

MINUTES

ITEM 1

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 5:01 p.m.

Sector Representatives Present:

Roger Chandler, Chair
Joseph Mosca, Vice Chair
Harry Baldwin
Alex Gonzalez
Ernest Gutierrez
Bruce Heard
Dave Spence
Rosie Vasquez

Officers:

Jack Gabig, General Manager
Michele Chau, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. **APPROVED Minutes** of Regular Governance Council Meeting held November 10, 2008.

2. **RECEIVED Public Comment** –Mike Fern, transit user and Covina resident, stated that he has had difficulty obtaining Line 490 timetables onboard the bus. He requested that staff replenish the supply of current timetables on all Line 490 buses, and noted that signs should also be placed onboard buses to indicate where schedules are located. He recounted a recent experience in which he was one of the last few passengers to board an overcrowded Line 490 bus heading to Covina. He noted that more than 15 passengers were standing during the trip, including himself.

Mr. Gabig stated that staff is in the process of reprinting timetables, and that it is not unusual for the agency to be lean on the number of timetables this time of year. He noted that a full stock should be available by the December 14 shakeup. Staff hopes that the Dual Hub program will help address overcrowding on some lines. Scheduling issues on Lines 484 and 490 are due in large part to the length of these lines.

3. **RECEIVED Chair's Remarks:**
 - Metro was recently awarded the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold certification rating by the U.S. Green Building Council for its work on the Metro San Gabriel Valley transit facility adjacent to the El Monte Transit Center. On Monday, November 24, 2008, transit officials and civic leaders celebrated the installation of a glass medallion and brass plaque on an interior wall of the entrance to the site. Sector Representatives Alex Gonzalez and Sharon Martinez participated in the event.

4. **RECEIVED report of the General Manager.**
 - Mr. Gabig noted that each Sector Representative will receive a small holiday gift.
 - The Los Angeles County Registrar has announced that Measure R, the proposed half-cent sales tax increase for county-wide transportation improvements, has officially passed with more than a two-thirds majority vote following the final vote count. CEO Roger Snoble will present a comprehensive financial plan for delivering Measure R projects at the January Board meeting.

- Metro anticipates a revenue shortfall in FY09 due to decreased State Transit Assistance (STA) funding and dip in Prop A and Prop C sales tax revenues. The CEO will address strategies to make up for the shortfall through FY10. More information will be available at the January or February Council meeting.
- “How You Doin’?” Results for October 2008:
Division 3 placed 1st in Maintenance for the first time this fiscal year. Division 9 placed 3rd in Maintenance.
- A community outreach meeting regarding El Monte Station plans was held at the Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector Office last Thursday. Representative Gutierrez was present at the meeting, along with approximately 25 business and civic leaders. Attendees expressed unanimous support for a new or expanded Station and emphasized the need to coordinate with the City of El Monte to complete the Transit Village project. The project will be implemented in conjunction with the re-development of surrounding parcels. Metro will work with stakeholders to draft a conceptual plan for the project beginning tomorrow. Staff hopes to produce formal documentation within thirty days. A procurement package will be released in spring 2009. Staff hopes to complete the project by the end of FY10.

Representative Chandler asked if the Board will re-visit service cuts in order to mitigate the impacts of reduced revenues.

Mr. Gabig responded that this will likely be considered along with a number of other approaches to reducing costs.

- David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, provided a quarterly community relations update. He reviewed Sector coordination meetings and marketing projects, including the San Gabriel Valley customer appreciation program, route promotions, and El Monte Station and Busway. The second round of the customer appreciation program contest was launched in late November 2008. The second round of winners will be selected in late December or early January, and the third round of winners is scheduled to be promoted in June 2009. New route marketing programs will be created to promote lines with low ridership. These include Lines 177, 620 and 665. In addition, staff will promote alternative means of transit to access El Monte Station beginning June 2009. El Monte Busway service will also be promoted to coincide with the launch of the new “Dual Hub” service.

Mr. Hershenson stated that the next San Gabriel Valley municipal and local bus operator bi-annual coordinating meeting will be held in or around January 2009.

There have also been regular meetings with representatives from transit providers involved with service complementing the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension.

Representative Spence asked about changes in ridership on Line 177.

Mr. Page responded that a ride check was recently completed and that the results should be available shortly.

Representative Mosca asked if the coordinating meetings with municipal operators are open to the public.

Mr. Hershenson responded that the meetings are not open to the public, but that he will invite all San Gabriel Valley Sector Representatives to the meetings.

5. **RECEIVED oral update on Line 177 Survey Results** by Scott Page, Service Development Manager.

Mr. Page reported that Metro staff worked with Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Caltech to administer the survey. Emails were sent to eight hundred individuals at JPL with the assistance of an on-site rideshare coordinator, and thirty responses were received. Seven key questions were included in the survey. The questions examined frequency of use of Line 177, hours passengers ride most often, when increased frequency would be beneficial, whether passengers would ride more often with a 20-minute headway, importance of all-day service, importance of lunch hour service, and why the line is not used more often. Based on the survey results, staff concluded that passengers would like more reliable service, better buses, and more frequent peak period service. Lunch time and all-day service were not as important. Service recommendations include operating service every 12-15 minutes during the AM/PM peak with no mid-day service, shortening the route at Pasadena City College, providing newer buses to enhance ridership, and marketing service improvements.

