

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

6:30-8:00PM

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# 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:

Michael Cano, Chair

Donald Weissman, Vice Chair

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Dr. Richard Arvizu

Gary Bric

Jesus R. Ochoa

Kymberleigh Richards

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Officers:

Jon Hillmer, Director Service Councils

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 October 2, 2013 meeting
3. RECEIVED Chair's Remarks

The Chair asked Mr. Hillmer to discuss the current restroom issue along the Orange Line.

4. RECEIVED Public Comment

➤ Vince Garofalo commented that the bus signs at the Sepulveda/Ventura bus stop have not being activated and that the bus signs at Nordhoff/Sepulveda have not been brought down. Mr. Garofalo wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

5. RECEIVED Presentation on East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Study, David Mieger, DEO, Countywide Planning and Development

The East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project is a Measure R Project with the Long Range Transportation Plan reserving \$170.1 million for development. Metro is coordinating with FTA and the Cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando.

There are 5 phases of project development. The alternatives analysis phase was completed in January 2013. The current second phase consists of Environmental Studies and Conceptual Engineering, which will last until 2015. Subsequent phases will be engineering, construction, with operation beginning in 2018. The public is encouraged to participate during all phases.

The study area consists of an 11-mile corridor primarily along Van Nuys Blvd and San Fernando Rd. There are 460,000 people residing in the corridor with 35% being transit dependent. This area is the 7<sup>th</sup> busiest bus corridor in the Metro system with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest bus boardings in the San Fernando Valley. Fifty percent of the riders stay within the study area.

During 2011-2012 the alternatives analysis study was completed. It included 10 community meetings and consideration of 30 alternatives. After extensive work, the 30 alternatives were narrowed to 6 build alternatives. In January 2013, the alternatives selected to be studied are: no build, transportation system management (TSM), bus rapid transit (BRT) and light rail transit (LRT).

The scoping period was March – May 2013 and 4 meetings were held with 258 comments collected. There is a strong LRT preference, strong support for bicycle facilities and the request to provide connections to Sepulveda Pass Project, California

High Speed Rail, Amtrak and Metrolink. During the scoping period opposition was expressed against a dedicated guideway south of the Metro Orange Line. Metro staff is currently working on alternatives refinement by reviewing scoping comments and holding discussions with the Cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando.

Alternatives 1 and 2 are Bus Rapid Transit. Alternative 1 is curbside running which is similar to Wilshire BRT with peak-period bus lanes. Alternative 2 is dedicated median running bus lanes which is similar to Metro Orange Line. Both alternatives would be 11.2 miles in total length with 6.7 miles in dedicated lanes and approximately 17-18 enhanced stations. The vehicles would use the existing maintenance facility.

Alternative 3 is a low floor tram similar to European Tram systems which have a higher carrying capacity than BRT. This system would require a new rail maintenance facility and would run for 11.2 miles in length with approximately 16 new stations.

Alternative 4 is Light Rail Transit and is similar to existing Metro LRT Lines. They have a higher capacity than the tram option and would also require a new rail maintenance facility. It would run for 11.2 miles with approximately 14 baseline stations.

Next steps are a community update during early 2014 with a release of the draft EIS/EIR during late summer 2014. There will be a 45-day public review period during fall/winter 2014 and the selection of a locally preferred alternative in winter 2014-2015.

- Ron Ziff said this project has an ambitious plan to add to the existing transit grid in the San Fernando Valley and West LA. While both areas have excellent transit grids, SFV and WLA are treated as two separate countries and their grids do not connect. Although Metro has a plan for a train in 2039, that will be a different generation. Traffic relief is needed now and ask that a bus be scheduled to connect these two areas during this generation.

#### 6. RECEIVED Presentation on Metro's Bike Program, Anthony Jusay, Transportation Planning Manager

The development and implementation of the Bicycle Program is part of Countywide Planning/Transportation. A current project is bicycle parking expansion including a secure access door, CCTV cameras and required registration. The hub would be self-serve with parking for 50 or more bikes and a flexible area for potential attended service like bike check-in, repair and retail.

Metro is developing these facilities with the first bike hub opening anticipated for spring 2014 in El Monte with an eventual connection to Rio Hondo Bike Path. The Hollywood-Vine bike hub is anticipated to open in summer 2014 and the Culver City bike hub construction will be implemented by Expo.

