

MINUTES

San Gabriel Valley Governance Council

Special Meeting**

East Los Angeles Public Library
4837 E. 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022

**Note: Change in location this month only.

Called to Order at: 5:05 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Rosie Vasquez, Chair
Steven Ly, Vice Chair
Roger Chandler
Harry Baldwin
Alex Gonzalez
David 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. **APPROVED Minutes of Meeting held July 11, 2011.**
4. **RECEIVED Director's Report**, Jon Hillmer.

Mr. Hillmer reported on performance indicators for the month of June 2011. System-wide On-Time Performance (OTP) increased to 76% for June. OTP in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) was an impressive 81%. The SGV region's OTP rating has not reached this level in at least 5-6 years. There were 2.65 Complaints per 100,000 boardings system-wide and 2.86 Complaints per 100,000 boardings in the SGV region in June. There were 3,757 Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls (MBMRC) system-wide and 4,446 MBMRC in the SGV region in June. The Clean Bus Rating target is 8. All five service regions scored at least 8 during the month of June. Although the SGV region's Clean Bus Rating dipped this month, it remains higher than the target.

There were 2.58 Accidents per 100,000 miles system-wide and 2.74 Accidents per 100,000 miles in the SGV region in June.

System-wide Ridership was 31.9 million and SGV region Ridership was 4.76 million in June. The SGV region met its targets both in the area of Accidents and Ridership.

Mr. Hillmer presented slides showing bus and rail system average weekday ridership, Silver Line ridership trends, and Gold Line monthly ridership trends. Both Silver Line and Gold Line ridership continues to climb.

Mr. Hillmer reported that the I-405 freeway closure near the Sepulveda Pass area on July 16-17 was a success. A majority of the public heeded warnings to either stay away from the area impacted by the closure or stay at home. There were no significant problems for transit users. The freeway re-opened well ahead of schedule. The second phase of the project will result in another I-405 freeway closure sometime in spring or summer 2012.

Mr. Hillmer reviewed other major highway projects underway. These include the I-710 re-surfacing project and Harbor Transitway closure. Work on the I-710 will occur on 10 weekends over the next three months beginning August 6. The freeway will be closed for 2 eight hour periods and there will be restricted lanes. The Harbor Transitway will be closed from 10 pm to 6 am daily for one year beginning August 13. Five Transitway stations will not be served during the yearlong project. Express buses will travel in regular traffic lanes and only serve the Green Line Station.

Mr. Hillmer presented a slide showing Pasadena express service history. He reported on ridership on Lines 401/402, 483, 485, and 48 prior to Gold Line implementation in 2004, and current ridership on the Gold Line and Lines 485 and 489 (post Gold Line implementation).

Mr. Hillmer reported that the planned August 2011 public hearings have been cancelled, and that the proposed service changes included cuts in service. There has been a general increase in ridership in the region. The MTA budget did not require additional cuts in service, and a determination was made to pull back the proposals. Staff will re-evaluate the proposals.

Mr. Hillmer reviewed selected Board actions during the months of July/August. Highlights included the passage of the following motions: motion by Director Villaraigosa on bus service enhancements and innovations, motion by Directors Villaraigosa, Katz, Yaroslavsky and DuBois on the green construction policy, motion by Directors Yaroslavsky, O'Connor and Villaraigosa on the bike share program, and motion by Director Antonovich on High Speed Rail.

Mr. Hillmer provided a list of planned service council tours for the coming year. These include tours of the Rail Operations and Bus Operations Control Centers, rail/bus divisions, Orange Line extension, Gold Line Foothill extension, Green Line extension, Metro Art, and bus mid-life re-build.

Mr. Hillmer presented a slide showing existing and proposed names for various Metro stations. He indicated that staff is soliciting public comments regarding the proposed station names.

Chair Vasquez noted that none of the stations listed fall in the San Gabriel Valley region and that any final decisions regarding station naming should be the responsibility of the appropriate service councils overseeing the area in which the stations are located.

