

MINUTES

San Gabriel Valley Governance Council

El Monte City Hall East
11133 Valley Blvd.,
Council Chambers
El Monte, CA 91731

Called to Order at: 5:03 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Steven Ly, Chair
Harry Baldwin, Vice Chair
Juventino Gomez
Alex Gonzalez
John Harrington
Bruce Heard
Dave Spence
Rosie Vasquez

Officers:

Jon Hillmer, Director Governance
Council
David Hershenson, Comm. Rel. Mgr
Michele Chau, Office of Board Secretary
Henry Gonzalez, Comm Rel
Suzanne Handler, Council Secty



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Called.
3. **APPROVED Minutes of Meeting held June 11, 2012.**
4. **SWORE IN two new members:** Juventino Gomez, Mayor Pro Tem El Monte; John Harrington, Council Member City of San Gabriel.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the Agenda – none.
6. RECEIVED report on **Construction Careers Policy, Project Labor Agreement.**

Miriam Long, Community Relations Manager, provided an overview of the top ten items related to the Construction Careers Policy (CCP), Project Labor Agreement (PLA). She indicated that Metro is the first public transit agency in the nation to adopt the PLA for a federally funded construction program and the PLA governs every contract above \$2.5 million. She explained that the PLA is an agreement between Metro and the craft unions to assure that there are no strikes or worker slowdowns during the terms of the agreement, which is five years. The Construction Careers Policy is Metro's way to provide opportunities to disadvantaged but qualified workers to obtain union wages and benefits. Ms. Long described the characteristics of disadvantaged and extremely disadvantaged workers. A minimum of 40% of work hours go to disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged workers. 20% of the 40% total work hours on each project will be performed by apprentices. The prime contractor must hire a MTA approved jobs coordinator. MTA is vetting a number of potential jobs coordinator firms. Ms. Long clarified that all hiring will happen through union hiring halls, though not all targeted workers will be current dues paying union members. Ms. Long provided the CCP hotline and the PLA website. She reviewed a list of upcoming construction projects and provided the targeted craft worker report.

Representative Vasquez inquired about the number of contracts that are anticipated to be above \$2.5 million.

Ms. Long responded that there are 17 projects anticipated to be above \$2.5 million. The list is provided in the PowerPoint. She added that any construction project over \$2.5 million is subject to the PLA.

The total of current anticipated contracts is \$6 billion.

7. **CONSIDERED Garvey Avenue Lines 70, 770 for Corridor Study.**

Mr. Hillmer indicated that this item is a carry over from the last meeting. Staff would like to identify various corridors in more detail, include type of service provided in each corridor and passenger suggestions. Line 70 provides local service between downtown Los Angeles and El Monte via Garvey Ave. Line 770 provides similar service but is a Rapid line that travels on Garvey Ave. to Atlantic Blvd. and Cesar Chavez Blvd. to downtown Los Angeles. Both lines travel in the same corridor. There are approximately 13,000 average weekday boardings on Line 70 and 9,000 average weekday boardings on Line 770. The average trip length of Line 70 is 4.5 miles and the average trip length of Line 770 is 5.5 miles. Line 70 stops every .25 mile and Line 770 stops every 1 mile. Mr. Hillmer stated that the Valley Blvd. area represents an alternate corridor. Line 76 is a major line in this corridor providing service between downtown Los Angeles and El Monte via Valley Blvd.

Representative Baldwin asked if the line that travels on Garvey Ave. goes to downtown Los Angeles.

Mr. Hillmer responded affirmatively. He stated that Line 70 continues on Garvey Ave., travels through City Terrace, passes the County General Hospital and makes a left onto Mission Rd., right onto Cesar Chavez Blvd. and proceeds to Spring St. in downtown Los Angeles.

Representative Gomez inquired if the lines that run on Valley Blvd. are direct lines. Mr. Hillmer responded affirmatively. He added that when buses along Valley Blvd. approach the 5 freeway in the vicinity of at grade railroad tracks, they may be delayed if freight trains are passing through. The agency offered limited stop service on Line 76 at one point but this service was discontinued. He stated that it is more important to run more frequent service than faster service.

Representative Gonzalez asked about the number of boardings per day on Valley Blvd.

