

CORRECTED MINUTES

San Gabriel Valley Governance Council

Regular Meeting

El Monte City Hall
Building East
Council Chambers
11333 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA 91731

Called to Order at: _____

Council Members Present:

Alex Gonzalez, Chair
Rosie Vasquez, Vice Chair
Roger Chandler
Albert Huang
Steven Ly
Joseph Mosca
Dave Spence

Officers:

Jon Hillmer, Director Governance
Council
David Hershenson, Comm. Rel. Mgr
Michele Chau, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Called
3. RECEIVED Public Comment – Ken Ruben, transit user, stated that a Famima!! convenience store will open tomorrow at Union Station. He recently attended his 50th high school reunion at Fairfax High. One of his former classmates, Francine Strauss, worked in the transportation industry.
4. **APPROVED Minutes of Meeting held September 13, 2010.**
5. RECEIVED **Director’s Report**, David Hershenson.
Mr. Hershenson noted that he is providing the report on behalf of Mr. Hillmer.
 - Performance Report – On-Time Performance (OTP) target is 80%. Year-to-date OTP performance in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) is near the target. Complaints per 100,000 miles is slightly above the target for SGV. Miles Between Total Road Calls is trending well. Accidents per 100,000 miles is near the target. SGV ridership in August was slightly below target but is trending in the right direction. Silver Line ridership is increasing. Mr. Hershenson reviewed rail ridership figures.
 - Recap on Meet and Confer and tour of facilities September 30 – Chair Gonzalez indicated that the Meet and Confer was well-attended. The discussion focused on getting back to basics. A presentation on the Transit Access Pass was provided at the meeting. The new format of the meeting worked well. Councilmember Spence stated that Metro would benefit from applying more real business principles and putting greater emphasis on efficiency.
 - Summary of Metro Board Actions for September: Approved action items included but are not limited to Mayor Villaraigosa’s bike motion and approval of real-time bus arrival information system contract. Mr. Page provided an overview of modifications to staff recommendations regarding proposed service changes to Lines 220, 620, 439, and 711.
 - November workshop for June 2011 service changes – The Councils will now be briefed on proposed service changes before they are included in the public hearing notice. This provides an opportunity for Council input prior to public hearing notice publication. The Councils will approve the public hearing dates in December. Hearings are scheduled for February 2011, and review and approval of the proposals will take place March 2011.
 - San Gabriel Valley transit providers meeting is scheduled today.

6. RECEIVED update on the **El Monte Station Construction Project** and Recap on the Groundbreaking Event.

Mr. Hershenson reported that the El Monte Station is in the process of being demolished and that a new state-of-the-art, LEED-certified Station will be built. The original terminal was closed on September 12. A temporary terminal is currently being used. The agency is providing additional parking for patrons and signage has been added to reduce confusion. A drop-off zone will be added to one of the parking lots. Handout cards with information regarding bus bays and parking facilities will be distributed to patrons. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 22, 2010 and was well-attended. The grand opening is anticipated to take place in eighteen months.

7. RECEIVED **report on Line 177** and meetings held with Community Transportation Systems.

Carl Torres Transportation Planning Manager III, Service Planning and Scheduling, reported that last month, staff met with Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Caltech, City of Pasadena and City of Glendale to resolve issues concerning Line 177. The main stumbling block is funding. The City of Glendale is proposing a fare increase beginning January 2011 and reductions to transit services. The City of Pasadena has cancelled Sunday transit service. Topics of discussion included provision of partial funding for Line 177 service by JPL and MTA. The line would be operated by the City of Glendale or Pasadena. MTA will continue to operate morning and evening peak service until June 2011. Once staff is able to clarify scheduling and revenue service hours for Line 177, an estimate of operating costs can be made.

Representative Mosca asked if the current contractor can be retained since it appears the operating costs would be less than the cost to operate the line by either the City of Pasadena or Glendale. He indicated that if JPL, Caltech, City of Pasadena or City of Glendale subsidizes the operating costs, it is possible to use the current contractor.