Representative Spence asked for clarification on service that is “not reliable.”

Mr. Page responded that this refers to buses that are not on schedule. This may be the result of bus breakdowns and other factors. Mr. Gabig clarified that reliability and condition of the bus are closely inter-related. In addition, Line 177 buses run on a tight schedule.

Representative Spence asked who operates Line 177 service.

Mr. Gabig responded that Veolia Transportation is the contractor responsible for the line. He mentioned that staff had discussions with the City of Pasadena about assuming the service but funding served as a major obstacle.

Representative Spence mentioned that AQMD funding, if available, would be helpful.

Mr. Gabig responded that plans to replace the entire Metro contracted services fleet, while funded, remains on hold along with other capital projects due to financial challenges. He noted that the City of Pasadena has taken advantage of AQMD funding in the past.

Representative Heard stated that an on-board survey would provide better and more accurate information from passengers.

Mr. Page said he would consider this.

Representative Gonzalez noted that one of staff's recommendations for Line 177 involves shortening the route at Pasadena City College. He asked if the Line 177 bus is the only one that travels on Hill St.

Mr. Page stated that the Pasadena ARTS bus travels on Hill St.

Representative Gonzalez asked about the number of boardings in the Pasadena City College area.

Mr. Page responded that this information will be included in the public hearing documents.

Representative Mosca asked if staff reviews contract lines and updates the Sector on their performance.

Mr. Page responded that contract bus lines are overseen by staff at Metro headquarters. Annual ride checks on contract lines are also administered by downtown staff.

Representative Mosca asked how the Council can provide input on contract lines.

Mr. Page stated that all complaints are forwarded to Shannon Anderson, Transportation Contract Services Manager.

Representative Baldwin asked if Metro provides the contract buses.

Mr. Gabig responded that Metro provides the fleet. New thirty to forty foot buses will be available in the near future.

Representative Baldwin asked if Measure R will allow for provision of new buses.

Mr. Gabig responded that 20% of Measure R revenue will be channeled to bus operations.

6. APPROVED date of **Public Hearing for June 2009 service changes** by Scott Page, Service Development Manager.

Mr. Page stated that the public hearing for the proposed service changes will take place February 2009 and if approved, will be implemented on June 28, 2009. He provided a brief public hearing timeline and reviewed the Gold Line bus-rail interface plan, which would impact Lines 30-31, 68, 254, 287, 487 and 620. A new Dual Hub Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is proposed for the El Monte Busway and Artesia Transit Center. This new BRT would impact service on Lines 484 and 490. In addition, contract bus Lines 177 and 256 are proposed to be modified. Mr. Page indicated that more details would be provided at the February 2009 meeting.

Representative Gonzalez asked if Line 490 headways will be shortened.

Mr. Page stated that headways will either remain the same or improve. Mr. Gabig stated that headways will be more standardized.

Representative Baldwin asked how staff plans to interface Line 487 with the Gold Line Eastside Extension.

Mr. Page responded that Line 287 is proposed to be extended west from the Montebello Town Center to the Indiana Gold Line Station, providing service on the Line 30 route portion on Floral Dr. and Rowan Ave. The route portion from the Sierra Madre Gold Line Station south to El Monte Station will be replaced by Line 487.

7. RECEIVED oral report on **Gold Line East Corridor Phase II** by Kimberly Yu, Transportation Planning Manager IV.

Ms. Yu presented a map showing the Gold Line Eastside Corridor, and reviewed the Alternatives Analysis schedule. The Alternatives Analysis study was initiated in September 2007 and is designed to evaluate potential alternatives for the second phase of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension currently under construction. The goal of the proposed study is to improve mobility in the corridor by connecting the Extension to cities further east of Los Angeles. Forty-seven alternatives were identified for initial screening. These alternatives were reduced to seventeen initial alternatives, which were further reduced to five alternatives. Four final alternatives were ultimately selected. The recommendations and results of the Alternatives Analysis will be presented to the Metro Board in January 2009.


Ms. Yu provided an overview of the project area, public outreach effort, early public scoping comments, purpose and need of initial conceptual alternatives, and screening process evaluation criteria. The four recommended final alternatives include the SR 60 LRT, Beverly Blvd. LRT, Beverly Blvd./Whittier Blvd. segments (east of Montebello Blvd.) LRT, and Washington Blvd. LRT. In addition to the four final alternatives, staff recommends a no-build and transportation systems management (TSM) approach.

Representative Gutierrez asked if the study included an examination of the San Andreas fault.

Ms. Yu stated that the Alternatives Analysis study does not include this information. She noted that the environmental study may include information on sensitive geographic areas through which buses may travel.

8. Consideration of Items not on the Posted Agenda - none.

ADJOURNED at 5:56 p.m.


Michele Chau, Council Secretary