

Minutes

Wednesday, November 5, 2014
6:30PM

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
SERVICE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

Marvin Braude San Fernando Valley
Constituent Center
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard
Van Nuys, CA 91401

All Metro meetings are held in ADA accessible facilities. Meeting location served by Metro Local Lines 154, 156, 164, 233, 237, Metro Rapid Line 761, and Metro Orange Line.

Called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Council Members Present:
Michael Cano, Chair
Donald Weissman, Vice Chair
Gary Bric
Ernesto Hidalgo
Antonio Lopez
Yvette Lopez-Ledesma
Jesus R. Ochoa
Dennis Washburn

Officers:
Jon Hillmer, Director, Service Councils
Dolores Ramos, Council Admin. Analyst
Henry Gonzalez, Council Comm. Rel. Mgr
Gary Spivack, Transportation Operations Mgr.
Maria Reynolds, Transportation Operations Mgr.
Lilian De Loza, Community Relations Mgr.
Collette Langston, Office of the Board Secretary

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

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Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. PLEDGE of Allegiance
2. CARRIED OVER recognition of Kymberleigh Richards for her service to the San Fernando Valley Service Council
3. APPROVED Minutes of October 1, 2014 Meeting with abstention by Councilmembers Lopez-Ledesma and Hidalgo.
4. RECEIVED Chair's Remarks

Chair Cano commented that the fare change seems to be going smoothly. He encouraged system users to submit comments or complaints to the Metro's Board of Directors or the Council. He is excited to have a full Council and congratulated Sheila Kuehl on her election to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The Chair asked that each person introduce themselves for the benefit of the other members:

Chair Cano is the Transportation Deputy for Supervisor Antonovich with the 5th Supervisorial District.

Vice Chair Weissman is a lawyer by trade and was appointed by the City of Los Angeles. *Councilmember Lopez-Ledesma* is the Deputy Director for Pacima Beautiful and was appointed by the City of Los Angeles.

Councilmember Lopez is a San Fernando Councilmember and was appointed by the City of San Fernando.

Councilmember Hidalgo is a Director on the Board for Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council and was appointed by the City of Los Angeles.

Councilmember Bric is a Burbank Councilmember and was appointed by the East Valley Cluster.

Councilmember Washburn was the Mayor of Calabasas and was appointed by the Las Virgenes-Malibu COG.

Councilmember Ochoa was appointed by 3rd District Supervisor Supervisor Yaroslavsky.

Staff member Israel Marin is with the Planning Department.

Staff member and Council Director Jon Hillmer is with Service Development.

Staff member Dolores Ramos is with Regional Service Councils.

Staff member Collette Langston is with the Board Secretary's Office.

5. RECEIVED Public Comment

Nate Zablén believes that the pedestrian bridge at the Red Line Universal City Station will help pedestrians going to Universal Studios but not Metro patrons. It is a positive project but he thinks that Universal City should have committed more money because it is likely their customers will utilize it more than Metro's customers. Metro should have used a fraction of the money for improving the Universal City bus station's seating and to provide shade. Regarding Line 224, the operator told him that Metro tried to match the schedule with the departure of the train. It still needs better connectivity and patrons need an easier wait time.

Jason Ackerman commended Metro on the new fare structure as more convenient for passengers that take multiple trips. He thinks Metro should create a way for patrons to purchase multiple one way trips at one time, and that it would be helpful if patrons could add \$20 to their TAP card without having to go to a Metro outlet. He suggested having a design challenge for colleges to design bus stop shades with solar panels that could recharge cell phones while patrons wait for the bus.

Vince Garofalo commented that he does not think patrons should have to provide personal information to obtaining a discounted pass. Secondly, he fought with the Council regarding the bus stop at Sepulveda/Ventura that is serviced by Line 233. Lastly, he has experienced positive drivers on Line 230 going north on Laurel Canyon at 8:40 p.m. and would like the operator to receive a commendation.

Christine Stevens spoke about a young lady that she knows. She is 21 and attends LA City College, is an honor student and is on the President's List. She works 2 jobs, sometimes working 7 days a week. She has her own apartment and pays for her own schooling. This young lady does everything on public transportation. Ms. Stevens doesn't think there is enough marketing to capture the younger generation and believes that Metro needs a poster child such as this student to help promote use of the system.

6. RECEIVED Update on Red Line – Orange Line Pedestrian Tunnel Design, Milind Joshi, Senior Engineering Manager, Israel Marin, Service Planning

Metro has heard the public's request for installation of a second escalator and is modifying the existing design while trying to continue construction. The second escalator will be built during phase 2 of the project. Project construction is expected to take 18 months.

Chair Cano commented that it is fair to say that this modification will need to wait for a new budget for fruition. He expressed his appreciation that the voices were heard and that this project has some flexibility to include a second escalator. He asked that staff provide the Council with an operational plan to fully visualize how the tunnel, escalators and pedestrians will operate. *Councilmember Hidalgo* asked that the number of lines and their ridership served by the terminal be included with the information to be provided.

LADOT is requiring relocation of the crosswalk to limit crossing at Lankershim. A temporary crosswalk will continue to be in use for the duration of construction. Once construction is complete, the crosswalk will be relocated to better serve those patrons that do not be utilize the pedestrian tunnel.