Mr. Hillmer responded that there are approximately 10,000 average weekday boardings.

Representative Gonzalez asked about 2013 Call for Projects funding for either the Garvey Ave. or Valley Blvd. corridor.

Mr. Hillmer responded that he has no knowledge of the availability of this funding for either corridor. He stated that the city of Rosemead is considering bus only lanes.

Chair Ly asked about frequency of service on Lines 70, 770 and 76.

Mr. Hillmer responded that Line 70 and 770 run every 10 minutes at the peak and 15 minutes off-peak, and Line 76 runs every 12 minutes at the peak and 20 minutes off-peak.

Chair Ly inquired when these buses are at or over capacity.

Mr. Hillmer responded that few trips (3%) are over capacity. Staff schedules for 30% passenger standings at the peak. He stated that he can email the Council with more information. He added that the loads on Lines 70/770 can vary more than those of Line 76.

Chair Ly asked if staff can monitor both lines.

Mr. Hillmer responded that he can provide the Council with enough information to become familiar with both corridors. A plan of action will be presented next month.

8. **ADOPTED FY13 Service Council Work Plan.**

Mr. Hillmer reviewed the key areas of the FY13 Work Plan, including 1) enhancing public participation, 2) enhancing Council understanding, 3) service development, 4) operations, and 5) operations budget. With regard to item 1, staff will provide more media postings, solicit feedback from the public through the metro.net website, and provide information through The Source on Metro's website. Staff will conduct regular Council meetings, hold bi-annual meetings at alternate locations, hold public hearings on significant service changes as needed, and may consider adding an evening meeting. Regarding item 2, staff will hold monthly meetings with the Council, conduct various site visits (i.e., organize tours of Division 9, El Monte Station, and Gold Line Foothill Extension), conduct line rides as needed, conduct quarterly Meet and Confer meetings with the CEO, and provide information to the Council on Metro bus line allocation and performance. Mr. Hillmer announced that the next quarterly Meet and Confer will be on Friday, August 31, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. The notices will go out shortly. Regarding item 3, the Council will receive a briefing from the Service Planning and Scheduling Department in June regarding potential December 2012 service changes. In addition, a planning workshop will be held in October. The Council will also receive updates on quarterly San Gabriel Valley area Transit Providers meetings.

Regarding item 4, staff will review FY13 performance targets, and the Council will receive regular reports from operations staff. Lines rides may be conducted on poor performing lines as needed. Regarding item 5, the Council will receive preliminary information on the FY14 budget in February or as soon as information is received. The Council will review the FY14 budget in June, review changes in staffing for Operations, and develop suggested modifications to the budget.

Representative Gonzalez suggested that staff review Line 485 service, and consider providing weekend service in the Alhambra area.

Representative Spence asked if other transit providers have service councils.

Mr. Hillmer responded that Foothill Transit has a Board of Directors. This is the first time that Foothill Transit has an all-female Board, although this situation will only be temporary. Foothill Transit also has sub-committees. He added that the Montebello City Council oversees Montebello Bus Lines (MBL). The Council does not receive information on MBL at the same level of detail as Metro's service councils.

Representative Gomez noted that Ms. Long did a great job on the Construction Careers Program presentation. He asked if veterans are qualified to participate in the program, and the type of outreach to notify veterans of this program at home, at the VA Hospital and other places. He also asked about outreach to the homeless.

Mr. Hillmer responded that last year CEO Art Leahy directed staff to reach out to veterans to fill key positions in the agency. Veterans have certain logistics, operations, and maintenance skill sets that would prove valuable to the agency. An outreach program is in place, although more needs to be done to reach out to the VA Hospital. He added that the agency has worked with the VA Hospital in the past on bus service issues and Westside subway extension issues.

Representative Heard asked if service cleanliness inspections are part of the Work Plan.

Mr. Hillmer stated that such inspections will continue to be conducted. A recent meeting was held with Deputy CEO Paul Taylor to consider expanding this program.

9. **RECEIVED Director's Report.**

Mr. Hillmer reviewed the performance report for the month of May. He stated that the green columns on the On-Time Performance (OTP) chart indicate the year-to-date (YTD) figures. There is one more month to go before the end of the fiscal year. OTP in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) was 76.7% in May and 77.6% YTD. OTP is trending well in the SGV, and OTP in the Westside and South Bay areas improved greatly. All five service regions were within one percentage point of each other in terms of performance.

