

Thursday, July 14, 2011

2:00-4:00 PM

Minutes

GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Salt Lake Recreation Center
3401 E. Florence
Huntington Park, CA 90255

Call to Order

Council Members:

Wally Shidler, Chair
Lillie Dobson, Vice Chair

Richard Burnett

Josue Barrios
Jo Ann Eros-Delgado
Cheri Kelley
Cynde Soto

Officers:

Jon Hillmer, Director, Regional Councils
David Hershenson, Comm. Rel. Mgr.
Suzanne Handler, Council Secretary



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Please turn off cell phones or put them on vibrate

1. **PLEDGE** of Allegiance
2. **ROLL** Call - absent Sergio Infanzon and George Bass
3. **APPROVE** Minutes from June 9, 2011 meeting - approved
4. **SAFETY** Tip, Sgt. Doty

The Sergeant brought information to the meeting regarding losing your wallet and purse. First thing you want to do is make sure it is actually missing. Call the local police agency where you think you may have lost your wallet/purse. Contact the bank and cancel credit cards. Make a separate list of all credit cards and their numbers plus their 24/7 emergency phone. Notify the three major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, TransUnion, Experian contact their fraud or security department.

5. **PUBLIC** Comment – none at this time
6. **RECEIVE** Director's Report, Jon Hillmer
 - Performance Report
 - On-Time Performance: Metro system target 80%, May 76.3%; Gateway Cities May 74.9%
 - Complaints per 100,000 Passengers: Metro system target 2.52, May 2.56; Gateway Cities May 2.74
 - Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls: Metro system target 3,664, May 3,400; Gateway Cities May 3,554
 - Metro Clean bus program Trends: Metro Goal is 8; Gateway Cities for May was 8
 - Accidents per 100,000 Miles: Metro system target 3.14, May 2.51; Gateway Cities 3.27
 - Monthly Ridership: Metro System Target 29,470,000, May 32,560,000; Gateway Cities May 6,560,000 (up over 510,000)
 - Average Weekday Ridership on metro bus and Rail Services: Metro System 1,489,370, Bus 1,187,869, rail 301,501
 - Metro Blue Line Ridership: Weekday 80,000, Saturday 50,000, Sunday 47,000
 - Metro Green Line Ridership: Weekday 40,000, Saturday 24,000, Sunday 18,000
 - I-405 Closing in July 16-17 or 53 hours
 - Metro Red/Purples Lines operating peak weekday schedule; Green Line double service levels; Orange Line will run every 6 minutes; double service levels on local line 2 and 150, double service levels on rapid lines 704, 720, 733, 761 from Ventura Blvd. South, double service

levels on Express Line 534. 16 buses will be placed on standby at division 7, 8, 10 and 15

- Enhanced Public Communications Plan
 - Metro Service Council Web Pages will include photo and bio, appointing authority, and terms. Map of regions and metro bus lines, meeting schedules and agendas plus customer comment link
 - Car cards and take-ones on buses
 - Promotional programs, i.e., customer appreciation programs
 - Use of news media, Twitter, Facebook, and the Source
- July Bus Line Rides for Proposed Service Changes
 - A list of bus line rides was presented to the council and they were asked to please contact Jon if they were interested in coming along
- Meet and Confer Summary
 - Discussion involved the I-405 closure and bus/rail fares – which will be free for the two day closure.
 - Art Leahy discussed future bus buys especially why he is partial to 40' buses and not the artics.
 - Lonnie Mitchell discussed redeployment of resources to address deferred maintenance
 - Mr. Leahy introduced John Roberts and Alex DeNuzzo to the attendees.
 - Bruce Shelburne gave an Expo Line Update and the plan and timeline for Bus or Rail Incidents in times of an emergency/accident.
- Metro Board Actions in June
 - Request for proposal for up to 30 super low/zero emission buses
 - Procure 100 45-ft composite CNG buses. Staff will return with analysis of the relationship of bus size to service frequency
 - 2011 countywide preliminary project funding strategy
 - SCRRRA FY2012 budget and Metro annual work program to total \$51.7 million
- Public Hearings set for August: Centralized hearing on August 6 at the Gateway Building in downtown LA at 10am; Westside/Central August 10 at 5pm; Gateway Cities August 11 at 3pm; and South Bay Cities on August 18 at 6pm in San Pedro.
- Bus Line Ride Itineraries for Gateway: Line 102 and 612 Wednesday, July 20; Line 611 Friday July 22 and Line 246 Wednesday July 27. If you can accompany me on these rides please let me know.

6a. Impromptu report by Michael Sieckert, of the Service Development and Planning Department:

Line 611/612 are proposed to be cancelled as part of the public hearing next month. They will be replaced with the 102 extension. We have 2 circular bus routes, ridership has been diminishing. The proposal is to replace those lines with regional line extensions of the 105, 102 and 254.

