

MINUTES

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Gas Company
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

Called to Order at 2:05 p.m.

Council Members Present were:

George Bass (Chair)
Harley Rubenstein (Vice-Chair)
Anne Bayer
Lillie Dobson
Cheri Kelley
Larry R. Nelson
Wally Shidler
Cynde Soto

Officers:

Dana Coffey, General Manager
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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1. Meeting called to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was held.
3. **Roll was called.** Present were Chair Bass, Vice Chair Rubenstein, Representatives Bayer, Dobson, Kelley, Nelson, Shidler, and Soto (Representative Soto had to leave at 3:30). Absent with notification was Representative Delgado.
4. **RECEIVED** Safety awareness tip from Lt. Obenberger. Lt. Obenberger spoke of how technologies can be used deceitfully by criminal perpetrators. He devoted particular attention to the use of stored GPS systems in both cell phones and automobiles. As an example, he cited how a stolen car's GPS system was used to track the location of the owner's home resulting in burglary. He gave another example of how a perpetrator stole a phone and called the victim pretending to be from a bank using stored information in the phone to get information on their personal bank account. Lt. Obenberger suggested limiting the amount of information stored on a phone. He also suggested not including your home or work address in your GPS systems. Lt. Obenberger informed the Governance Council and public that identity theft is up 12%.

Representative Kelley shared her experience that someone suspiciously stopped her in a store parking lot indicating her headlights were damaged, but she says she has the kind of car that could not have damaged headlights. She believes people are using this ploy to make work for themselves but she says it is an unsafe situation. Lt. Obenberger says this is the kind of thing to report to the store manager, which she had done. Representative Shidler asked if more women are being approached than men.

Lt. Obenberger advised to be aware of one's surroundings even if one has to ask for an escort to one's car. Chair Bass said that store owners are telling customers to be careful but he says some criminal observers watch a person shop and then pop their trunk. Lt. Obenberger says people are also followed home and for that reason to remain aware.

5. **Self introductions** were made.
6. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC. None.**
7. **APPROVED** Minutes of the January 14, 2010 Council meeting.
8. **RECEIVED** General Manager's report. Metro's Financial Service Manager, Myrine White presented the budget report. She reported a favorable budget variance in the Non-work/FB accounts in Labor. In Non-Labor the favorable budget variances in Fuel, Training/Uniforms/Tools, Taxes, and Services are partially offset by unfavorable variances in Vehicles Revenue Parts and Material and Supplies. In the Allocated Accounts, the favorable budget variance is mainly in Public Liability chargeback and Regional Cost chargeback. Ms. White reported a transfer discussed last month was made by the cost department after the charges had been identified. The next report will reflect the change. Representative Kelley said the chargeback's have been an ongoing problem since she's been on the Governance Council. Ms. White said it happens throughout the agency especially when there are transfers.

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Representative Kelley inquired as to who is responsible for making the chargeback's. Ms. White responded when transfers are approved the corrections should be at the approval level. Ms. Coffey agreed adding this discussion happens system-wide. There are transfers weekly especially while changes are taking place at the agency; but the agency is on top of it. The proper adjustments are being made. Representative Kelley asked why this problem is so prevalent. Ms. Coffey said the chargeback problem is unfortunate but it is not in the control of the department. However, with the current changes taking place at the agency one should see a difference because it will all become centralized. Ms. White agreed stating when everything is under one umbrella the financial person will make the appropriate changes. Representative Shidler asked how the budgeting will work with the former Sectors under one umbrella. Ms. Coffey said these and other issues are still being worked through, and that budgeting issues have not been finalized.

Chair Bass said he finds it difficult to believe that Metro cannot correct the salary budgeting transfer of a General Manager. Metro Communications Manager Dave Hershenson said he will investigate this issue and report back to the council next month on his findings.

In presenting the Key Performance Indicators General Manager Dana Coffey said that Workers Comp is slightly under target; New Workers Comp is over at 12.8 with a target of 9.5; Bus Traffic Accidents Per 100,000 Hub Miles is at a YTD of 3.1 with a target of 3.3, Passenger Accidents Per 100,000 Boardings has a YTD of .33 with a target .22; Complaints Per 100,000 Boardings has a YTD of 1.8 but targeted at 2.0, In-Service-On-Time-Performance (ISOTP) has a YTD of 76.6 with a target of 74.0.