Education Programs have been implemented to help the public navigate the streets safely. CICLE Rides give the opportunity to practice riding a bike in the street while

supported by a group with routes especially designed for beginners and families. They are held every month and will continue through 2016. An Office of Traffic Safety Grant was used to provide 88 bicycle safety classes between May through September 2013 which served 863 participants. Participants received a free helmet and front and back bike lights along with bicycling road and safety education based on the League of American Bicyclists' curriculum to promote safe and confident bicycling. Safety campaigns are also being promoted to encourage road sharing and to give tips on how people can keep their bikes safe on Metro.

Metro recognizes the need for public awareness of bicyclists and has implemented various marketing campaigns to help with this issue. Other bike program activities include Board Motions to establish an Open Streets program similar to Ciclavia, and a report on the feasibility of Bike Share. Planning studies are also focused on addressing the First Mile Last/Mile issue and development of an Active Transportation Strategic Plan.

Chair Cano requested that when further information regarding the Bike Share program become available that it be shared with the Council.

7. RECEIVED Report on Orange Line Lassen Bridge Closure, Israel Marin, Service Planning

Repairs are needed to correct uneven wear and tear on the one-year old Lassen Bridge. One side of the bridge was paved with straight concrete and the other side was paved with a mixture of concrete and asphalt. The side with the asphalt mixture is beginning to show wear at the point where the concrete meets the asphalt due to the operation of the coaches.

The eventual repair will necessitate a detour for the Orange Line so that work can be accomplished expeditiously. The Nordhoff Station is not affected by this detour and the Orange Line is able to maintain schedules to North Hollywood. The Orange Line Metrolink shuttles will continue to Chatsworth Station using 40' buses. Negotiations regarding the needed repairs continue and a tentative schedule of late November or mid-December is anticipated.

Chair Cano requested that Council be provided an update when the detour is scheduled, and asked staff to coordinate with the City of Burbank to ensure that any affected transit users are aware of the detour.

8. RECEIVED Update on Lines 94/794, 154, and 239 Proposed Minor December Service Changes, Israel Marin, Service Planning

A route modification will be implemented on Lines 94 and 794 due to Caltrans construction anticipated to begin in late 2013 and lasting approximately 2 years. The new route will travel on Empire Ave, Victory Pl and Burbank Blvd. The new Line 94 stops at

Empire Ave and Valpreda St, Empire Ave and Wilson Ave, Empire Ave and Victory Pl and Victory Pl and Lake St. A new stop will be implemented on the Line 794 route at Empire Ave and Victory Pl.

Due to operator safety concerns, service on Line 94 in the northern-most end has been modified to terminate at Tuxford St and Lankershim Blvd via Tuxford St. The first southbound stop will be on Lankershim Blvd after the right turn from Tuxford St with a new northbound stop at Tuxford St and Telfair Ave.

Line 154 will have a minor route modification to better serve the Encino Park and Ride and enhance connection with LADOT's Commuter Express Line 423. Service will be re-routed via Hayvenhurst Ave, Magnolia Blvd and Balboa Blvd.

The previously proposed modification to Line 239 to terminate the line at Burbank and Yolanda was not approved by LADOT. The change had been sought to create a better connection to Commuter Express 422.

9. RECEIVED Director's Performance Report on San Fernando Valley September 2013 Service, Jon Hillmer, Director

- On-time Performance: 78.5%, Goal: 80.0%, System: 73.3%
- Complaints Per 100,000 Passengers: 3.55, Goal: 2.20, System: 3.38
- Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls: 4,152, Goal: 3,900, System: 3,520
- Bus Cleanliness Rating: 8.90, Goal: 9.0, System: 8.54
- Accidents per 100,000 miles: 2.61, Goal: 3.10, System: 3.50
- Bus Station Monthly Cleanliness Ratings by Region: 8.35, Goal: 8.5, System: 8.22
- Average Weekday Ridership: 219,422

10. RECEIVED Chair and Council Member Comments

*Councilmembers Ochoa, Arvizu and Richards* wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

*Vice Chair Weissman* commented that Mr. Bric was recently in the local news and wished his business a speedy recovery. *Councilmember Bric* explained that a car involved in a high speed chase smashed into his restaurant causing significant damage, but that there were no injuries and his business is being repaired. He thanked everyone for their kind wishes and wished everyone a happy holiday.

*Chair Cano* shared that the Metro Board recently approved \$500,000 for the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments mobility matrix. He informed the Council that Jaime de la Vega is stepping down from LADOT and wished him well in his future.

ADJOURNED at 8:09 p.m.