

Thursday, August 11, 2011

2:00-3:00 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

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 – Sergio Infanzon, Cynde Soto were absent George Bass was in the hospital
3. APPROVE Minutes from July 14, 2011 meeting - approved
4. SAFETY Tip, Lt. Obenberger

As of next month we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of 9/11. We are already putting out safety tips and warnings “see something say something”, which includes the Sheriff’s phone number. Some are being handed out, flyers are being put on windshields at park and rides. We do have business cards that reflect our number. We do not have them in the buses at this time, we have in the past. We will make a recommendation to have them on the message signs. Update in terms of crime stats, overall bus part one crimes are down by 3% over the same time period last year. Blue and Green Lines, the most recent updates show the last 7 months robberies are down by 17%, GTA are down by 4%, vehicle burglaries are down by 27% we have had no theft from vehicles on the blue line, green line robberies are down 19%, grand theft persons down 16%, theft from vehicles are down 33%. The only issue we have right is are Grand Theft Auto’s - those are up and we are handling those on a case by case basis placing security guards at the locations. We have increased security over at Norwalk. We are meeting regularly to discuss crimes it is called intelligence led policing, which is looking at crime statistics from our crime analyst and deploying personnel based on those crime stats. We’ve changed our mind set from the way it was previously handled.

Chair Shidler: I would like to make a comment, I’ve noticed much improvement on the Blue Line regarding the vendor situation. I would like to read an excerpt from the Planning and Programming committee at the Metro Board:

“Transit Service South is currently conducting one hundred percent fare enforcement operations twice per shift at various passenger stations throughout the Metro Blue and Green Line operations. Directing recyclers to areas of the train where they are not blocking the aisles or getting in the way of other patrons. Citing all violators with no proof of fare, arresting and issuing citations to all illegal vendors and confiscating their wares arresting anyone with outstanding warrants and misdemeanor violations, parole, probation, etc. During a three hour fare enforcement operation we are averaging 63 fare evasion citations and penal code 640 violations (eating, drinking, disturbing, smoking). Our plainclothes operations have proven the most efficient and effective to combat the illegal vending operation with each event netting 3 to 5 vendors of items. The biggest hurdle is still the lack of

support from the Compton court, we have violators telling us that they would rather be given a citation than purchase a fare because they know Compton will not do anything. Even when cited for habitual fare evasion the fine is minimal and those interviewed have stated to detectives that the risk is worth it and even if they are taken before a judge, nothing really happens. Although we face this lack of support transit service bureau continues to make direct and concentrated efforts to mitigate the various and illegal activities and quality of life issues on the Metro Blue and Green Line.”

Lt. Obenberger: It may be that the courts in Compton are overwhelmed, I really don't know.

Representative Kelley: No, they come before the courts and say they are poor and cannot pay, judges keep dismissing them. I suggest we get MTA officials and Sheriffs department meet with the presiding judge at Compton Court.

Lt. Obenberger: I will pass this information along. I am on the committee for the transit court that is going full steam. A vendor has been chosen and judges have been approached and hired. Hopefully that will take effect October 1, which is a couple of months behind schedule, but the waiting was a good idea in order to get things in place properly.

Representative Dobson: I would like a copy of that report and turn it over to the City Manager and let the Captain know. We no longer have any control over the courts.

5. PUBLIC Comment

Wayne Wright: Director Kelley, how did the Norwalk Transit get into this mess? My question is why is Line 2 still running despite duplication of service with MTA's Line 62.

Chair Shidler: Excuse me Mr. Wright, you should bring this to the Norwalk City Council, this is not a Metro item.