General Manager Coffey said the good numbers of the Key Performance Indicators are the result of module trainings, and re-trainings. The In-Service-On-Time-Performance improvement is outstanding due to improved communication between managers and operators with a focus on leaving the Division on time and running Lines in adherence to schedules. The Maintenance Department also plays a role by making sure buses are clean, safe and reliable.

Representative Shidler inquired as to why Workers Comp is \$1 million more this year. General Manager Coffey advised the cost is distributed across all Sectors. Representative Bass requested a report on Workers Comp from the past four years. Ms. Coffey indicated the past reports will reflect three contracts with potential strikes in addition to seasonal reasons as to why Operators are out of work - especially to be with families when school is out. General Manager Coffey assured the Governance Council that each claim is looked at and investigated. Representative Bass said he was passed up during a recent trip. He said he shared this information but has not gotten a reply. General Manager Coffey will provide a response. Received commendations for Operators: Nooh Saucedo; Diane C. Young, William I Jones, Fernando F. Calderon, Kimberly K. Burden-Pace, John E. Wallace, Alex S. Pages from Division 1 and Curtis D. Dean and Rhonda J. Kennedy from Division 2.

Chair Bass commented on his observations of people pulling in front of buses and said Operators are to be commended for avoiding accidents. Ms. Coffey said safety is first. Representative Kelley said that the numbers can be sometimes misleading because many accidents are not the Operator's fault. These are raw numbers and staff is doing everything

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they can to bring the numbers down. Ms. Coffey was in agreement and stressed the importance of writing and submitting Operator commendations for the hard work they do and the many challenges they face. As she concluded her report, Ms. Coffey apologized she and staff were late because of a commitment at headquarters.

9. **CARRIED OVER** oral report and possible action on Artesia Blue Line Station Environmental Mitigation Project by Matt Fraychineaud, Metro Real Estate Consultant, and Dick Williams, Boeing Corporation Consultant. Metro Transportation Planning Manger Michael Sieckert reported that Mr. Williams was unable to make the meeting but asked if he could defer this report to the March meeting.

In providing background, Mr. Sieckert informed the Governance Council that a year ago the Boeing Corporation asked Metro for permission to access the property at the Artesia Blue Line Station to test the groundwater. The history of the property includes a Boeing manufacturing facility, located southeast of the station that leaked toxins into the soil. There is contamination on the metro site near the bus bay area. Boeing has a mitigation plan that Mr. Williams will discuss. The State Water Resource Board has determined that Boeing contaminated the water and must mitigate. Both Caltrans and the railroad operators will be involved.

Representative Kelley said the City of Norwalk has been suing over the past years for the same kind of reasons. She suggested that metro Legal be advised and involved. Mr. Sieckert will report next month on the legal issues. He said the mitigation may affect parking at the station. In response to Chair Bass, Mr. Sieckert said the testing may take one month to install a reclamation well or pit to recycle water. Representative Shidler suggested additional or temporary parking be placed on the casino side to get the previously much discussed gate re-opened. Representative Kelley said this issue must be impacting the casino. Mr. Sieckert concluded his report.

10. **RECEIVED** report on Martin Luther king Transit Center Project by Transportation Planning Manger Michael Sieckert. Mr. Sieckert provided an overview of the property, including the MLK Center and Bus area where construction is taking place. The center is mostly retail with a day care center and conference room that was constructed in 1986. It was a large grocery store that's been modified. He said the nearby Compton Train Station began operation in 1990 as part of the Blue Line.

The plan for the MLK Center includes a bus area constructed for 8 buses. At present, Metro has five lines servicing the Center along with Greyhound services and the Compton Renaissance Bus Line. Pedestrians walked from the train station through the MLK center to access the buses. The City of Compton expressed a safety concern for pedestrians at Willowbrook because of cars and buses. Mr. Sieckert displayed a slide of the entrance and stated the original design was poor. The building was demolished and rebuilt. Willowbrook is now a cul-de-sac. The new design includes a passenger plaza in front of the Center with newly built homes to the north. Since the bus bays will be located to the side of the Center, passengers and pedestrians will be safer as they will no longer have to walk through the center or across roadways.