Jason Ackerman reminded the Council that when this was previously considered, he suggested that the escalators are staggered to help with the flow of incoming and outgoing patrons. He suggested putting directional arrows on the escalators and incorporating standing versus walking signs to help with the patrons pushing past others standing on the escalators.

7. RECEIVED East San Fernando Valley Corridor Study Update, Walt Davis, Transportation Planning Manager

Improvements to the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor are part of the projects identified in Measure R with \$170.1 million identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The environmental process was initiated in 2011, initial Study Alternatives were identified in 2013 and will continue to be refining throughout 2014.

Metro has been working closely with the Federal Transit Administration on federal clearance and coordinating with Cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando as well as leading on state clearance.

The study area is 9.2 miles and connects the Metro Orange Line to the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station. There are 460,000 people residing in this area with 35% being transit dependent.

Alternative 1 is a curb running BRT. This is similar to Wilshire BRT and could be implemented soonest and with existing financial resources with a projected cost of \$294 million. Alternative 2 is a median running BRT and is similar to Metro's Orange Line and has a projected cost of \$402 million. Alternative 3 is a median running low floor LRT/tram with a projected cost of \$3.1 billion. This alternative is similar to systems found in San Diego, Portland and Europe. The last alternative is a median running LRT and has a projected cost of \$2.6 billion. This would be similar to other Metro LRT Lines like the Gold Line.

Councilmember Lopez Ledesma expressed concerns regarding the right turn at San Fernando Road and Van Nuys Blvd. and asked if Metro would work with the businesses in the project area while construction is completed. Mr. Davis replied that Metro has an active program to assist businesses in Metro construction areas.

Jason Ackerman commented that low floor buses were adopted to ease boarding issues but that it really as increased loading speed. He asked why rail isn't being considered for the Sepulveda Pass. He thinks it should all be one project. While it would be expensive, it would pay off in the long run. If it was connected to the Orange Line, the rail yards could then be consolidated and some money saved.

8. RECEIVED Presentation on Proposed Renaming of the Red Line's North Hollywood Station the North Hollywood/Zev Yaroslavsky Station, Lilian De Loza, Community Relations Manager

Metro's Board of Directors passed a motion in September 2014, asking staff to prepare a plan to re-name the North Hollywood Station on the Red Line for Zev Yaroslavsky. Staff was asked to bring this plan to the Board's Executive Management Committee meeting on January 15, 2015.

Metro's current Property Naming Policy states that stations may be dedicated to individuals, rather than named for them; when stations are dedicated to an individual, a plaque commemorating the individual is placed at the station. There are currently eight

stations that are dedicated to individuals. Metro's practice has been to commemoratively include individuals when stating a station's official name but not in any other customer-facing, day-to-day, operational station identification; the one exception to this is for Rosa Parks at the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station. Metro's policy also states that station dedications are for individuals who are deceased.

Based on the Board's direction regarding these two stations, staff will bring a two-part recommendation to the Board in January. The first recommendation will be that the Board amend the Property Naming Policy to permit stations to be dedicated to living individuals; the second recommendation will be to implement dedication of the station to Director Yaroslavsky in the same manner as has been used previously for other station dedications.

Chair Cano recommended that information regarding the posted change be posted at the station to facilitate public comment.

Jason Ackerman does not agree with adding Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's name to the North Hollywood Orange Line station because he believes it is the Supervisor's fault that the Orange Line is a BRT instead of a light rail line. He suggested that if the Board wants to honor Supervisor Yaroslavsky that they instead rename the Valley College Station.

9. APPROVED February 4, 2015 for the Public Hearing Date to be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled San Fernando Valley Council meeting.
10. DECIDED the Council would meet at their regularly scheduled time in December 2014.
11. RECEIVED Director's Report on San Fernando Valley Service, Jon Hillmer, Director
 - On-time Performance:: 79.0%, Goal: 80.0%, System: 73.1%
 - Complaints Per 100,000 Passengers: 5.26, Goal: 3.57, System: 4.59
 - Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls: 4,463, Goal: 4,150, System: 4,149
 - Bus Cleanliness Rating: 9.02, Goal: 9.0, System: 8.64
 - Accidents per 100,000 miles: 3.03, Goal: 3.48, System: 3.62
 - Average Weekday Ridership: San Fernando: 205,769

12. RECEIVED Chair and Council Member Comments

Vice Chair Weissman congratulated the new Council Members on their appointment and looks forward to their input and participation.

Councilmember Hidalgo participated in the TAP Lab last week. It was a great experience and he appreciated the opportunity to get an inside look at how TAP works. He questioned whether there is a way to improve the parking at the North Hollywood Station using the TAP card.

Councilmember Bric thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Councilmember Washburn also had the opportunity to visit the TAP Lab and found TAP staff to be open to ideas and suggestions. He also completed ethics training.

Councilmember Ochoa is pleased that Metro is considering naming the North Hollywood Red Line Station after Supervisor Yaroslavsky. He is very proud and honored that the Supervisor appointed him to the Council. Mr. Ochoa thanked any veterans in the audience for their service.

Chair Cano thanked everyone for attending and suggested sending comments to staff. He is looking forward to the new dynamics of the Council and reminded the members that they are welcome to email or call with any questions or input.

ADJOURNED at 8:22 p.m.