6. RECEIVE Director's Report, Jon Hillmer

- Performance Report for the month of June, fiscal year end
 - On Time Performance: Metro Target 80%; Gateway Cities 75%
 - Complaints per 100,000 Passengers: Metro Target 2.52; Gateway Cities 2.52
 - Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls: Metro Target 3,664; Gateway Cities 4,496
 - Clean Bus Program: Target 8.0; Gateway Cities 8.0
 - Accidents Per 100,000 miles: Metro Target 3.14; Gateway Cities 2.81
 - Monthly Ridership: Metro June 31,890,000; Gateway Cities 6,550,000
 - Bus and Rail Weekday Ridership: Total 1,500,000; Bus 1,200,000; rail 300,000

- Blue Line ridership weekday 85,000
- Green Line Ridership weekday 43,000
- I-405 Closure Wrap Up
 - People stayed home or stayed away
 - I-405 opened early
 - Estimated slight increase in Metro rail ridership
 - Metro bus ridership about average
 - Cost and lost revenue estimates are being developed
- Other Major Highway Projects
 - I-710 Resurfacing Project: Weekend work, 10 weekends over the next 3 months beginning August 6. Freeway will be closed for two 8 hour periods, restricted lanes
 - Harbor Transitway/El Monte Busway Closures: Night and early morning closures 10pm-6am. One year project beginning August 13 through September 11, 2012. 5 transitway and 2 busway stations will not be served during those hours. Express buses in regular traffic lanes and only serve Green Line Station; installing sensors in the roadways.
- Selected Board Actions in July/August
 - Motion by Mayor Villaraigosa
Maintain service hours in Metro's Tier 1 and Rapid Service for FY 12; Monitor passenger loads and on-time performance; develop strategy and timeline to complete UFS or TAP to board in October 2011; provide an implementation plan for quarterly bus service evaluation program as outlined in June 2011 report on bus service modifications; appoint an internal compliance manager to report on Metro bus service quality in coordination with the Service Councils on a monthly basis; identify a minimum of 5 bus rapid transit corridors in the county.
 - Motion by Villaraigosa/Katz/Yaroslavsky/Dubois
Explore pilot bike share program at rail and BRT station; determine if public/private funding; develop a technical assistance program to support local jurisdictions.
 - Motion by Antonovich
Support Palmdale Station and Bakersfield to Palmdale to LA alignment of HSR; request September 2011 CAHSRA board meeting in Antelope Valley.
- Norwalk update on Public Hearing
- August Public Hearing Cancellations
Region has been experiencing a general increase in transit ridership
The hearings contained service reductions
 - Routes shortened
 - Some stops would not be served
 - Reductions in weekend service

Metro budget did not require more service reductions
Determination made to pull back proposals
Staff to re-evaluate service with new ridership and service data

- Planned Tours
ROC / BOC – September 2011
Metro Art Tour – November 2011
Rail & Bus Division Tour – January 2012
Orange Line Extension – March 2012
Gold Line Foothill Extension – May 2012
CMF Bus Mid-Life Rebuild – July 2012
Green Line Extension – September 2012
Expo Tour - TBD

Chair Shidler: Can you please add the Library and Design Studio.

- Workshops on Exploring Ways for the Green Line to serve LAX – three meetings in August 23, 25, and 30. First one at flight Path Learning Center; second at Metro Headquarters and the third at Veterans Memorial Complex
- This past Monday, San Gabriel had their council meeting in East LA at the Civic Center Library. We had over 70 people show up at this event with 20 speakers, most were eager to get back service that was removed when the gold Line interface plan was activated. It was a very good meeting.
- Metro is proposing some station name changes to better reflect where that station is located (will be e-mailed to the council for their comments).

Representative Dobson: I've heard a little about the closure on the 710, but I am getting complaints because it is not enough.

Jon Hillmer: The outreach for the 405 freeway set a very high standard for public notification, which has not necessarily translated into the need for the higher standard be pushed elsewhere. David Hershenson has worked diligently to try and get more information out to the public on the 710 project once he learned about it.

Representative Kelley: Part of the problem is, Metro was in charge of the 405 not only did they do a great job but the media just went nuts. This project is not Metro's it is Caltrans. We did not get a flyer until a week to two weeks ago, that this was going to happen. It resulted in some people thinking that they were not important. It is not Metro's project.