Mr. Torres stated that ride checks will be conducted on Line 177 to obtain updated ridership figures.

Representative Chandler indicated that MTA is partly to blame for poor ridership on Line 177 due to the sub-par equipment that it provided to its former contractor, Veolia Transportation.

8. **APPROVED proposed service changes to Line 256.**
The Council approved Alternative #2, modification of the route north of Washington Blvd.

Mr. Page stated that residents on Holliston Ave., north of Washington Blvd., have submitted complaints about Line 256 buses speeding down the narrow street. Staff reviewed ridership for the line and alternative services. Mr. Page presented a map of the line. Three alternatives were presented: 1) maintaining the existing route north of Colorado Blvd., 2) modify the route north of Washington Blvd., or 3) maintain the existing route and consider including the discontinuation of the segment of the route north of Colorado Blvd. in the February 2011 public hearing notice.

9. **RECEIVED and FILED Metro Board Approved changes to Line 620.**

Mr. Page stated that Line 620 will continue to operate but at a frequency of only once per hour. Staff will re-evaluate the line's performance next spring.

10. **RECEIVED report on the Eastside Extension Phase 2.**

Ann Kerman, Community Relations Manager, presented a network map and indicated that the Eastside Extension Phase 2 project will focus on transit options east of Atlantic Blvd. and Pomona Blvd. Once the regional connector is in place, passengers will be able to travel from the eastside to the westside without transferring. The study area is 80 square miles and includes 13 cities and parts of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The study began in 2007 with 47 alternatives. In January 2009, the number of alternatives was reduced to 4. In October 2009, the Board considered the results of the alternatives analysis study and agreed that staff should move forward with a draft environmental process with two alternatives, the SR-60 to the north and Washington Blvd. to the south. Scoping meetings were conducted January through April 2010. Constituents in the study area were notified through postcards, flyers, online notices, etc.

Over 500 scoping comments were received. Generally there is support for both alternatives. Only 8 comments supported a no-build or other option.

Ms. Kerman noted that a superfund site in Monterey Park along SR-60, and sensitive wildlife habitat at Whittier Narrows represent challenges. Concerns regarding the Washington Blvd. alternative included vandalism in Pico Rivera, seismic concerns with building a light rail in communities in the south, and negative impacts to residents and businesses. Public agencies also expressed concerns about historic properties, flood control basins, coordination with utilities and superfund site. Remediation work may be needed at the superfund site.

11. RECEIVED presentation from Urban Land Institute, Los Angeles District Council on the **2011 TOD Summit**.

Carl Fielding provided the report on behalf of Alex Kalamaros, New Business Development. Mr. Fielding stated that there are open applications for the 2011 TOD Summit technical assistance panel, and invited the Council to participate in the panel. TOD refers to transit-oriented development, and the TOD Summit focuses on how transit infrastructure improvements impact land use in the communities surrounding the stations. AB32 and SB375 issues also come into play in terms of how transportation and land use contributes to the carbon footprint of communities. MTA may directly own the TOD site, or may own land adjacent to a TOD site. In addition, MTA may partner with private owners to help them develop an effective TOD. MTA currently has 50 TOD projects underway.

Mr. Fielding explained that the Urban Land Institute is a leader in the real estate industry in the U.S. and worldwide. The Institute focuses heavily on the connection between transportation and land use. He reviewed benefits of participating in the TOD Summit's technical assistance panel. The applications to take part in the panel are due November 24, 2010.

12. Chair and Council Member Comments:

Representative **Huang** ~~Ly~~ mentioned an electric bus loan program being considered by the City of **San Gabriel Rosemead**. Under this program, electric buses will be loaned free of charge to the city for trial purposes. He stated that MTA would benefit from such a program.

Mr. Page stated that he was recently approached by vehicle development staff regarding compiling a list of lines on which similar types of vehicles could operate. Representative **Huang** ~~Ly~~ offered to provide staff with more information regarding the program.

Representative Vasquez welcomed back Henry Gonzalez, Community Relations Manager, who was off work for personal reasons.

Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Michele Chau

Michele Chau, Council Secretary