

Monday, October 17, 2011 5:00 PM

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## MINUTES

### San Gabriel Valley Governance Council

Special Meeting  
East Los Angeles Public Library  
4837 East 3rd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90022

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Called to Order at: 5:07 p.m.

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Council Members Present:

Rosie Vasquez, Chair  
Steven Ly, Vice Chair  
Roger Chandler  
Harry Baldwin  
Alex Gonzalez

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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 report on **proposed new service on East 1st Street.**

Mr. Hillmer thanked the staff of Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina for assistance in arranging this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposal to restore service on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street and to solicit feedback from the community. The San Gabriel Valley Service Council will make a final decision regarding the proposal at the next Council meeting on November 14, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at El Monte City Hall. Mr. Hillmer invited the public to call him directly with questions and provided his business cards to interested parties.

Conan Cheung, Deputy Executive Officer, Service Development and Planning, provided an update on proposed service on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street between Indiana St. and Atlantic Blvd. The proposal is the result of community opposition to the discontinuation of service on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street and reduction of service on Line 30/31 in December 2009. Staff discontinued service on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street due to duplication with Gold Line service. Working with Montebello Bus Lines, staff retained service on 1<sup>st</sup> Street to Indiana Street when it implemented service changes in December 2009. However, in December 2010, service on 1<sup>st</sup> Street was completely eliminated.

MTA staff has received a large number of comments from the public requesting the restoration of service on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. MTA held a previous meeting at this location to gather initial feedback from the community. Staff has suggested re-directing the routes of Line 68 and 770 to 1<sup>st</sup> Street. However, the community strongly opposed reducing service on other existing lines in order to provide service on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The new staff proposal would involve extending Line 68 shortline trips ending at East Los Angeles College, south on Atlantic Blvd. and west on 1<sup>st</sup> Street to the Indiana Gold Line station. The service would run every 40-60 minutes, which is an improvement over the 2010 service frequencies for this route. The service would be provided on weekdays only from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The proposed service, if approved, would be implemented by December 2011.

RECEIVED public comment:

- 1) Teresa Marquez stated that she is glad to hear about proposed service on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. She asked about the cost of transferring if traveling downtown or west of downtown. Mr. Cheung stated that there is no cost to transfer with the Metro pass. Ms. Marquez asked if there will be a follow-up meeting if service on 1<sup>st</sup> Street is restored. Mr. Cheung stated that any comments after implementation should be directed to the Service Council.
- 2) Yolando Solorzano asked for confirmation that service will be provided on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Mr. Cheung responded affirmatively and stated that service levels on Cesar Chavez Ave. will remain the same.
- 3) Martha Jimenez stated that she is a constituent of City Terrace. There are many seniors in City Terrace and the previous service should be reinstated. Service on Floral Ave. is not sufficient. She stated that she contacted Congresswoman Judy Chu and Supervisor Gloria Molina regarding this issue.
- 4) Teresa Joves requested additional service on Floral Ave. There are a lot of elderly residents requesting service on Floral Ave. Many have to carry groceries from Cesar Chavez Ave. to Floral Ave.
- 5) Bertha Garcia asked staff to add service on Floral Ave. The community needs the proposed service to reach downtown. She expressed concern about elderly and young patrons. She asked about the exact date in December on which the service will be implemented. She added that the route is not long and appears to be discriminatory.
- 6) Maria Manriquez echoed the previous speaker's concerns about service on Floral Ave. The service elimination occurred suddenly. She stated that many wheelchair patrons must go to Cesar Chavez Ave. to take the bus and that this was not fair. She stated that she was disabled and the walk to Cesar Chavez Ave. posed challenges. She thanked staff for restoring some of the previous service.
- 7) Heleodora Jackson remarked that she used to work as a volunteer for Supervisor Molina. She can no longer volunteer as much due to her age. She requested restoring the previous service on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The El Sol shuttle is the only option left. She stated that she is suffering from cancer and a heart condition and needs reliable transit to reach medical facilities. She stated that it would help if Line 287 provided service on Indiana St.
- 8) Geni Garcia stated that the proposed service is inadequate. There is no service on Floral Ave. Elderly and student patrons are not being served. She requested that the entire line be restored.
- 9) Maria Elena Castaneda asked if all stops will be restored. Mr. Cheung responded affirmatively.

