

# Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2013  
2:00-4:00 PM

GATEWAY CITIES  
SERVICE COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting

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

All Metro meetings are held in ADA accessible facilities. Meeting location served by Metro Lines 111, 311, and 612.

Called to Order at 2:01 p.m.

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Council Members:

Marisa Perez, Chair  
Richard Burnett, Vice Chair  
Gene Daniels  
Cheri Kelley  
Ana Maria Quintana  
Wally Shidler  
Cynde Soto

Officers:

David Hershenson, Comm. Rel. Mgr.  
Dolores Ramos, Council Admin Analyst  
Henry Gonzalez, Council Comm. Rel. Mgr.  
Michael Sieckert, Transportation Planning Mgr.

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Para más información de Metro en español, por favor llame al número que aparece a continuación: 213-922-1282

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Для получения информации о Metro на русском языке, пожалуйста, позвоните по указанному ниже телефонному номеру: 323-466-3876

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สำหรับข้อมูลเกี่ยวกับรถโดยสารเมโทรเป็นภาษาไทย [ไทย]

กรุณาติดต่อที่หมายเลขโทรศัพท์ด้านล่าง: 323-466-3876

메트로(Metro) 정보를 [한국어]로 알아보시려면, 아래 번호로 전화하십시오: 323-466-3876

Để biết thông tin về Metro bằng tiếng Việt, vui lòng gọi số điện thoại dưới đây: 323-466-3876



Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Metro**

1. PLEDGE of Allegiance
2. CARRIED OVER Swearing in of Aja Brown, Mayor, City of Compton as Council Member
3. ROLL Called
4. APPROVED Minutes from November 14, 2013 Meeting with abstention of Councilmember Daniels.

5. SAFETY Tip, Deputy Elias

Deputy Elias shared that Lt. La Tonya Clark has been reassigned and that the new area lieutenant will be Lt. Barry Shapiro, who will begin to attend the meetings in January. Latching of five Blue Line station gates began December 11: Slauson, Firestone, Compton, Artesia, and Del Amo. Latching of Green Line stations has been postponed until late January or early February until all of the help phone systems can be updated.

Councilmember Shidler asked if deputies are now going to be positioned at stations that are not gated. Deputy Elias replied that deputies are currently being deployed to assist with public education and enforcement at the newly latched stations.

Chair Perez asked how the Blue Line latching is going so far. Deputy Elias replied that there have been no problems yet as deputies are posted at all recently-latched stations.

6. CARRIED OVER Artesia Blue Line Project Recognition of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Lt. Leo Bauer and Mike Wilson, Long Beach Transit, Jon Hillmer, Director
7. APPROVED Service Council Biannual Evening Meeting Schedule, Marisa Perez, Chair, and Council Members

Council voted to combine the February 2014 meeting with the February 2014 public hearing and to hold the meeting no earlier than 6 p.m. at a location with ample transit access as determined by staff. Council postponed discussion and vote on a second evening meeting until a future date.

8. APPROVED February 2014 Public Hearing Date and Time for Proposed June 2014 Service Changes, Council Members

Approval of the February 2014 public hearing date and time was combined with Item 7.

Mr. Hershenson shared that an all-Council hearing will be held on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> in the Board Room of the downtown headquarters building. Councilmember Shidler volunteered to attend the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting as a representative of the Gateway Cities Service Council and encouraged his fellow councilmembers to attend.

9. RECEIVED Presentation on Proposed June 2014 Service Changes, Michael Sieckert, Transportation Planning Manager

The majority of service changes proposed for June 2014 are within the San Fernando Valley. The one change in the Gateway Cities region affects Line 577 which runs between El Monte Station and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Long Beach. Line 577 carries approximately 900 passengers per day.

Councilmember Shidler mentioned that during the past week as he has ridden the system, he has yet to see any of the new timetables for the December 15 shakeup. Mr. Sieckert requested a list of the lines that do not have the new timetables so that he might follow up with the Division. As the materials were provided to the divisions before the Shakeup, the problem may be more line specific than systemwide.

Councilmember Daniels asked if any other lines serve the Rio Hondo College area. Mr. Sieckert replied that Line 270 also serves that area.

