 705 is starting in June.

4. APPROVED Minutes of April 8, 2004 Council Meeting
5. RECEIVED oral report of General Manager Alex Clifford

MTA Board Governance Council issues:

The Executive Management Committee is scheduled to include the agenda item that was postponed last month about governance council bylaw changes at their meeting on May 19 at 2 pm. Carolyn Flowers, the Executive Officer of Operations and Karen Gorman, Chief Ethics Officer are meeting with all Governance Council chairs to discuss issues the Board is considering. Mr. Peña has met with Ms. Flowers and Ms. Gorman and will provide a short report on what was discussed. The Gateway Cities COG Transportation Committee addressed this issue at their May meeting. One of the recommendations raised was to draft a Council resolution opposing the reduction of meetings to four times per year.

Joint Governance Council Meeting:

The tentative date of June 22 was scheduled for the joint Governance Council meeting which will be held at MTA downtown beginning at 6 pm. The meeting is anticipated to last approximately 2 hours. Mr. Clifford asked the Council to share any ideas they have for agenda items to discuss at the meeting so they can forward the suggestions to executive staff.

Marketing:

Gateway Cities staff met with Marketing Department representatives at the sector office and had a productive session, including:

- 1) Forwarding a draft bus card our sector developed promoting monthly scheduled Governance Council meetings.
- 2) Discussing the idea of a Sunday Family Day promotion. Wally Shidler suggested this item to MTA Director Tom LaBonge at a recent Board meeting.
- 3) Discussing promotional brochures for some of our bus lines – we were informed that a 460 brochure would be available soon, and that a draft brochure on Line 612 may be available in mid-June.
- 4) Presenting a draft for a sector web page we would like to implement, which will be shared with other sectors for their input.

Reschedule November 2004 Meeting:

The November Gateway Cities Governance Council meeting is scheduled on November 11, 2004, which is the Veterans Day Holiday. What would the Council like to do about the November meeting?

Safety:

Staff prepared a list of the top 10 accident types, which will be included in John Williams' report later this meeting. Mr. Clifford stated they are also developing a report on tie-down policies of other agencies and will define MTA's current policy, which will be scheduled for next month's Governance Council meeting.

Outreach:

- 5/2 Cinco De Mayo at Bristow Park in the City of Commerce
- 5/4 Introduction of Alex Clifford to Lynwood City Council
- 5/15 Huntington Park Community Health Fair
- 5/20 Job Fair (sponsored by Supervisor Knabe) at the Community Resource Center
- 6/5 Bellflower Car Show

Upcoming Meetings:

- 5/19 2 p.m. Executive Management and Audit Committee Meeting, which includes agenda item on governance council by-laws (MTA Board Room)
- 5/20 1 p.m. MTA Operations Committee Meeting (MTA Board Room)
- 5/27 9:30 a.m. MTA Board Meeting (MTA Board Room)

Sector Bus Ride-Along's:

- 5/14 Sector Staff/Governance Council bus ride along
 - 5/28 Sector Staff/Governance Council bus ride along
- Note: The 2nd Friday and 4th Friday of the month are dedicated sector Bus Ride along days.

School Presentations:

Career presentations were given by Sheila Badji, Sector Executive Secretary, and Sonja Owens, Division 1 Transportation Manager, at Little Lake School in Santa Fe Springs.

Upcoming Agenda Topics:

- Next month:
- Election of new governance council chair and vice-chair
- Bus Bulb Report
- Tie-Down Policy
- Consent Decree update
- Other upcoming presentations include:
- Employer Programs/Ridesharing Program

6. Received and Filed Line 254 Service detour by Dan Nguyen, service Development Manager

MTA is proposing to modify the route of line 254, which operates in the Walnut Park area. Effective May 23, 2004 the line is proposed to be detoured to provide new service along portions of Nadeau St and Maie Ave, rejoining the regular route at Firestone Blvd as it resumes service south to Willowbrook Station. As a result of this proposed change, the segment of the route that operates along Crocket St, 83rd St, Fir Ave and Firestone Blvd will be discontinued.

This change is being proposed in response to concerns expressed about excessive traffic congestion around the nearby elementary school and the narrowness of the residential streets in this area. Persons now boarding and alighting along the proposed discontinued route segment along Crocket St. will continue to have access to Line 254 by walking a short distance to Nadeau St. Persons now boarding and alighting along the proposed discontinued route segment along Fir Ave. or Firestone Blvd. can access Line 254 by riding Line 115 along Firestone Blvd and transferring to Line 254 at Maie Ave.

Mr. Shidler asked Mr. Nguyen if there were any comments from the riders, there were none.

Ms. Lowenthal thanked staff for being responsive and asked that they bring the information to the Council sooner instead of waiting for the shake up.

Ms. Norma Garcia, Deputy to Supervisor Molina thanked staff and Council for reviewing strategies to improve congestion in the area.

7. Received oral report on MTA's Legislative Program Update by Marisa Yeager, Federal Affairs Administrator
8. Received oral report on ASI by Marlon Perry, ASI Manager of Operations Monitoring and David Foster, ASI Project Administrator, Southern Region

Mr. Perry stated that Access Services Inc. has 44 member agencies, 12 of which are in the Gateway Cities area (Bell Gardens, Cerritos, City of Commerce, Compton, Cudahy, Downey, Long Beach, Montebello, Norwalk Paramount, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier).

9. Received oral report on Accident Review Procedures by John Williams, Senior Employment Relations Representative

Mr. Williams explained the Three Tier Accident Review procedures.

10. Metro Connections Workshop by Nancy Michali, Director of Service Performance and Analysis rescheduled for next meeting.

11. Council member's Remarks

* Sam Peña report on Governance Council Chair bylaw meeting:
Mr. Peña stated he met with MTA staff downtown regarding the objection to proposed changes in Service Sector Bylaws Item 3 and does not know how the Council can be effective only having quarterly meetings.

Ms. Rynerson stated that schedule adjustments such as on Crocket are a routine part of the MTA operation and the Council must be responsive to the needs of the customers. Ms. Rynerson said she does not care about the money received to attend the meeting, they are there to serve and not to be ineffective. The Gateway Sector is the second lowest in operation cost.

Mr. Shidler stated that the COG should be allowed to confirm the Council members appointed. He also stated that he would go without the stipend. He suggested a letter should be sent to the Executive Management and Audit Committee. Ms. Rynerson stated that examples should be given in the letter of the positive impact of the Council in the community. She stated there is no point in having this Council if the number of meetings are reduced.

Ms. Lowenthal stated that she was trying to understand the motivation for the proposed bylaw changes. MTA departments have been asked to cut back, however, legitimate control is the other issue. Ms. Lowenthal stated that the authority that appointed the members to the Council should be the ones to remove them.

* Wally Shidler reported on Line 18 Bus Ride-Along

* Other Councilmember reports

Ms. Lowenthal stated that they will skip the June meeting and Nancy Michali presentation will be in July.

12. Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Peña asked staff to draft a letter to present to MTA Board at the EMAC meeting.

Mr. Peña requested a calendar of MTA Board meetings.

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

**NO MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
JUNE 2004**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, July 15, 2004 – 2:00 p.m.

The Gas Company

9240 Firestone Blvd.

Downey, CA 90241

Adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Sterling".

Prepared by: Sharon Sterling
Council Secretary