5. **RECEIVED report on San Gabriel Valley Quarterly Transit Providers Meeting.**

David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, reported that there are five regional Transit Providers meetings each quarter, and that one meeting is held in each service area. There will be a Transit Providers meeting tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. in the San Gabriel Valley region. Any transit operator in the San Gabriel Valley may attend the meeting. Issues that will be discussed at the meeting include an update on progress of construction at the El Monte Station, upcoming I-10 freeway HOV lane closures, presentation by Metrolink, the automated passenger count system, and service change proposals by various transit operators in the region.

6. **CONDUCTED Working Session on East First Street Transit Service Options.**

Conan Cheung, Deputy Executive Officer, Operations, stated that when the Gold Line Eastside Extension began operation, service was reduced on First Street between Indiana Street and Atlantic Blvd. Prior to the Gold Line Eastside Extension, buses operating in the area ran every 15 minutes. MTA bus service on East First Street was adjusted to hourly in June 2010, and was completely eliminated in December 2010.

Mr. Cheung remarked that there is a significant amount of service on Cesar Chavez Ave. and that this corridor is served by Lines 68 and 770. Buses operating in this corridor run every 10-15 minutes. He indicated that passengers who require service on First Street may walk to Cesar Chavez Ave. or ride the Gold Line on Third Street.

Mr. Cheung indicated that Supervisor Gloria Molina hosted a meeting 2-3 months ago to discuss concerns about East First Street service. As a result, staff decided to hold a working session at East Los Angeles Library. He emphasized that this is not a public hearing and that staff is only obtaining feedback.

The next public hearing will be for service changes to be implemented in June 2012 or later. Mr. Cheung stated that there are three proposals that staff is considering regarding provision of service on East First Street: 1) El Sol shuttle is considering adjusting service at Union Pacific/Salazar Park, and bringing service up to Mednik Ave. Additional service would be provided on East First Street. 2) Re-route Line 68 service. Selected trips would be moved from Line 68 to First Street. Line 68 runs every 40-60 minutes seven days a week.

3) Move selected trips from Line 770 to First Street. Negative aspects of this proposal are that Line 770 runs on Saturday but not Sunday, and Line 770 only stops at major intersections.

Mr. Cheung noted that ridership on Cesar Chavez Avenue is robust, and selected trips would be removed from this corridor. He clarified that staff is not restoring service to Line 30/31.

RECEIVED Public Comment on East First Street Transit options:

David Vela, Senior Deputy for Supervisor Gloria Molina, clarified that those providing public testimony should focus on commenting on the three proposals presented by staff. The purpose of this working session is to obtain public feedback on the three proposals regarding East First Street service.

- 1) Francisco Melgoza stated that he lives on First St./Gage Ave. Montebello Bus Line 30 gets to Indiana St. but he still needs to walk to Gage Ave. Although he can take a combination of MTA and Montebello bus service to reach his destination, he would need to pay a second fare to travel a short distance.
- 2) Audelia Mendez stated that she supports the reinstatement of Line 30/31 service. Existing bus service requires a long walk to reach her destination.
- 3) Enrique Velazquez remarked that the main problem is lack of service on First Street between Indiana Street and Atlantic Blvd. Students have no means of transit to reach school. Elderly patrons need to walk farther, and businesses in the area are going bankrupt due to lack of access to the businesses via transit.
- 4) Silvia Corona stated that she is representing the community and voters. She stated that MTA Board members should be subjected to the same situations that patrons must deal with daily. She wants staff to reinstate Lines 30/31.
- 5) Robert Ramirez thanked staff for their consideration of this issue. He stated that Line 30 stopped at Indiana and First Street and ran every hour. He asked staff how much it would cost to run service on First Street during the one hour when the bus is idle. He stated that he would appreciate any kind of bus service on First Street, but staff needs to be careful not to create inconveniences for riders of other lines.
- 6) Rosa Amezcón thanked staff and emphasized the importance of Line 30. She stated that 700 riders pass through First Street daily. Most of these riders do not drive. She wants staff to restore Line 30 rather than take service away from Lines 68/770.

