

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: 5:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Alex Gonzalez, Chair
Rosie Vasquez, Vice Chair
Roger Chandler
Harry Baldwin
Bruce Heard
Steven Ly
Joseph Mosca

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. **APPROVED Minutes of Meeting held May 9, 2011.**
4. **RECEIVED Public Comment** – John McCready, transit user, stated that he noticed that there is an eye-catching display for Line 770 and Line 68. He asked if a similar display can be created for Line 266 and Line 270. He suggested increasing service on Lines 266 and 270 and adding more details in the Director’s Report on bus service and performance of various lines.
5. **RECEIVED Director’s Report**, Jon Hillmer.

David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, provided the report in the absence of Mr. Hillmer. He stated that performance figures in the PowerPoint presentation are based on data collected in April 2011. On-Time Performance (OTP) in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) reached the target of 80% for the first time in the Council region and the second time system-wide. This is quite an impressive accomplishment. Previously declines in OTP may be attributed to an unusual number of rain days in the last few months. Complaints in the SGV dropped in April. Improvements in OTP tend to correlate to declines in complaints. The Division 9 team has been focusing on customer service. Year-to-date Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls exceeded the target despite the aging fleet at Division 9. Division 9 has the lowest number of accidents per 100,000 miles of all five Council regions. Ridership numbers continue to rise both in the SGV and system-wide. Silver Line ridership has been robust. Current weekday ridership on the Silver Line grew by nearly 90% compared with ridership levels in January 2010. Weekend ridership has also increased. Limited parking at El Monte Station continues to present challenges. A few extra parking spaces have been added. Gold Line ridership is trending upward.

Mr. Hershenson reviewed the annual San Gabriel Valley work plan. He indicated that an annual work plan is included as a provision in the Service Council bylaws. The work plan includes an expanded public outreach program, a program to enhance understanding of the Council’s role in the community and projects in the region, and tour of Division 9 (including Operations and Maintenance), Rail Operations Center, and Gold Line Foothill and Eastside Extension.

Mr. Hershenson provided a summary of the FY12 budget. The total of the balanced budget is approximately \$4 billion. The budget calls for no layoffs and no wage increases. He presented a slide showing revenue, labor and service assumptions and budget risks. There is a potential 5% decrease in bus ridership and potential 16% increase in rail ridership. Metro staff is currently undergoing labor negotiations. The state and federal government may further cut some funds. While inflation is down, fuel prices are up. Prop 1B bond sales may continue to be stalled, which will have a detrimental impact to Metro projects currently underway. Metro staff is communicating with legislators to ensure that critical projects move forward. If the state budget does not pass, Prop 1B bonds cannot be issued.

Representative Heard asked if the Gold Line will be impacted.

Mr. Hershenson responded that the Gold Line Foothill Extension will be impacted. He added that Alameda Corridor East and other projects would also be affected. Chair Gonzalez noted that thousands of jobs are at risk due to the stalling of the Prop 1B bond sale. Mr. Hershenson stated that penalties will have to be paid to contractors for halting various projects.

Vice-Chair Vasquez asked if any of Metro's union contracts are up for renewal or expiring soon.

Mr. Hershenson responded that staff has been conducting labor negotiations. Presently there has been no talk of any strike.

Mr. Hershenson presented a slide showing the breakdown of the FY12 budget by department and FY12 budget service hours. Ridership is projected to decrease by 7.1 million on bus and increase by 7.7 million on rail. The rise in Gold Line ridership has been impressive. He reviewed passenger boardings.

Mr. Hershenson reviewed Metro Board actions in May. The Board approved the Doran Street Crossing Motion by Directors Villaraigosa, Antonovich, Knabe, Najarian and Katz. The Board disapproved undergrounding (48th-59th Street) and approved the Leimert Park Station on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor if it can be built within project funding. The Board certified the revised final EIR/EA for the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project (excludes Condo Canyon, includes Brentwood and portions of Westwood). The lane on Wilshire Blvd. will be dedicated to bus-only traffic and will not be a stand-alone, separated busway.

Representative Mosca asked how far the Wilshire bus-only traffic lanes will be from the subway to the sea, once completed.

