

# 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:

Jo Ann Eros-Delgado (Chair)  
Cheri Kelley (Vice-Chair)  
George Bass  
Larry R. Nelson  
Owen Newcomer  
Wally Shidler  
Vincent Torres  
Harley Rubenstein

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Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager  
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Metro**

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1. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Representative Owen Newcomer.
2. **Roll Call** – Council Secretary Raynard Price called the roll.
3. **Self Introductions** – Introductions of all those present were made.
4. **Public Comments.** Mark Strickert. Thanked the Council for setting up an evening public hearing asked if the Sector could move their meetings to other dates. General Manager Alex Clifford spoke of the importance of consistency and the postings on buses.
5. **APPROVED Minutes** with correction of item 7 to read "...daily pass was raised..." and Representative Harvey Rubenstein led the pledge of allegiance. Representative Larry Nelson Abstained.
6. **RECEIVED** oral report from General Manager Alex Clifford. Labor continues to have a favorable variance of \$1.2M. Non-labor has a negative variance of \$340,469. Allocated Accounts is good news with Workers Comp at a favorable variance of \$1.4M and a PLPD at \$890K. This YTD budget variance combined with the Support Department presents a \$3.2M favorable variance.

Representative Shidler asked if the budgeted mechanics were on board. Mr. Clifford responded the positions are being filled and it may take a few more months to get to 100% manpower. Representative George Bass inquired what constitutes "Miscellaneous." Metro Admin. & Financial Services Manager Regina Chan noted that it includes governance and sector travel, training and material and supplies unrelated to vehicles. In response to a question about travel from Council Member Nelson, General Manager Clifford announced that the Gateway Sector returns nearly all of its travel funding because the governance council members have not been using this budget.

Mr. Clifford reviewed the Sector Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). Workers Comp is under budget. New Worker's Comp Claims is under the 10.80 target at 10.51 for October and 10.53 YTD, Bus Traffic Accidents per 100,000 Hub Miles is under the 3.65 target at 3.28 YTD and Passenger Accidents Per 100,000 boardings is slightly over the 0.22 target at 0.25 YTD. Complaints per 100,000 Boardings is under the target of 2.00 at 1.91 YTD and In-Service On Time Performance (ISOTP) is at 67.39% YTD which is below the target of 71%.

Representative Shidler asked if the schedules are being changed to help get buses back on time. Metro Service Development Manager Hassan Fakhro responded that run time adjustments will be made to several Lines in the December 2007 service changes. Representative Cheri Kelley asked how management uses the information presented in the Key Performance Indicators. General Manager Alex Clifford responded that the information is used in the annual performance review of managers and more detailed performance data is used by his management on a day-to-day basis to properly manage the system.

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In comparison with the other four sectors year-to-date through October, the following are results of GWC's performance.

- Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in New Workers Comp claims system wide.
- Ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in Bus Traffic Accidents.
- Ranks the lowest in Customer Complaints.
- Ranks best for in Service On Time Performance
- Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in Mean Miles Between Mechanical failures.

Mr. Clifford reviewed the customer complaints by category with a revised format. He emphasized the zero tolerance on "No Shows" but attributes some no shows to mechanical failures. Representative Bass inquired if getting darker earlier attributed to more accidents. Metro Division 1 Transportation Manager Sonja Owens stated it is a factor and was a problem a few years ago but operators are now trained in "real time" - training during darkness.

In concluding his report, Mr. Clifford noted public commendations received on behalf of Operators: Eric L. Davis, James P. Aviles, Oscar R. Torres (2), Niccole A. Hedgeman, Tanya M. Collins, Christian O. Vasquez, Drew L. Fowlkes and an unknown operator.

- **Update on Artesia Blue Line Station.** Mike Sieckert said there are no updates. Rail is considering adding budget to their FY09 budget to rent parking from an adjacent property. Representative Shidler reiterated that passengers cannot get to the Target development near the station because of property owned by the Casino. Mike Sieckert suggested getting Metro's Real Estate Division involved while Representative Cheri Kelly suggested getting the City Council of the City of Compton involved. Representative Nelson noted that people are now selling spaces in the parking lot. Security will be notified of this illegal activity.
- **Update on Line 760 (Signal Priority).** The City of Compton is upgrading its system and should be completed by December 13, 2007. Long Beach is resolving technical issues.
- **Update on Line 577.** Presented in a written monthly report on ridership in the blue packets.
- **Report on presentation to the Gateway Cities COG.** General Manager Alex Clifford provided a report of his monthly meeting to the Gateway Cities COG Executive Board. He spoke about the FY09 budget and possible service reductions in the Gateway Cities that result from service hour shifts from unproductive service to the Consent Decree mandate new Metro Rapid service that will start in June 2008. Future presentations will be on the Artesia Blue Line parking problems and the Norwalk Green Line parking problems.

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- **Update on Line 128.** A meeting with the City Manager of Cerritos is being discussed.