Chair Shidler: I have three comments. The portion of the 611 on Santa Ana between Otis and Atlantic will not have service. At Atlantic and Santa Ana you

have a K-Mart and other stores plus a Kaiser facility. In the Watts area, we have some people in South Bay they were opposed to abandoning the service at **Ansac and Grape** of course if we run the 254 over in that area that does not run on Sundays. Hoover Avenue, can we take the 102 to Hoover instead of going to Compton. Please look at the two spots where we will not have service.

Representative Kelley: Can you please expound on what the Chair just said and point it out on the map.

Michael Sieckert: (Went to the map displayed on the screen). There would be three stops affected. There is a potential problem in this area due to the line that runs there does not run on Sundays. The third issue the Chair brought forward is along Hoover, there are operational issues which would create this detour. We will look at this again and see if it is possible that we can change the route to make it more direct.

Chair Shidler: Mr. Gonzalez asked that we look at putting a stop at Atlantic/Patata on the 260/611 line. Did anyone check on that?

Jon Hillmer: Yes, we did, Henry Gonzalez has been communicating with our customer Mr. Gonzalez, as well as with our stops and zones people. It turns out there is a stop NB on Atlantic/Patata it is listed as 260 bus stop, but the 611 makes a right hand turn as it is heading west on Patata and should stop at this stop. The operators are required to make those stops.

7. **NORWALK** Green Line Parking, David Hershenson

We have been working on Green Line parking issues for a long time. At one time we were looking at doing some things with Norwalk. Metro was negotiating with Caltrans to see if could have those lots transferred to us. Caltrans had a very skilled negotiator, Frank Quon, who we hired to work with us and will provide an update on our negotiations.

Frank Quon: We have initiated some pretty robust discussions with Caltrans affecting the transfer of the park and rides. Currently, along the 105 the park and rides are part of the consent decree that was associated with the construction of the freeway. Also, the consent decree affected the park and rides north on the 110 so it also extends northerly, with a total of 12 park and rides. Recent discussions we have two parties ready to agree, Caltrans is ready to give up the park and rides and metro has expressed a desire to take them on. We have had county counsel and Caltrans' legal counsel to look at the means to effect the transfer. Next steps, taking a report to the Board probably in September requesting authority to proceed to amend the consent decree to transfer the park and rides over to Metro. What is curious about the consent decree besides the park and rides it also specifies how many parking spaces in each lot. Are there any questions?

8. **RECEIVE** report on Norwalk Transit's Proposed Service Changes, Jim Parker,

General Manager

Jim Parker: We will be bringing our proposals to our city council in reference to the proposed service changes in reference to service reductions as it pertains to managing our budget and making sure we are operating a non-deficit budget plus addressing budgetary problems from the past year. Mr. Graham Ridley and Sarah Allen are here today, Mr. Ridley will walk you through the presentation.

Graham Ridley: Norwalk Transit System (NTS) was streamlined in September 2009 from 9 routes to 7. NTS has found it necessary to reduce service to eliminate a projected revenue shortfall for FY11/12.

Proposed fixed route service changes will be to lines 2, 3, 5, 7, 8

- Line 2 Eliminate segment Firestone Blvd/Curtis and King via Hoxie Blvd.
- Line 3 Eliminate segment between Pioneer Blvd./Telegraph Road and Whittier Depot M-F 9:15am to 1:54pm, Eliminate all day Saturday
- Line 5 Eliminate evening service from 7:40pm to 9:26pm (terminating at Green Line Station), and Eliminate all Saturday service
- Line 7 Eliminate all service
- Line 8 Eliminate segment between Gateway Plaza to Whittier Depot; Eliminate segment between Metrolink Station and Carmenita Rd via Leffingwell/Imperial Highway
- Public Hearing will be held on August 2, 2011 at 6pm, Norwalk City Hall, City Council Chambers, 12700 Norwalk Blvd, Norwalk CA 90650

Representative Eros Delgado: On route 3, I see the service is to be cut during mid-day, that is the time that most people would take care of medical appointments, shopping, etc. This cut would eliminate the route to Presbyterian Hospital adjacent to the hospital is the family practice center which sees many of the people from that community. What other options are there for people?

Graham Ridley: Norwalk Transit is working with the city of Whittier to provide a taxi voucher program, where the residents could buy a voucher to get to any area in Norwalk. It is very competitive financially.

Representative Eros Delgado: How much does that cost the resident? Is this only open to the city of Whittier, what about the county?

Graham Ridley: I am not sure, but I will get back to you.