- 7) Ramona Covarrubias stated that she is a business owner on First Street. She indicated that many riders are seniors who have difficulty walking down the hill to catch the shuttle. She wants to bring back Line 30.
- 8) Maria Elena Castaneda stated that the cuts to Line 30/31 have deeply impacted riders. She used to ride Line 287 daily and the current service is not as frequent. Disabled and elderly riders are most affected by the cuts in service on First Street. She stated that on one occasion she waited one hour and ten minutes on First St/Rowan for a bus.
- 9) Teresa Marquez stated that she is a public official representing the State and the community. She remarked that staff needs to evaluate whether service is adequate on First Street. She has attended community meetings in the area and this issue is constantly raised. It's important not to remove service from Cesar Chavez Ave. Gold Line service is not adequate.
- 10) Bertha Garcia stated that the elimination of Line 30 has left many riders stranded. Many riders are transit dependent. She needs to take Line 30 to travel on Floral Dr. to downtown.
- 11) Michael Aparicio commented that he grew up in East Los Angeles and the implementation of the Gold Line has negatively impacted service on First Street. The First Street Store is now blighted. This store has been a major business in the area since the 1920's. He suggested running a smaller shuttle on East First Street to reduce costs. It's important to revitalize businesses on First Street. He opposed re-routing Line 68 as it would be detrimental to riders on Cesar Chavez Ave.
- 12) Jose Melendez stated that he is a long-time rider of Montebello Bus Lines. He asked if Montebello Bus Lines will be operating service on First Street. Mr. Cheung stated that staff has not yet discussed this with Montebello Bus Lines. He added that the alternate proposals were discussed earlier and that Montebello Bus Lines will gather feedback from the public. Jose Melendez stated that Montebello Bus Lines should add another East Los Angeles link.
- 13) Manuela Perez requested that MTA add service on Floral Drive. She needs this service to obtain medication on Atlantic Blvd. She added that it is difficult for her to walk to Cesar Chavez Avenue to catch another bus.
- 14) Robert Montavez, a forty-year resident of East Los Angeles, stated that Lines 30/31 were great bus lines that provided a link to downtown. Riders need this service to reach schools, post offices, and businesses. Elderly patrons also need this line.

- 15) Paz Jaramillo indicated that seniors are most impacted by the cuts in service on East First Street. Students need to walk farther to reach colleges. She stated that re-routing Line 68 is not desirable, but she would support modifying Line 68 so that it travels on the same route as Line 30/31.
- 16) Aurora Jackson, representing Montebello Bus Lines, stated that her organization shares many of its riders with MTA. She grew up in East Los Angeles. As MTA moves forward with its service proposals, it is important that the Service Council challenges Montebello Bus Lines and El Sol to work together. Her organization is willing to work with MTA to find solutions, even though it may not be possible to completely replicate the service that was provided previously by MTA. She cautioned that moving service from one area to another will create a system that is not cohesive. She indicated that there are Montebello Bus Lines representatives present at the meeting who can work with MTA staff on this issue.
- 17) Guadalupe Gonzalez stated that MTA should consider the needs of those who are completely transit dependent. She opposed taking service away from a main bus line. She stated that Montebello Bus Lines may be able to help MTA resolve this issue. She asked if Montebello Bus Lines will accept MTA monthly passes. The El Sol shuttle is small and may not be able to accommodate patrons using wheelchairs. She expressed concern about the lack of service from Mednik Ave. to Atlantic Blvd. Mr. Cheung stated that El Sol staff is proposing to re-route service to serve the area from Mednik Ave. to Atlantic Blvd.

Mr. Hillmer thanked members of the public for taking the time to provide testimony regarding the proposals presented by staff. Mr. Cheung stated that staff will evaluate the concerns expressed by the community and will strive to find viable solutions. He explained that a public hearing process will be required before any proposed service change is implemented.

Chair Vasquez thanked staff and the public for attending the working session.

7. **RECEIVED report from Montebello Bus Lines and/or El Sol Transit.**

Please refer to Item 6 for testimony provided by a Montebello Bus Lines representative. El Sol Transit representatives were not present at the meeting.

Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Michele Chau

Michele Chau, Council Secretary