

Thursday, July 8, 2004 – 2:00 p.m.

Minutes

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority

**GATEWAY CITIES
SERVICE SECTOR
GOVERNANCE COUNCIL**

REGULAR MEETING

The Gas Company
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

Called to Order at 2:10 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
David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager
Sharon Sterling, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call/Self Introductions
3. RECEIVED Public Comment from Mr. James Gusty
 - a. Line 720 Rapid is not tripping the lights in Beverly Hills like the Denver Rapid
 - b. Line 576 fare is only one express fare
 - c. Line 362 limited is good, later maybe a Rapid
4. APPROVED Minutes of July 8, 2004 Council Meeting
5. Election of New Gateway Cities Governance Council Chair and Vice Chair

APPROVED SHIDLER MOTION to Nominate Bonnie Lowenthal as Chair and Larry R. Nelson as Vice Chair of the Gateway Cities Sector Governance Council.

Ayes: Peña, Lowenthal, Eros-Delgado, Nelson, Rynerson, Shidler and Soto
Noes: None

SOTO MOTION to Nominate Wally Shidler was declined by Mr. Shidler.

Ms. Lowenthal thanked Mr. Peña for trailblazing the first year. She stated it is amazing how they all get along even with the transition of a new Sector General Manager. Ms. Lowenthal stated it is important that Mr. Peña remain as involved as he was while Chair.

Ms. Lowenthal suggested correspondence from the Sector to the Public include the names of the Council members in addition to the Sector Manager.

Mr. Nelson stated he is looking forward to working with the Council and fulfilling his responsibilities as Vice Chair.

6. RECEIVED Oral Report of General Manager

Operations Report

Mr. Clifford provided a copy of the May 2004 Gateway Operations Report to the Council members. He explained the variances, detailed on a line-by-line comparison to the budget.

Ms. Rynerson asked how would the introduction of additional Rapid service affect the budget. Ms. Rynerson stated that riders would be attracted to more efficient service. Ms. Lowenthal expressed her concern regarding additional riders and whether there would be funds to operate it. Mr. Clifford stated they would be cost neutral.

Mr. Shidler requested information on buses making farside and nearside stops. Ms. Lowenthal requested report on a regular basis on late and no show buses.

Ms. Nelson asked what is the procedure to acknowledge operators who receive commendations. Ms. Sonja Owens, Division 1 Transportation Manager stated that the operators are honored in front of their peers at the division and presented with a T-shirt or coffee mug. Also, Mr. Clifford stated the operators are honored with lunch at the monthly rap session.

Mr. Shidler reported that 90% of the time the buses do not have timetables on them. Ms. Owens stated they are working on making improvements in that area.

Marketing:

Update on bus card developed by Gateway Cities Sector to publicize monthly Governance Council meeting schedule; Sunday Family Day promotion; promotional brochures for some bus lines; Gateway Cities would like to implement a sector web page (being shared with other sectors for their input).

Reschedule August Meeting:

The August 12 Public Hearing is scheduled for 5:30 pm at The Gas Company – Mr. Clifford asked what time would the Council prefer to hold their monthly meeting preceding the Public Hearing. They agreed it is best to have the meeting at the regular time, 2:00 p.m. to avoid confusion.

Outreach:

- 6/5 Bellflower Car Show
- 6/5-7 South Gate Street Fair (Metro Experience)
- 6/10 Employee Ride Share Day at Master Foods in Vernon
- 6/25 Seniors on the Move event in Downey

Upcoming Meetings (MTA Board Room):

- 7/14 Planning & Programming Committee - 1 p.m.
- 7/15 Executive Management and Audit Committee Meeting - 9:30 a.m.
- 7/15 Finance & Budget Committee - 10:30 a.m.
- 7/15 Construction Committee – 11:30 a.m.
- 7/15 Operations Committee Meeting - 1 p.m.
- 7/22 MTA Board Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

Sector Bus Ride-Alongs:

- 7/23 Sector Staff/Governance Council bus ride along (possible press event)
- 7/30 Sector Staff/Governance Council bus ride along

Note: The 2nd Friday and 4th Friday of each month are dedicated sector Bus Ride along days.

