

# ITEM 2

## MINUTES

San Fernando Valley Service Sector  
Governance Council

### Regular Meeting

Marvin Braude Constituent  
Service Center  
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

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Called to Order at 6:30 P.M.

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#### Service Sector Representatives Present:

Brad Rosenheim, Chair  
Richard Arvizu, Vice-Chair  
Michael C. Cano  
Nury Martinez  
Jesus R. Ochoa  
Marsha Ramos  
Kymberleigh Richards

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#### Officers Present:

Richard Hunt, General Manager  
William Walker, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Metro**

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. APPROVED Minutes of Regular Governance Council Meeting held on October 1, 2008.
3. RECEIVED Public Comment

Vince Garafalo – Said that overnight service should be provided on the full length of Van Nuys Boulevard, not just between Van Nuys and Panorama City. He suggested adding a 3-day grace period for Metro monthly passes. He said San Fernando Road does not need Rapid Line 794 and is just fine with Local Line 94. He also said that wheelchairs can cause delays in bus service and asked whether bus drivers were expected to make up the lost time.

Ray Lopez – Suggested a new north-south local line on Woodman Avenue that could possibly operate in an exclusive Busway on Woodman Avenue between Ventura Boulevard and Chatsworth Street and then operate east on Fox Street. He wished the Council and attendees a Happy Veterans' Day and Happy Thanksgiving.

4. RECEIVED Chair's Remarks – Mr. Rosenheim added an item to December's agenda to set Council priorities for 2009.
5. RECEIVED oral report of Richard Hunt, General Manager.

Measure R – Metro Chief Executive Officer Roger Snoble announced that Measure R preliminarily passed with a two-thirds vote. The County Registrar of Voters held off the official announcement because several thousand ballots were still being counted.

Board Update – Governor Schwarzenegger eliminated State Transit Assistance funding for fiscal year 2009 leaving Metro with a \$132 million shortfall. California State legislators will meet in a Special Session on November 6 to discuss diverting even more transit funds. The Metro Board Finance and Budget Committee will discuss this topic at its November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at 2:30pm at Metro Headquarters. A revised

Metro Ten-Year Budget Forecast will also be released in January.

Carolyn Flowers was selected as Women's Transportation Seminar Woman of the Year. Mr. Hunt congratulated her on this distinguished honor.

Metro Orange Line Ridership Records Reached – The Orange Line reached a record 28,000 average weekday boardings during October 2008. Sector Service Development Manager Michael Brewer will look into operating additional vehicles along the line but eventually the line will reach a point where operating a higher level of service may impact traffic on surrounding side streets.

The Orange Line recorded 700,000 total boardings in September, the second highest month ever. July 2008 recorded the highest ever ridership total of 716,677 boardings.

Valley and Industry Commerce Association (VICA) – Mr. Hunt reported that VICA held a great meeting that looked at some of the upcoming economic challenges for the region next year followed by some of the possible recovery that may occur in 2010. He thanked the organization for an informative session.

Performance Indicators:

- Bus accidents continue to run below target; the Sector leads the entire agency in the least number of accidents (1.94) per 1,000 miles. Complaints also continue to fall below target, although nearly half of all complaints (74 of 179) were related to schedule reliability.
- Sector budget is at a positive variance for a four-month period ending October 31.
- Workers compensation claims are below target.
- Parts costs are at a slight negative variance which will be reduced after warranty reimbursements.

6. APPROVED motion to set February 4, 2009 as a public hearing date to consider proposed service changes for June 2009 and RECEIVED report on Metro San Fernando Valley Rapid Bus Update by Michael Brewer, Service Development Manager.

Mr. Brewer reviewed the current alignment of new Rapid service introduced on the San Fernando Road corridor in June 2008 and potential

options for service changes to be implemented in June 2009:

**Current Line 724 alignment:** Sylmar San Fernando Station to North Hollywood Station via San Fernando Road and Lankershim Boulevard.

**June 2009 Service Change Program Public Hearing Proposal for Line 724:**

Option 1: Cancel Line 724 and reallocate resources to local Line 224.

Option 2: Reduce service levels on Line 724 to improve service efficiency.

Option 3: Restructure route to coordinate service along San Fernando Road with Line 794.

**Current Line 794 alignment:** Downtown Los Angeles to Burbank Metrolink Station via San Fernando Road and Brand Boulevard.

