

MINUTES

San Gabriel Valley Service Sector Governance Council

Regular Meeting

Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector Office
3449 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731
3rd Floor, Council Chambers Room

Called to Order at 5:02 p.m.

Sector Representatives Present:

Roger Chandler, Chair
Harry Baldwin
Alex Gonzalez
Bruce Heard
Sharon Martinez
Dave Spence

Officers:

Jack Gabig, General Manager
Michele Chau, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. Introductions.

APPROVED **Minutes** of Regular Governance Council Meeting held October 13, 2008.

2. RECEIVED **Public Comment** – José Melendez, transit user, stated that he enthusiastically donates part of his weekend time to participate in the Metro Volunteer program and that he was honored to attend the awards ceremony last week. He mentioned that Montebello Bus Lines recently received a new fleet of hybrid buses.

Refer to Item 9 for additional public comment.

3. RECEIVED **Chair's Remarks**:

- Announced that the next meeting will be held on December 8, 2008.

4. RECEIVED oral update on **Spotlight Awards** presented by Chair, Roger Chandler.

Chair Chandler announced that Fred Minook, lead Electronic Communication Technician, recently won the 2008 Metro Spotlight Award. Mr. Minook, who has worked at Metro for the past twelve years, was part of a special team dedicated to improving the efficiency of the Automated Transit Management System (ATMS). The team's efforts resulted in a dramatic reduction in the number of ATMS failures.

Chair Chandler reported that Tom Lapatka, Transit Operations Supervisor, won the 2008 Metro Leadership Award. Mr. Lapatka has been employed at Metro for the past twenty-seven years.

5. RECEIVED oral presentation of the **LEED Award** by Tim Lindholm, Director of Capital Projects.

Mr. Lindholm stated that the San Gabriel Valley Transportation and Sector Office buildings were designed for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification but received the gold award, the second highest certification. He indicated that staff invested only 2% of the cost of the building to obtain the LEED certification, and that the agency will be able to recoup this cost within a few years. He presented several U.S. Green Building Council plaques.

6. RECEIVED report of the General Manager.

Ms. Faust presented the report in the absence of Mr. Gabig.

- The San Gabriel Valley Sector held its annual Veterans' Day celebration last Friday. John McBryan, Maintenance Manager, assisted in coordinating the event and indicated that it was well-attended.
- Measure R was approved by voters on November 4. The measure is expected to generate \$40 billion for county-wide transportation projects over the next 30 years through a half-cent sales tax. Ms. Faust presented slides showing the San Gabriel Valley voting total. 63.86% of voters in the San Gabriel Valley cast yes votes.

July through September 2008 Performance Report

Ms. Faust stated that the General Manager report will place greater emphasis on service components.

- Ridership decreased during the first quarter.
- On-Time Performance is above target for the first quarter. This figure is also higher than the agency-wide total.
- Complaints per 100,000 Boardings recently spiked in September due to schedule adherence issues, specifically bus no-shows. Schedule planners will implement minor schedule changes during the next shake-up to address this issue. Complaints regarding unsafe operation have decreased. The Sector has received twenty-five bus operator commendations. Ms. Faust highlighted a noteworthy commendation from a bus patron.
- Bus Accidents per 100,000 Miles is trending down. However, there was an upward spike in September due partially to congestion at Terminal 28. Metro bus operators have been involved in minor collisions with one another at this terminal.
- Bus Accident Severity Index is above target for the quarter. Ms. Faust clarified that the increase can be attributed more to vehicle damage than personal injury.
- Miles Between Total Road Calls has trended upward in the last quarter.
- OSHA Recordable Incidents spiked at the beginning of the quarter but trended downward in September.
- Workers' Compensation (WC) Indemnity Claims per 200,000 Exposure Hours spiked in August but decreased in September. The Sector Tiger Team is addressing WC issues.

- “How You Doin’?” Results (FY09 first quarter):
Division 9 placed 3rd and Division 3 placed 7th in both Transportation and Maintenance divisions combined.

Financial Report

- The entire Sector is on budget for the quarter. Savings were realized mainly in the areas of operator labor and Public Liability/Property Damage. There were also slight savings in Workers’ Compensation, but not to the extent that was experienced last year.
 - Total Transportation is slightly under budget. Total Maintenance is slightly over budget for the first quarter. This may be due in part to an increase in Workers’ Compensation reserves and a rise in the usage of parts.
7. RECEIVE oral update on **Ridership Growth** by Scott Page, Service Development Manager.

CARRIED OVER.

8. RECEIVED **Line 484 Profile Report** by Carl Torres, Transportation Planning Manager III.

Mr. Torres reported that Line 484 travels from Pomona to Downtown L.A. He presented a map of the route, which runs seven days a week and is thirty-three miles long. Thirty-eight buses operate on the route during the afternoon rush. Service on Line 484 is provided from 4:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the following morning.

Mr. Torres reviewed daily ridership figures on the line, both in the San Gabriel Valley Sector and system-wide. He showed a slide of a Line 53 bus at El Monte Station circa 1975, and provided historical information about Line 484.

Mr. Torres explained that Line 484 serves as the backbone of the El Monte Busway and that it will play a role in the planned Dual Hub operation.

Representative Gonzalez asked how ridership on Line 484 compares with ridership on Line 490.

Mr. Torres stated that the figures are comparable, but ridership on Line 484 is slightly higher.

Representative Baldwin asked for clarification on Dual Hub service.

Mr. Torres responded that Dual Hub service will allow for seamless travel between the San Gabriel Valley, Downtown L.A., and the South Bay area via the El Monte Busway and Harbor Transitway, respectively.

9. RECEIVED oral presentation on **Metro's Hybrid Electric Buses** by, John McBryan, Maintenance Manager.

Mr. McBryan provided an overview of the North American Bus Industries, Inc. (NABI) hybrid bus, series 4200-4201. He explained that many components of the hybrid buses are similar to compo buses. The hybrid buses incorporate Bus Rapid Transit styling, feature LED lighting and provide additional seating. Mr. McBryan reviewed specifications of the new hybrid electric buses. Fuel economy is in the range of 6-8 miles per gallon. Mr. McBryan reported that NABI added a \$200,000 premium to the bus, and Metro did not exercise its option on these new vehicles. Staff anticipated procuring additional hybrid buses but will instead purchase 45-foot compo buses from NABI due to the high cost of hybrids. The agency currently has six hybrid electric buses, two of which reside in the San Gabriel Valley Sector.

Mr. McBryan presented slides showing the rooftop components and engine cradle of the hybrid buses.

Representative Baldwin inquired about the hybrid bus catalytic converter.

Mr. McBryan stated that this should be part of the rooftop components.

Representative Gutierrez asked if hybrid buses offer an improvement in emissions compared with CNG buses.

Mr. McBryan stated that he does not have the exact figures. He clarified that hybrid electric buses are not zero emission vehicles, and noted that hybrid buses accelerate and decelerate relatively quickly.

RECEIVED public comment - José Melendez, transit user, remarked that he recently rode on the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System's new hybrid low-floor bus and that it was an enjoyable trip.

10. Consideration of Items not on the Posted Agenda – none.

ADJOURNED at 5:48 p.m.

Michele Chau

Michele Chau, Council Secretary