David Hershenson: Everything you said is correct. I do not want to imply Caltrans is doing a poor job, but Caltrans is the lead, in fact Metro is not even funding the 710 project. I did not hear about this project through Caltrans, but found out about it via a Long Beach blog. We've requested that when other agencies have transportation projects we all work together to get the word out.

Representative Kelley: When they were doing the 5 in the Orange County area it was approaching the 91 they were closing it down around 11pm at night, but there was a good detour on the 91. During the 405 project we are going to have the Carmenita Bridge they were calling it the carmenitageddon. That is what happened during the 405 and the media exposure, people are wondering why we can't do this and why can't we do that because they did it on the 405. It raised the bar it is unfortunate it worked out great and that is the way all projects should work, it is the right thing to do and the way to get it done.

David Hershenson: I hope to be working on outreach for other projects with Caltrans.

Representative Barrios: Thank you for contacting us, we tried to make contact with Caltrans, there were a lot of angry constituents that have a chip on their shoulder because they are not on the Westside. They should have at least had a freeway sign noting the project and shut down times.

David Hershenson: I agree, it would have been helpful if they put signs on the connecting freeways about the closure times and dates.

7. Artesia Transit Blue Line Access to Town Center through Casino (Crystal) parking lot, David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager

Mike Sieckert and I felt the best thing to do was to meet Lillie at the station. We want to go out and show her exactly where the gate is in relation to the parking lot and all the things involved. For those of you who are new, there was a shopping center built on the other side of the Blue Line station. There is a gate and a fence between the two, and it is locked by the Casino, who owns the property the fence and gate are located. At one time the gate was open, but the Casino decided to close it. Now the locked gate restricts access for people wanting to go to the center from the Blue Line station. We've had requests to open the gate again.

Chair Shidler: For the council's view, (5 pictures taken at the Artesia Blue Line Station showing a man jumping the fence). The gentleman has a briefcase he came from the shopping center to the blue line he is climbing over razor wire. This is what people are doing to get from the station to the shopping center. This is a dangerous situation.

Representative Dobson: I spoke to the City Manager in Compton Monday morning and he thought the gate was opened.

David Hershenson: I also want to make you aware of a future project at the Artesia Blue Line Station. Boeing will be doing a project on the property to remove some contaminated ground water. This water is not a danger to our customers now, but Boeing has agreed to remove it. The project will require some equipment that may take out some of the parking spaces at the station,

and we will be staying on top of this so we can notify our customers about any parking impacts that they may experience during the project. It is probably will not happen until next year.

8. RECEIVE report on Quarterly Transit Providers Meeting, August 3, 2011, David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager

We had a nice turnout, unfortunately Metrolink was scheduled to attend but they will be at the next providers meeting. OCTA, Norwalk, Long Beach, Downey, Montebello, and South Gate attended the meeting, which was hosted by the City of Lynwood.

Representative Kelley: Long Beach gave a presentation on their service changes, the main thrust was getting out the neighborhoods and back on the main corridors plus adding airport service. Interesting to hear from the small cities that do not have a big system. I had to explain the Norwalk changes and why.

10. CHAIR and Council Member Comments

Representative Barrios: I think it is incredibly crucial on the Green Line that we have a station on Atlantic Blvd. We have 5 miles between Lakewood Blvd. and Long Beach Blvd., yet we have the most densely populated communities in LA County who would love to take a train to LAX. That should be part of the study as well.

Representative Burnett: Wednesday, August 10, I took the Silver Line to the Harbor Transit Center as a result when I took the next bus at 4:45pm I hit the carmegeeddon in San Pedro because of Navy week. I will try and take this line ride again at a different date because this did not reflect accurately. The Silver Line was delayed by 8 minutes because of the X games, traffic and fleet week.

Chair Shidler: I did go to Navy week on the 450 line.

ADJOURNMENT