Jim Parker: We have a transportation city management association which Norwalk is the lead agency and the MOU is under the city of Norwalk where we have user subsidy. The city of Whittier allows their seniors to multiple locations and they just recently added another feature where if you cannot get a ride on your reservation dollar ride at any time of the day 24/7, you can call the taxi company and you can use your vouchers to go wherever. We need to look at the Las Nietos Shuttle that has crippled our ridership in that region. The duplication has diminished our

productivity in the unincorporated area. The shuttle fare is \$.25 and sponsored by the county of LA it is doing very well.

We also will provide at the public hearing a matrix of all of the routes showing other options.

Representative Eros Delgado: Do you know if those taxi vouchers are available to the unincorporated area?

Jim Parker: They are only available to my knowledge for Whittier residents. We will find out for sure.

Representative Kelley: Norwalk Transit system is already in debt to the City of Norwalk for \$2.5 million, the original budget was another \$2 million deficit. The City Council was not willing to tolerate. Norwalk City Council requested the cuts to service to balance the budget. The City is also going to have to find some way over the next few years for transit to repay that \$2.5 million to the City.

Chair Shidler: I personally would like to thank you for coming. When we did the blue Ribbon Committee it was brought up that we need to work closely with the Municipal operators, and hopefully when other munis make schedule changes they will come and present to this council.

8. Legal Status on Artesia Blue Line Parking Lot's right of way through Casino Parking lot in Compton, David Hershenson

We will be working with Council member Dobson of the city of Compton. Michael Sieckert was one of the leads in talking with the city manager not only in the project but in the Compton Transit center. Really nice to have Mike back with us. The issue of course is access from the Artesia blue Line station to the shopping Center.

Representative Kelley you had asked a question on the legality issue, Mr. Sieckert said that he had gone through county counsel and their initial ruling was 'it is their property and they can do it.' But we will revisit it to be sure.

Representative Kelley: The actual issue I had is prescriptive easements. Once you allow somebody to walk, drive or bike on your property for any length of time without stopping them or charging them, they can claim they have an easement. Maybe it does not apply in the case.

David Hershenson: One issue, is when we initially had this opening, the shopping center had not opened, so it was strictly access to their property. Now there is a shopping center it creates more of a need to open this access.

Chair Shidler: The new owner of the property came in and was afraid people would use the casino parking lot for the blue Line.

Michael Sieckert: people were parking in our lot and theirs to access the blue line or the casino. After a while it got out of hand and the new owners objected.

Vice Chair Dobson: This has been a problem for years, and I am hearing the hotel is for sale again. We need to move on this as quickly as we can. In August we are dark.

9. Update on Service Council Web site and applications, David Hershenson

Jon already went over this, but as council member Kelley brought up, we are adding a feature to allow the public to comment and pose questions. If you have a bio in your city website, please update your resumes and bios. We will have links to all our council members' bios. This will be the final change.

Jon Hillmer: If there is a different photo people would like to use, please forward to David Hershenson or we will have new photos taken by staff.

Chair Shidler: We have a proclamation for Cynde Soto for her tenure as Chair of the Gateway Cities Service Council from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Representative Soto: Thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Roberto Hernandez: Last week I was at the bus stop to catch the last 117 at midnight, she was early and took off without picking up any passengers, especially those transferring. This week, Line 120 the last bus going to Aviation also did not pick up. (Mr. Hernandez did not give bus stop locations). Made a suggestion that we put up a banner of sorts to let people know we are meeting at this location.
- Wayne Wright: last month Scott Page presented the proposal to eliminate the two circular routes 611/612 and replacing them with existing route extensions. I am for it but one problem is the return of line 105 to Cudahy which could cause problems for the 105. One of the reasons is 105 ends at Vernon Yard, chronic lateness, and bunching of the buses particularly M-F. I would support the reinstatement of the 105 but would ask for the following: Truncate all 105 lines at the West Los Angeles transit center. And spin the La Cienega portion to Westside. Or run the 105 service east of the Vernon Yard to Cudahy for as far as Atlantic/Slauson 7 days a week, to provide direct connections to the 251, 751, 260, 762 and the 108/358. Last point is to fine tune the 705 rapid run it as a loop east of the Vernon Yard, via Pacific/Leonis/Soto/Slauson back to Pacific and layover there to provide a connection with the 751/251.

10. CHAIR and Council Member Comments

Representative Soto: Attended the ‘Meet me at Metro’ theatrical event last weekend and I highly recommend it. Thank Metro for cooperating with the community to have something zany and fun for the whole family. Lastly thank you very much for the proclamation.

Representative Eros Delgado: thank you to Norwalk for coming out and doing the presentation.

Representative Kelley: I would like to close the meeting today in Memory of Harley Rubenstein.

Chair Shidler: We will adjourn in the memory of Mr. Rubenstein. See you all next month.

ADJOURNMENT