**June 2009 Service Change Program Public Hearing Proposal for Line 794:**

Option 1: Reduce service levels on Line 794 to improve service efficiency.

Option 2: Reroute Line 794 from Brand Boulevard to San Fernando Road and adjust service levels.

Option 3: Reroute 794 to San Fernando Road (same as Option 2) and extend route from Burbank Station to Sun Valley or Sylmar San Fernando Station if Line 724 is canceled.

Trips on Rapid Lines 724 and 794 were funded by allocating less productive service from Line 224 (Sylmar-North Hollywood) and canceling limited-stop Line 394 (Downtown Los Angeles-Sylmar). Rapid service on both lines operates Monday through Friday from 5am to 9pm with 10 minute peak and 20 minute off-peak headways.

According to the productivity measure “Boardings per revenue hour” Lines 724 and 794 rank 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> respectively out of 35 lines in the Sector this past September, up from 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> place rankings in August 2008. Although there has been some improvement, the overall productivity of Lines 724 and 794 remains well below the standard for rapid bus lines. Boardings per revenue hour on Line 724 increased 33 percent from 29.4 to 39.2. Boardings per revenue hour on Line 794 only increased 7 percent from 25.8 to 27.7.

Recent increases in ridership are attributed to school returning to session in late August and early September. Increases in Red Line ridership over the past few months can be attributed to the substantial increase in ridership on Line 724. Line 794 did not improve as substantially as Line 724, nor is it as efficient, since it uses one-third more resources than Line 724. Most riders using Line 724 are also boarding on Lankershim between Roscoe and North Hollywood Station, only averaging a time savings of five minutes or less.

Next Steps	
December 3, 2008:	Finalize Rapid Bus service options for inclusion in public hearing announcement
January 4, 2009:	Publish hearing announcement in local newspapers
February 4, 2009:	Hold public hearing
March 4, 2009:	Governance Council action on staff recommendation for service changes

Representative Richards said she supported option 1 for Line 724 and option 3 for Line 794 and added that Red Line riders who use Lankershim Boulevard services (Lines 224, 353, 363 and 724) might benefit from improved Line 224 service. She added that resources saved there could be diverted to support an expanded Rapid Line 794. She suggested adding Line 94 to the public hearing notice to discuss a possible curtailment of Line 94 at Sun Valley should Line 724 be canceled and resources allocated to increase Line 224 service levels.

Representative Richards said decisions regarding Lines 156 and 237 and completion of the Sector Metro Connections program should also be added to the public hearing notice. Mr. Brewer said most of Metro Connections had been implemented and that what remained are service changes that could be revisited once capital improvements are made to certain transfer centers. He also said changes to Line 156 could be made without a public hearing.

Representative Arvizu asked for a report that quantified any savings that could be made with each option proposed. Mr. Brewer said changes are planned to make Lines 724 and 794 more efficient and that any savings from the service changes along San Fernando Road and Lankershim Boulevard would be reinvested in that service corridor. He added that a document outlining cost shifts and ridership impacts will be presented at the public hearing.

David Christie, City of Burbank – Said transportation staff from the City of Burbank are supportive of option 3 which would extend Rapid Line 794 from Burbank Metrolink Station to Sylmar San Fernando Metrolink Station or Sun Valley. He added that it was a tremendous opportunity to capture more ridership in the Golden State and Burbank Airport employment areas of the city.

7. RECEIVED Service Sector Representatives' Closing Remarks.

Representative Ramos reported that the American Lung Association will sponsor "Healthy Air Walk" in downtown Burbank on Sunday, November 9 at 9am. She invited Council Representatives and the public to attend.

Representative Ochoa reminded those in attendance to observe Veterans' Day by remembering people who protect our freedoms abroad and here at home.

Representative Richards thanked everyone who voted yes on Measure R and was optimistic that the measure may allow the public to think better of Metro and the services it provides.

Representative Martinez announced the San Fernando Trolley Kick-Off Celebration on Saturday, November 8, at 9am and invited Council Representatives and the public to attend.

Representative Arvizu announced that in addition to Measure "R" passing, Measures "J" (Los Angeles Unified School District capital improvement bond) and "Q" (Los Angeles Community College District capital improvement bond) also passed, which will provide needed funds for better infrastructure and newer buildings in both districts.

ADJOURNED at 7:28 P.M.

Prepared by:



William L. Walker  
Council Secretary