August Agenda Topics:

Tie-Down Policy
Freight Interference Report
PUBLIC HEARING

7. RECEIVED Staff Presentation on Proposed December 2004 Service Changes

Mr. Sieckert informed the Council that there was no action required at this meeting and he would provide them with the highlights of the proposed service changes. As part of the December Shake-up, staff proposes to implement a number of service modifications to bus lines operating within Gateway Cities Sector. Some of these service modifications are considered major as defined by federal public hearing guidelines and MTA policy. Therefore, the Council is required to hold public hearings for changes of this magnitude and to solicit and consider public input prior to approving them. The proposals under consideration for Gateway Cities are as follows:

Line 265

New weekend service would be operated from Lakewood to Pico Rivera, including later evening service on weekdays. This would enhance travel opportunities and connections for people traveling along Paramount Bl. and Whittier Bl.

Line 270

Modified route would serve Whittier College and the Norwalk-Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Station. This line would also provide new service on south Greenleaf Ave. and Shoemaker Rd.

Line 275

The change would provide new service on Broadway, Mulberry Dr. and Magnolia Ave. in the Whittier-Santa Fe Springs area.

Line 362

Proposed to be rerouted to serve the Santa Fe Springs-Norwalk Metrolink Station. This line is also proposed to expand its limited-stop area to increase speed and reduce commute time for riders. Mr. Clifford stated they are not adding more cost, just more limited stops on the line.

Line 576

Cancel line due to excessive service duplication. The Service would be replaced by other bus lines along the route. Mr. Sieckert stated that resources would be reinvested where service is needed as in line 265.

Mr. Peña stated that half of the rides are students who transfer over to line 2. He suggested that line 105 be extended to catch the gap on Vernon between Santa Fe and Soto. Mr. Shidler asked if line 105 could terminate at Vernon

Yard. He wants to see the figures on who rides the line from Vernon to the west end. Mr. Clifford stated that the Scheduling staff would investigate and provide the information.

Mr. Shidler requests data on the five line 576 trips, origin and destination of customers and how many are paying cash and using a bus pass. Ms. Lowenthal requested that staff talk to the riders and ask what the change would mean to them.

Public Hearings are also scheduled for South Bay, Westside and San Gabriel Service Sectors. San Fernando Valley Sector will not be affected.

Ms. Lowenthal expressed her concern regarding public outreach prior to the Public Hearing. Mr. Sieckert stated that the initial publication of legal notice would be published in the LA Times on July 11, and additional notification would appear in other major newspapers, including foreign language papers like La Opinion. Subsequent notices will also be provided to cities, agencies, organizations and stakeholders. In addition, rider brochures will be distributed on bus lines systemwide announcing the proposed changes in bus service.

8. RECEIVED presentation on the Gateway Cities Service Sector Work Plan

FY05 Work Plan Overview includes:

- a. Safety
- b. Improve Service & Customer Service
- c. Budget
- d. Communicate Information & Solicit Input for the Metro Connections Program
- e. Promote Gateway Cities Sector Services and Governance Council Meetings

Mr. Clifford suggested bus ride-alongs with the Council members for every other Friday.

Mr. Clifford announced that Gateway Cities Sector is celebrating their first anniversary. He congratulated the Council and staff for their commitment.

9. Council Member's Remarks

Mr. Peña suggested the Council increase communication with MTA Board and staff. The Council was unaware of various meetings held by the MTA. Mr. Clifford stated that at the management retreat recently convened by CEO Snoble, Mr. Snoble stated that it is an important goal of his to tear down the silos within the MTA.

10. Chair's Remarks

Mr. Peña stated that five Gateway Cities Council members attended the June 22 annual Meet & Confer session. Chairs of all the Governance Councils met to determine what message they want conveyed to the Board on July 22. Mr. Peña stated he is very proud of the Council accomplishments and there is still a lot of work to do. They are the go-between, between the MTA Board and the public and it is important for the Council to market themselves better.

Ms. Lowenthal stated that it is important to attend the employee commendation ceremonies held at the divisions. Ms. Owens suggested the employees be recognized before the Council. Mr. Clifford agreed and stated that they should plan to have a quarterly recognition ceremony.

11. Consideration of Items Not Posted on the Agenda – None

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 12, 2004 – 2:00 p.m.

The Gas Company

9240 Firestone Blvd.

Downey, CA 90241

Adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



Prepared by: Sharon Sterling
Council Secretary