Mr. Hershenson responded that there will be some parallels between the subway extension to the sea and the Wilshire BRT corridor. However, the subway extension will include a stop in Century City and will not be completed for quite some time. The LA City Council still needs to approve the Wilshire BRT project.

The MTA Board also approved the following items in May: conversion of weekly and monthly passes to rolling 7 and 30 day passes, respectively; temporary roll-back of Day Passes from \$6 to \$5; \$1.474 billion in FY12 Transit Fund Allocations for LA County jurisdictions, transit operators and Metro Operations; Metro FY12 budget; and appointment of Maribel De La Torre to the San Fernando Valley Service Council.

The quarterly Service Council Meet and Confer will be held on June 30, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at the Union Station Conference Room (3rd Floor, MTA Gateway Building). Primary topics of discussion are to be determined.

The I-405 freeway will be closed at Sepulveda Pass beginning at 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 15 and will re-open by 5:00 a.m. on Monday, July 18. An extensive communications plan is in place to alert the public of the closure.

Mr. Hershenson provided an overview of June 26, 2011 Metro bus service changes for San Gabriel Valley lines. Impacted lines include Lines 71, 176/287, 254, 485, 577 and 751.

A few SGV Councilmember terms will be expiring this month. Jon Hillmer has been working with the appropriate appointing bodies. Staff is awaiting nominations for the vacancy representing Alhambra, South Pasadena, and San Marino.

Representative Heard pointed out that the PowerPoint slide shows only Line 485 in white text. He asked if there was any significance in this.

Carl Torres, Transportation Planning Manager, indicated that Line 485 will not run on weekends. It will run from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays only.

Representative Heard questioned this service change. He stated that ridership is likely to decrease substantially with this change and asked why staff is not discontinuing the line.

Mr. Torres responded that a huge public outcry will result from discontinuation of the line.

Chair Gonzalez noted that he experienced difficulty locating information regarding the Citizens' Advisory Council on the metro.net website. He indicated that the Governance Council webpages may need to be updated.

Mr. Hershenson responded that he intends to update the website.

Representative Mosca suggested that presentations be provided at various city council meetings in the San Gabriel Valley to inform cities of ongoing Metro projects.

Mr. Hershenson stated that this is a good idea.

6. **DISCUSSED Service Changes in December 2011.**

Carl Torres, Service Development and Planning, stated that there will be four public hearings, including one all-region service council public hearing and hearings for the Westside/Central, Gateway Cities, and South Bay service regions. The San Gabriel Valley and San Fernando Valley service areas will not be holding public hearings.

7. **RECEIVED report on ridership from Atlantic Blvd. to downtown Los Angeles on Lines 68 and 770.**

Mr. Torres presented a slide showing weekday Line 68 westbound ridership from January 2009 through April 2011. Ridership tends to dip in December due to the holidays. There are fewer riders attending school and going to work during the holiday season. The Gold Line Eastside Extension opening in November 2009 resulted in a slight decrease in ridership on Line 68. The replacement of Line 30/31 by Line 287 in June 2010 resulted in a slight increase in ridership on Line 68. There has been an increase in ridership on Line 68 since the discontinuation of service on 1st Street in December 2010.

Mr. Torres presented a slide showing weekday Line 770 eastbound ridership from January 2009 through April 2011. He indicated that westbound ridership trends on the line are similar to the eastbound ridership trends. There has been a dramatic increase in riderhip on Line 770 since the discontinuation of service on 1st Street in December 2010. He noted that Gold Line Eastside Extension ridership has also been on the rise.

8. **ELECTED new Chair and Vice Chair for July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012.**

Elected Vice-Chair Vasquez to serve as Chair beginning July 1.

Elected Representative Ly to serve as Vice-Chair beginning July 1.

9. **RECEIVED Chair and Council Member Comments.**

Chair Gonzalez inquired about the progress of the smart phone app. which enables Council representatives to evaluate line rides.

Mr. Hershenson responded that he worked with Metro's Information Technology Department to develop the app. He will send line evaluation forms designed for smart phones to the Council via email.

Chair Gonzalez stated that he went to the Bay area recently. He commented on his positive experiences using public transit both in Los Angeles and in the Bay area.

Vice-Chair Vasquez thanked Chair Gonzalez for his leadership on the San Gabriel Valley service council during the past year.

Adjourned at 5:45pm



Michele Chau, Council Secretary