Chair Perez noted that Line 577 is one of the original Consent Decree lines. While Metro has made various efforts to build the ridership on this line, it remains low. The line has a stop at Norwalk Station - where do the line's users travel to? Mr. Sieckert replied that patrons use the line to travel to both El Monte Station and Long Beach as final destinations.

Chair Perez asked since an extension is being implemented to better serve Rio Hondo College if it might be possible to also serve Cerritos College which is also in the area and is namely served by Long Beach Transit. Mr. Sieckert replied that the while Service Planning may consider reexamining whether the line could serve Cerritos College in the future, they have been reluctant to make such a change to the route in the past as each time the bus exits the freeway, it loses time, making it less like an express service. Chair Perez replied she understands the performance challenges and is trying to examine educational and employment centers along the route to see how else ridership can be built up. Mr. Sieckert said Metro does need to increase its marketing efforts to potential riders and that the Rio Hondo change will be promoted extensively.

Councilmember Shidler asked if there are differences in ridership on Line 577 between the El Monte to Norwalk and Norwalk to Long Beach segments. Mr. Sieckert replied that the split is approximately 60-40 with slightly higher ridership on the south end, but the differences are not significant.

10. RECEIVED Report on Metro's Project Labor Agreement and Construction Careers Policy, Miguel Cabral, Diversity & Economic Opportunity Director

A Project Labor Agreement (PLA) governs labor relations on our construction contracts. The PLA was approved in January in 2012, and there are projects subject to the agreement. Metro also adopted a Construction Careers Policy (CCP) which ties into the PLA by requiring Metro contractors and their subcontractors to hire workers according to specific goals of: 40% of workers must come from economically disadvantaged zip codes within the United States; 10% disadvantaged workers also have to have meet 2 of 9 disadvantaged criteria such as being a veteran of the Iraq/Afghanistan war, receiving public assistance, being a custodial single parent, being homeless, or emancipated from the foster care system. Contractors must also meet a 20% goal for participation of apprentices. Additional information is available on the dedicated PLA web site: <http://www.metro.net/about/pla/>.

Councilmember Shidler expressed concern about the apprenticeship goals not being met, and commented that the lack of industrial arts classes in schools may contribute to underperformance on this goal. Mr. Cabral replied that Metro is also concerned. When a contractor doesn't meet a goal, Metro issues notice of non-compliance and the contractor must explain why they have not met the goal and the steps they will take to mitigate the problem. If necessary, Metro can implement a liquidated damages stipulation.

Metro is working with the LAUSD Construction Careers Awareness Day to share information to help develop an apprentice pool and on how to join a union training program. Metro also conducts Construction 101 workshops series to share that information. Councilmember Quintana encouraged LAUSD to join forces with the adult education centers. Mr. Cabral replied that he would look into it further.

Chair Perez recalled hearing how difficult it is to get into a union at a meeting the Council hosted several months ago. There were several people who felt the program was targeted at existing union employees. What is Metro doing to address those issues? Mr. Cabral replied that Metro's Construction 101 workshops explain how to get into a union, and how to get sponsored for membership. Each contractor is required to hire a job coordinator to help them meet the goals. It has been very effective at increasing gender diversity on contractors' staffs.

Chair Perez requested a schedule of upcoming Construction 101 workshops be shared with Councilmembers so that they can assist with their promotion in their communities.

11. RECEIVED Director's Report on Gateway Cities October 2013 Service, David Hershenson, Comm. Relations Manager.

- On-time Performance: 73.1%, Goal: 80.0%, System: 74.1%
- Complaints Per 100,000 Passengers: 4.29, Goal: 2.20, System: 3.73
- Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls: 4,441, Goal: 4,000, System: 3,827
- Bus Cleanliness Rating: Valley: 8.30, Goal: 9.0, System: 8.47

- Accidents per 100,000 miles: : 4.87, Goal: 3.10, System: 3.51
- Bus Station Monthly Cleanliness Ratings by Region: : 8.16, Goal: 8.5, System: 8.21
- Average Weekday Ridership: 268,167
- Blue Line Average Ridership: Weekdays 88,095, Saturdays 60,339, Sundays 46,897
- Green Line Average Ridership: Weekdays 42,101, Saturdays 29,670, /Sundays 18,155

Mr. Hershenson added that issue of relocation of the Artesia Blue Line TAP vending machines to create more space between the TVMs and the roadway raised previously by Council may be closer to resolution. Mr. Sieckert is meeting with engineers and designers to discuss moving the machines. Once the vending machine issue is resolved, staff will continue to explore the possibility of having bus shelters installed.

