

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

6:30-8:00PM

Minutes

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
SERVICE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

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

Called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Kymerleigh Richards, Chair

Jesus R. Ochoa, Vice Chair

Dr. Richard Arvizu

Gary Bric

Michael Cano

Kathryn Engel

Dina Garcia

Donald Weissman

Officers:

Jon Hillmer, Director Service Councils

Wilbur Babb, Community Relations Mgr.

Collette Langston, Board Secretary Office

Dolores Ramos, Council Admin. Analyst

Henry Gonzalez, Council Comm. Rel. Mgr



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

1. PLEDGE of Allegiance

2. APPROVED Minutes of February 6, 2013 meeting.

- Anthony Day voiced his approval of Madam Chair being described as a bully (not withstanding any hostility which may have been directed at members of the community) because “the San Fernando Valley needs this service council to fight for us.” He feels that the San Fernando Valley’s transit needs are not equitably addressed. Mr. Day said that many in the community do not have faith in the MTA Board of Directors as the Board thinks the community is made up of fools and treats them as such. Mr. Day has faith in the Council’s knowledge and passion and encouraged the Council to continue to be advocates for San Fernando Valley transit.

3. RECEIVED Chair’s Remarks

The Chair noted that a new announcement regarding safety while disembarking is played when a stop is requested. She suggested that it would be more helpful if it was played when the doors open for the passengers to disembark.

4. RECEIVED Public Comment

- Vince Garofalo told the Council about an incident he had with a Sheriff’s Deputy on Line 234 going south at Devonshire and Sepulveda. The bus was crowded and had two wheelchair passengers aboard. While moving his bags he pushed the deputy and she responded rudely. He was yelled at when he got up to throw some trash away while the bus was stopped at a red light. The same driver missed two stops because she was talking while driving. He tried to extend an olive branch but was told to pay his fare, sit down and shut up.

Mr. Hillmer advised Mr. Garofalo to call customer service to have his complaint logged and investigated.

5. RECEIVED Presentation on TDA Triennial Review Process, Armineh Saint, Transportation Planning Manager

The State Public Utilities Code (PUC) requires all recipients of Transit Development Act (TDA) funding to complete an independent review every three years to maintain funding eligibility. The review is intended to be an independent and objective evaluation of public transit operators to which TDA funds are allocated. The review has four primary goals:

1. Assess operator compliance with TDA regulations;
2. Review improvements implemented by the operator as well as progress toward adopted goals;
3. Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the transit operator; and
4. Provide sound, constructive recommendations for improving the efficiency and functionality of the transit operator.

The review is conducted in accordance with the process established by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as outlined in the Performance Audit Guidebook for Transit Operations and Regional Transportation Planning Entities, as well as the Government Audit Standards published by the U.S. Comptroller General.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro), in its roles as the Regional Transportation Planning Entity (RTPE), is responsible for completing an independent triennial review of those entities to which it allocates TDA funding. The current Triennial Performance Review (TPR) covers the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

Local entities subject to the triennial review include: LACMTA (as the RTPE as well as operator), Antelope Valley Transit Authority, Foothill Transit, and the Cities of Arcadia, Claremont, Commerce, Culver City, Gardena, La Mirada, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Montebello, Norwalk, Redondo Beach, Santa Clarita, Santa Monica, and Torrance.

To ensure compliance, the current TPR must be completed and filed with Caltrans no later than July 1, 2013. The TPR findings and recommendations will be presented to LA Metro's Bus Operations Subcommittee; LA Metro's Technical Advisory Committee; LA Metro's Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee; and LA Metro's governing board.

6. RECEIVED Presentation on **Proposed June Service Changes**, Scott Page, Service Development Manager

The proposed June service changes involve minor route modifications. Lines 90-91 and 290 will be combined into one line. Most trips are interlined now on paper and this would eliminate transfers between the routes as well as passenger confusion. Combining these lines would discontinue service on Bledsoe St but would serve the new medical center in the westbound direction.

Interlining Lines 169 and 222 will streamline valley service and provide a direct connection from Hollywood Blvd and Foothill Blvd. This proposal streamlines north/south valley service and allows Line 222 patrons to continue north to Sun Valley, Sunland and Foothill Blvd services and destinations without transferring. Scheduling staff will coordinate the services at Foothill Blvd to minimize wait times. These interline proposals will be implemented with the June service changes. There are no additional costs or operating hours caused by these changes.

Council passed a motion to support the proposed service changes.

7. RECEIVED **January San Fernando Valley Service Director's Report**, Jon Hillmer, Director

- On-time Performance: 80.9%, Goal: 80.0%, System: 78.0%
- Complaints Per 100,000 Passengers: 3.52, Goal: 2.20, System: 3.06

- Miles Between Mechanical Road Call: 5,860, Goal: 3,900, System: 3,870
- Clean Bus: 8.74, Goal: 8.5, System: 8.43
- Bus Traffic Accidents per 100,000 miles: 2.32, Goal: 3.10, System: 3.30
- Regional Bus Station Cleanliness: 8.31; Goal 8.0, System 8.31
- Bus Average Weekday Ridership: 191,928 of system's 1,086,634
- Orange Line Ridership: Weekdays 26,162, Saturdays 16,488, Sundays 12,357
- Rail Average Weekday Ridership: Red: 158,830; Blue: 91,709; Green: 46,029; Gold: 42,295; Expo 23,193.

Mr. Hillmer shared information regarding the upcoming East San Fernando Valley Project FTA Scoping Meetings. The meetings will provide information to the public about the process to study and improve north-south transit opportunities. The community meetings will include:

- Information about the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Study
- Environmental review process and project schedule
- Alternatives Planned for Analysis
- Opportunities to provide formal comments regarding the scope of the analysis to be considered in the environmental review

There are four study alternatives. First alternative is no build with discussions about what conditions would be like in 2035 if no new project is constructed. This is considered the base line for the other alternatives. Second alternative is transportation system management which includes traffic signal synchronization, enhanced bus service levels, off-bus fare collection and bus stop amenities. Third alternative is bus rapid transit with possibilities similar to the current Orange Line service that would generally operate in dedicated lanes with some portions operating in mixed-flow traffic. Fourth alternative is light rail transit similar to Metro Gold, Green, Blue and Expo Line service.

8. RECEIVED Chair and Council Member Comments

Councilmember Weissman directed his comments to Mr. Hillmer. He was invited downtown for the swearing-in ceremony for a new citizen and wanted to take the Red Line but there were no empty parking spots at the North Hollywood Station. He noticed numerous empty permit spots and inquired who holds the permits.

Mr. Hillmer explained that permit holders pay a monthly fee for the convenience of having a parking spot. The signs state that if the spots are not used by 11:00 a.m. weekdays, anyone is free to use them.

Councilmember Cano requested an update on synchronization of schedules with Metrolink and municipal operators. He also updated the Council on the testing of one-time use paper tickets for Metrolink that contain a chip for TAP conversion and asked for another update on this topic at next month's meeting.

ADJOURNED at 7:20 p.m.