7. **RECEIVED** Legislative Update report, Michael Turner, Metro Government Relations Manager. Mr. Turner handles state legislation. Mr. Turner presented a Power Point presentation that included discussion of a bond that impacts the Gateway area in addition to San Fernando Valley – The Trade Corridors Improvement Fund. A bond in the amount of \$2B that goes towards the construction of Goods Movement Projects. Los Angeles handles 85% of the congestion resulting from transporting goods through the state and therefore should receive 85% of the funding.

The Trade Corridor Improvement fund had a total of \$3B for goods movement. Metro has been working with all public agencies involved in goods movement from the ports to the Arizona/Nevada border. There are three main challenges; 1) to get funding from the Bond; 2) to get federal legislation for funding and; 3) to get container fee approval at the ports. The coalition will expand in the future to include COGs, private sector partners in both shipping and warehousing, and railroads.

Transportation funding has been affected by the state budget. The state budget deficit is projected to be \$10B. A recent news article reported it could be up to \$14B. Last year's deficit was \$6B. A solution to resolving the budget is taking \$1.3B in public transportation funds. Had this not happened Metro would have received \$300M with half going to Capital programs and the other half to Operating purposes. The Public Transportation Account is the only source of operating revenue from the state.

The California Transit Association is suing the state to have the funding from the Public Transportation Account returned. The state has used the money to allocate towards school bus transportation, rural and regional center transportation, which Metro does not think fits the definition of public transit. The court has considered the case and a decision is forthcoming. There is a possibility there will be appeals but if it can be established through court decision it will help provide certainty in upcoming Public Transportation Account funding.

Next year's legislative program will include finding ways to protect these funds. Prop 42 funds have some protection by Prop 1A to keep the state from taking these funds. However legislation reads the state can take these funds twice in a ten year period and only in a fiscal emergency and the funds must be repaid every three years with interest. Mr. Turner responded to questions and concluded his report.

8. **RECEIVED** oral report on Metro's Stop Placement Policy, Pete Serdienis, Metro Facilities Maintenance Manager, Stops & Zones Department. Mr. Serdienis provided an overview of why stops are placed nearside (before the intersection), or farside (after the intersection). The first goal in placing a stop sign is safety and then convenience and ease of transfer.

A Metro staff of 37 people is responsible for maintaining 16,672 bus stop locations across 1,431 square miles; 1,000 bus stop cubes and the cleaning of 12 locations 7 days a week. Four departmental supervisors are assigned 3,300 stops in about 35 communities; painting 6,000 bus stop curbs annually (with the exception of the City of Los Angeles).

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Mr. Tom Kelso with about 35 years of experience is responsible for the Gateway Cities area.

The administration function of the department establishes and relocates stops due to route changes, construction activities, requests from shopping facilities, or new stops that are requested. Stops & Zones is responsible for the new solar powered stop program with the purchase of 245 bus stop solar lights with a button that will signal the operator of someone desiring to board the bus alleviating night time pass ups in dark areas. 700 more units are being requested pending funding in FY09. Mr. Serdienis responded to questions and concluded his report.

9. **RECEIVED** oral report on, Review of Proposed June '08 Service Changes and Setting of Public Hearing Dates – Mike Sieckert, Metro Planning Manager. Mr. Sieckert informed the Governance Council that all Sectors are setting public hearings to comply with federal regulations and Metro Policy for upcoming proposed service changes to meet the budget targets and consent decree requirements mandated under the new service plan.

The service changes for all the sectors will be combined into one notice to be published on January 6, 2008. Mr. Sieckert recommended the Governance Council; 1) approve for publication Sunday, January 6, 2008 the notice of public hearing; 2) schedule Thursday, February 14 at 4:00 p.m. a public hearing following the regular Council hearing at the Gas Company and; 3) consider additional public hearings.

Mr. Sieckert will present at the January meeting bus service changes from other sectors that affect services in the Gateway Sector. Mr. Sieckert reviewed the proposed Sector service changes in a Power Point Presentation. General Manager Alex Clifford emphasized that the service changes will be significant, affecting many parts of the County. For this reason, Metro will hold a Public Hearing at its headquarters scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The Council should select two members to participate in this public hearing.

The Council voted to send Chair Eros-Delgado and Representative Wally Shidler. It was voted there would be two public hearings for the Sector. One to be held immediately following the regular meeting of February 14. A second meeting is scheduled for February 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Southgate area. Mr. Sieckert concluded his report.

10. **CARRIED OVER** oral report on Governance Council Member Line Ride Report by Jo Ann Eros-Delgado to January.
11. **RECEIVED** oral report on Notification of Upcoming Governance Council Member Line Ride Report and Upcoming Line Rides – Alex Clifford. The Line Ride will be 10:20 a.m. at the Sector office the day following the sector meeting.
12. **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS.** The Chair wished everyone a happy holiday.
13. **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REMARKS.** The Representatives wished everyone a happy holiday season. Wally Shidler thanked everyone for coming to the meetings and stated the Sector is accomplishing a lot. Representative Cheri Kelley thanked the staff for the hard work in accomplishing the meetings.

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**ADJOURNED 4:10 p.m.**

Prepared by Raynard Price, Council Secretary