- 10) Diana Tarango commented that she is a long-time East Los Angeles resident and activist. She indicated that the community needs the proposed line, particularly seniors and the disabled. The El Sol service is inadequate. Patrons have been suffering for two years. This is one of the busiest lines in East Los Angeles.
- 11) Sonia McIntosh stated that she lives in west Alhambra and that residents in her area are ignored by MTA staff. She walks six blocks to reach a bus stop. She has to take Line 260 to reach Pasadena/Altadena. She asked why MTA staff reduced service on Lines 485/258. Line 483 had already been taken away. Hospital patients need this line. Because bus service stops at 9:00 p.m. at the Gateway Building, she must take 3 buses and one subway to reach her destination.
- 12) Micaela Sandoval asked why the last hearing was not announced. She was not notified about the hearing. She asked staff to place announcements on Spanish channels or onboard El Sol buses. She added that the El Sol bus comes only once per hour. Mr. Hillmer responded that the last meeting was announced via take-ones onboard buses, mailers, web announcements, etc. Fliers were distributed at the civic center and major businesses.
- 13) Veronica Ramirez stated that places with higher socioeconomic levels have better transit systems. She asked why staff did not place fliers in this region. She only found out about the meeting while riding Line 52 which does not travel in the area. She stated that she uses Lines 68, 260 and 770 and did not see any fliers.
- 14) Elizabeth Rojas stated that placement of the Gold Line on Whittier Blvd. would have been more effective. She stated that staff does not live in the area. MTA staff members were counting heads on Line 30/31. The previous line provided service to downtown. The current proposal is not adequate. Hourly service is not sufficient. In addition, the El Sol shuttle is not efficient. She stated that she now takes Montebello Bus Lines. The buses are efficient and clean and the operators are courteous.
- 15) Manube Miyako highlighted the need to have buses travel down 1<sup>st</sup> Street to East Los Angeles College, Floral Ave., and Indiana St. in a loop. In the Maravilla area, it is difficult for seniors to travel.
- 16) Wayne Wright asked staff to alter the proposed service on Line 68. He requested that Line 68 be tied to Line 84. He suggested providing 15 minute headways in Boyle Heights.
- 17) Helen Cedenio stated that the Spanish flier issued by MTA has the incorrect date of 8/17. She commented that weather conditions such as rain must be taken into account in any service change proposal.
- 18) Marla Ardaz - was not present to provide testimony.
- 19) Ruby Wong stated that she obtained a flier from a bus. She typically travels by public transit in the local area. She noted that there were no Chinese fliers.

- 20) Socdoa Duran stated that she has been driving but will gradually stop doing so in the next few years. She used to enjoy riding Line 30/31. The bus stopped in front of her house. She has a 27-year old disabled son and wants him to learn how to ride the bus. She requested that staff restore Line 31 and other cancelled lines.
- 21) Martha Jimenez commented that there are no bilingual messages on the Gold Line. There needs to be audible bilingual messages so that blind patrons know where to alight. She asked when the Gold Line quadrant gates will be implemented. In addition, the audible message at the Mariachi Plaza station is spoken in an Anglicized voice. The announcement of the station should be spoken with a Spanish accent. Mr. Hillmer indicated that lights will be used instead of quad gates on the Gold Line. He will notify appropriate staff members regarding the bilingual announcements on the Gold Line.

Mr. Hillmer announced that a revised proposal regarding service on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street will be presented to the Council at the November 14, 2011 Regular Council meeting at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at El Monte City Hall, 11333 Valley Blvd., El Monte. If approved, the proposed service change will be implemented in December 2011.

Adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

*Michele Chau*  
Michele Chau, Council Secretary