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The MLK project was approved in an MTA 2003 Call for Projects which took awhile to get off the ground; it was revised in scope in 2007 as part of an updated City Master Plan to create a transportation village. The estimated cost to construct a new transportation center was \$6.9M, MTA's funding share is \$3.3M and the City of Compton funding share is \$3.6M. Currently the project is over budget – any cost overruns would be covered by the City of Compton.

Key project components include; traffic management and an operations center; expanded conference facilities; administrative offices and storage; new bus transit center with eight bus layover bays, Operator restrooms, enhanced passenger amenities; street widening; upgraded roadways; improved signalization; and landscaping improvements. Project start date was May 2009; Bus detours were implemented in Aug 2009; the original completion date was June 2010 but has been revised to December 2010.

Mr. Sieckert showed a slide of the Center project boundaries with a current slide depicting the already built and occupied town homes with more to be built as the project progresses. Seven bus Lines affected by the construction are detoured. Those Lines are 51, 55, 60, 125, 127, 128, and 202. Mr. Sieckert presented a service profile of the affected Lines. He said in response to a public member's comments from a prior meeting the detour of Line 125 is within a safe walking distance and that the Los Angeles County Sheriffs have responsibility for the facility and safety.

Mr. Sieckert said Metro has been working with the City of Compton and provided letters to residents in the surrounding construction area regarding the project. Public safety and traffic enforcement is coordinated through the Sheriff's office with a staff person assigned to coordinate communication with residents and Metro. There is a comprehensive map posted in the area with an overview of the detours. He demonstrated a sample rider brochure for the Lines that are being detoured.

In summary, the project is approximately 33% complete. The community has been involved from the beginning of the project. There is a hot line available for the public and security is on site. The bus detours are working well with a few passenger complaints on record but none are about the detours. Representative Dobson asked why the project is delayed. Mr. Sieckert said there were issues with the local electric company in addition to weather delays and old structures. Representative Dobson offered to help if need be, and requested Mr. Sieckert to make the same presentation to her city council. Representative Shidler said the town homes are ideal to purchase because of the transit village. Mr. Sieckert also spoke of a greenbelt being built in the area. Chair Bass wondered about the cost of demolishing the former building. Mr. Sieckert concluded his report.

11. **CANCELLED** Governance Council Member Line Ride Report (Line 128) by Representative Larry Nelson was passed on this month.
12. **CANCELLED** Governance Council Member Line Ride Report (Line 121) by Representative Cheri Kelley was passed on this month.
13. **RECEIEVED** Council member's remarks. Wally Shidler spoke of the Blue Ribbon Committee. He said he will report every month on the committee. He shared the purpose of

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the committee. He spoke of the public's perception of an unsafe bus system. He also said there was a discussion about fare structures for the various transit operators in the County. The facilitator is from MIG in Berkeley. The meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on March 2 at 9:00 a.m. Representative Shidler added that there is a customer preference survey taken by Metro that will be presented at Metro's Operations Committee meeting. The survey suggests that riders are willing to pay additional fare for improved service. He spoke of the TAP that will be discussed at EMAC.

Representative Kelley asked how to get information to the Meet and Confer and how the process will work for the changes taking places. How will the Councils know and when will Councils know.

Chair Bass asked for a written report as to why the communication system was not available at today's meeting. Representative Bayer requested a tour of the New Compton facility. General Manager Coffey said the CEO is very supportive of the Governance Councils. It has yet to be determined who will oversee Governance Councils, and stressed again that the councils' role is very important to the agency. She thanked everyone for welcoming her on a short notice when she assumed responsibility for the Gateway Governance Council. She said she is not going away and will still be around in her new role and thanked the Governance Council for making the transition smooth.

Representative Rubenstein wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Adjourned 3:55

Prepared by:




Raynard Vincent Price
Council Secretary