

Minutes

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Gas Company
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

Call to Order 2:14 p.m.

Council Members:

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

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Minutes of the Gateway Cities Service Sector Governance Council Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2008 2:00 p.m.**

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Representative George Bass.
2. **Roll Call** – Council Secretary Raynard Price called the roll. The Chair noted that Representative Rubenstein called to be excused from the meeting.
3. **Self Introductions** – Introductions of all those present were made.
4. **Public Comment:**

Wayne Wright: Mr. Wright shared his observation that Gateway buses are missing bike racks. He said that all of the Sectors have heavy bike usage. He also said the Metro Westbound stop at the Northwest corner of Artesia and Long Beach is in conflict with Long Beach Transit over space for the 60ft buses. He suggested Metro observe this occurrence.

5. **APPROVED** Minutes of March 13, 2008 Council Meeting. Representative Nelson expressed a concern the minutes did not include a breakdown of the Service Change voting by each Representative. He commented that the way the minutes read it appears as if the decisions were unanimous, which is not the case. For the record, at their March 2008 meeting, the Gateway Cities Governance Council unanimously approved staff's final recommendations with the exception of the following proposals

Line 127 - All present **Approved** except Wally Shidler **Abstained**.

Line 254 - All present **Approved** except Wally Shidler **Abstained**.

Line 60 - All present **Opposed** except Larry Nelson **Approved**

RECEIVED oral report from General Manager Alex Clifford.

- **FY 08 Budget Performance Update:** The General Manager reported a positive variance overall at \$6.2M. The labor is under budget (but overtime remains high for mechanics and service attendants to keep the buses clean and to repair mechanical failures). The Operator labor is under budget at \$2.2M. Overtime for this group is being managed well by the Division Managers – Sonja Owens and Diane Fraser. Representative Kelley asked if there are typically a large number of people out on jury duty. According to Mgr. Owens, Mgr. Fraser and Assist. Maint. Mgr. Bruce Crum, this is not typically a problem or a large number.

Non-Labor (fuel) is favorable. Workers Comp is under budget at \$2.5M and PLPD (liability) is under budget at \$1.4M. Overall, with the Support Department costs this leaves a favorable variance of \$6.2M. Because it is not shown in the report, Representative Kelly asked if there could be a breakdown of GWC Sector towing charges to other Sectors for the towing of buses and those charges from other Sectors to GWC. Mr. Clifford agreed to prepare a chart of these expenses at an upcoming meeting.

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Representative Shidler asked if there will be something to keep Line 760 Rapids from “bunching.” Staff responded that there are time points, but there is also an intention to increase on-street supervision to improve On-Time-Performance.

In comparison with the other four Sectors Year-To-Date through February, the following are results of GWC’s performance:

- Ranks 2nd in New Workers Comp Claims.
- Ranks 3rd lowest Bus Traffic Accidents.
- Ranks lowest in Customer Complaints
- Ranks best for in Service On Time Performance
- Ranks lowest in Mean Miles Between Mechanical Failures.

Mr. Clifford presented a breakdown of the types of complaints received by the Sector. Representative Kelly inquired as to how the complaints are verified. Metro Mgr. Sonja Owens said the Operators are identified and interviewed in addition to checking with Dispatch reports and collecting as much information as possible. Often the information collected suggests the Operators are aware of the complaints which are also verified by the on-bus DVR.

A bus breakdown is often the reason for a “no show.” Mr. Clifford noted accidents are below the target for the month. Representative Shidler asked about the articulated buses. Mr. Clifford provided a report at the previous Sector Council meeting that provides a breakdown of accidents with the articulated buses, i.e. bus mirrors being side swiped and he will provide it again at the Council’s May meeting.

In identifying commendations received on behalf of Bus Operators from Division 1, Representative Kelley said she is especially pleased that a Line 16 (Div. 1) Operator would go out of the way to assist a disabled passenger.

- **Update on Line 760 (Signal Priority).** The City of Long Beach approved the signal time and plans but still do not have timing plans uploaded into the signal box software, which could be completed in May.
- **March MTA Board Actions (Villaraigosa-Parks-Burke Motion).** The motion was passed out to the Representatives. Mr. Clifford shared with the Representatives the Metro Board had great praise for the work that was done by the Sectors and the tough decisions that had to be made. However, the Board struggled with the substantial service cuts and the effect it will have on the communities. This motion requests additional information. Mr. Clifford will update the council on the outcome of the motion at next month’s meeting.
- **Update on Accidents:** Representative Bass asked if there are more incidents with the articulated buses. There has not been an increase in accidents for these types of buses in the Sector. This could be because these buses are attracting more senior bus operators with more experience because they are easier to maneuver.

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- Draft LRTP and LRTP Community Meetings. Mr. Clifford provided the date and time for the LRTP Community Meetings and presented a draft of the plan “Imagine.”
 - Update on Line 577 Segment Ridership Data. 15% of the boardings take place in the segment between the VA Hospital and Downtown Long Beach. Additionally, approximately 17% of the boardings take place at the Veteran’s Hospital.
6. **CARRIED OVER** oral report on Governance Council Member Line Rides. Vincent Torres.
7. **RECEIVED** oral report on Notification of Upcoming Governance Council Member Line Ride Report and Upcoming Line Rides – Alex Clifford. Mr. Clifford provided a list of the Adopted Lines. Representative Rubenstein is scheduled for an April ride and May report on Line 577X. The Council will meet at 2:30 p.m. at the Sector office, Friday, April 11, 2008. Mr. Clifford introduced Paula Faust, Administrative and Financial Manager for San Gabriel Valley.
8. **Chairperson’s Remarks.** There were none.
9. **Council Member’s Remarks.** Representative Nelson requested the General Manager announce which Representative seats will be up for renewal. On June 30, 2008 five appointments will be up for renewal: Representative Cheri Kelley; Representative Larry Nelson, Representative Wally Shidler; Representative George Bass and Representative Vincent Torres. Representative Nelson said this item will be on the May 7th Gateway Cities COG agenda.

Representative Owen Newcomer reported he was re-elected to the City Council for the City of Whittier for four more years.

Representative Cheri Kelley requested to close the meeting in memory of Thom Pelk.

Representative Shidler asked if Metro is experiencing problems with the new \$5 bills. Mr. Clifford explained the federal government did not disburse the software in a timely manner prior to placing the bills into use. Metro is will soon be installing the new firmware on its fareboxes. A contingency plan is in place to convert a button on the fare box to force it to take the new \$5 bill. Unfortunately this will affect the reporting system. Firmware upgrades may be completed within 30 days.

The meeting was closed in silence in memory of Thom Pelk.

Adjourned:

Prepared by:



Raynard Vincent Price