Regarding Complaints per 100,000 passengers, goals vary by region. SGV Complaints spiked in May with 3.53 Complaints per 100,000 passengers. There were 3.87 Complaints per 100,000 passengers YTD. Mr. Hiller stated that the number of complaints in the SGV and San Fernando Valley may be higher as there are a large number of buses that provide frequent service, and if a pass-up occurs, a passenger complaint is more likely to be submitted.

There were 4,117 average Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls in the SGV for FY12 YTD. The average fleet age is 8.5 years, but buses are very well maintained.

Mr. Hillmer reviewed Metro Cleanliness Rating. SGV did well in May with a score of 8.7. Regarding Accidents per 100,000 miles, SGV is performing the best of the five service regions. The May figure was 2.69.

The SGV region is also doing well in the area of Ridership, with 4.9 million riders in May. The goal is 4.2 million. Ridership has been trending down lately but is still above the target. The Silver Line had the highest ridership to date with just over 11,000 riders daily. Passenger boardings will be on the upper level of El Monte Station in the near future. Foothill Transit and Metro fares will be interchangeable on the Silver Line and Foothill Transit Silver Streak. Passengers will be able to use TAP cards for either service. Mr. Hiller reported that there were 155,000 average weekday Red Line boardings, 81,000-82,000 average weekday Blue Line boardings, 42,000 average weekday Green and Gold Line boardings, and 12,000 average weekday Expo Line boardings in May.

Regarding Bus Station Cleanliness, staff is evaluating the stations monthly. There are a set of 33 criteria that need to be met, each on a scale of 1-10, with a score of 8 or higher being ideal. The average score is reported in a numerical fashion. Mr. Hillmer noted that once he converted average scores to letter grades, the scores seemed to receive much greater attention, particularly scores of "D" or lower.

Mr. Hillmer noted that the Artesia Blue Line bus station received a grade of D. He added that there is a large program underway to clean all the stations and sustain this level of cleanliness.

Representative Gonzalez asked if the MacArthur Park Red Line Station can be added to the list.

Mr. Hillmer responded that staff is not evaluating the cleanliness of rail stations at this time. He added that a team is cleaning up the MacArthur Park station. He offered to provide a tour of this station.

Representative Heard asked if the June scheduling changes have been smooth.

Mr. Hillmer responded that the scheduling changes went well and that the service changes were relatively minor. There were few negative comments regarding the bus lines that were shortened in order to interface with the new Expo Line. Passengers tend to appreciate rail service and will tolerate minor changes related to rail service.

Representative Heard asked if there were any complaints related to Line 177.

Carl Torres, Transportation Planning Manager, said staff has not received any complaints thus far. However, it has only been three weeks since the service changes. Mr. Hillmer clarified that those who submit complaints tend to do so early.

Representative Heard asked if there are any schedules printed yet for Line 177. He stated that the Pasadena Senior Center needs new Line 177 schedules.

Representative Baldwin asked about the new bus station at Union Station adjacent to the 101 Freeway.

Mr. Hillmer stated that there are plans to build a new operating building across from the MTA Gateway building. There are also plans to create a stop along the El Monte busway at Union Station/Patsaouras Plaza. This will allow riders to have closer access to Union Station without having to alight at Alameda St. He stated that Tim Lindholm helped with the design of El Monte Station.

Chair Ly requested a discussion on TAP integration with other operators and Metrolink. He stated that one idea for a bi-annual meeting may be a joint meeting with Foothill Transit to find out their plans for service in the east San Gabriel Valley.

Mr. Hillmer announced that Chief Communications Officer Matt Raymond, who has left the agency to embark on a consulting business, was the lead on TAP issues. Lynda Bybee is the current interim Chief Communications Officer, but does not deal with TAP issues.

David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, announced that flyers regarding the I-210 sound wall ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 16 in the city of Arcadia have been included in the Council packets. He stated that the next Transit Providers meeting will be held at the Pasadena City Hall on July 25.

Adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Chau".

Michele Chau, Council Secretary