Chair Perez asked if the Blue Line is still the most heavily traveled Metro rail line. Mr. Hershenson replied that it is the system's most heavily traveled light rail line, and the second most heavily traveled light rail line in the country. To compare, Line 111 which travels via Florence Ave. carries around 6,000-7,000 passengers per day. The Blue Line in Long Beach alone takes approximately 1½ lanes of traffic off the streets. Chair Perez added that it's good to see there's going to be major effort to rehabilitate the Blue Line.

A lapel pin in commemoration of the 10 year anniversary of the Metro's Service Councils was distributed to the Councilmembers.

## 12. PUBLIC Comment for items not on the Agenda

Mr. Timberlake asked how the public who does not live in the area where June service changes are being proposed can find out when and where the hearings are going to be held. Mr. Sieckert replied that there will be a Take One brochure placed on the buses and that the hearing information will be published in various local publications. Mr. Hershenson added that comprehensive outreach will be conducted to inform the public of all service changes which includes web, e-blasts, and Take One brochures. He noted that comments can always be submitted at a Service Council meeting.

Mr. Timberlake asked if there is any information on the types of improvements being considered for the Blue Line and how the public can submit suggestions for service improvement. Mr. Hershenson replied that the public can always make service improvement suggestions through Metro's customer service phone or email or through the Service Council meetings or email. Metro is in the process of preparing a web page in terms of both maintenance and rail operations which will detail the improvements to be made and the schedule for the improvements. Chair Perez requested that an update on Blue Line schedule of improvements be provided at a future meeting.

Wayne Wright expressed concerns regarding safety due to poor lighting and location of the bus stops at Slauson/Holmes and at Firestone under the tracks. There is virtually no lighting, and it is not safe to wait to catch Line 115 at the Firestone stop. He would not recommend anyone catching a bus there late at night, and he hopes that improvements can be made to these stops in the future.

### 13. CHAIR and Council Member Comments

Councilmember Soto wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Kelley shared that the City of Norwalk continues to have issues with construction along I-5 causing traffic to spill onto surface streets. Due to variety of issues there are currently five freeway and roadway projects being worked on simultaneously. The City of Norwalk is doing whatever it can to work with Caltrans to reduce the inconvenience to the public but it is difficult because there are different contactors for each project. She asked that everyone be patient when driving through the area.

Vice Chair Burnett asked if Long Beach Transit has routes that run tangentially along the Line 577 route that may impact Line 577 ridership. Mr. Sieckert replied that the only area where there is duplication is at 7th St near the VA Hospital but it is just a small segment.

Councilmember Daniels wished everyone joyful holiday season on behalf of his family and the City of Paramount.

Councilmember Shidler echoed Councilmember Daniels' remarks and mentioned Article 2F of the Service Council Bylaws which refer to attendance. The bylaws state that after three absences a Councilmember may be asked to leave the Council. He clarified that he was not recommending that the Council take action, but that perhaps next year if a member or members do not attend, that the Council may consider asking them to resign so that the seat can be filled. Mr. Hershenson replied that staff has attempted to contact the Office of Mayor Brown to discuss concerns regarding her attendance and explain the Service Council Bylaws but has yet to receive a response. Staff is hoping that Mayor Brown is still interested in serving on the Council, but will ask her to notify if the current demands on her time prevent her from serving on the Council. Staff is also planning to work with the Chair of the Gateway Cities COG to address the issue. Councilmember Shidler added that if any member is not able to attend a meeting, that they should have the courtesy to notify staff.

Councilmember Shidler also called attention to Section 2G of the Council bylaws which refer to member transit knowledge and state, "To do so, each Representative is expected to ride at least one transit service per month."

Councilmember Kelley stated that the applications for Service Council membership distributed by the COG do not list the date, time or location of the meetings. That information isn't provided until the candidate has been selected. She has requested several times that the information included on the application so that applicants can assess whether they'll be able to participate.

Councilmember Quintana wished everyone Happy Holidays and shared that the City of Bell is holding a holiday party this Saturday.

**ADJOURNED at 3:02 p.m.**