

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
PROPOSED JUNE 2014 SERVICE CHANGES  
PUBLIC HEARING

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

OFFICERS:

Jon Hillmer, Director, Regional Councils  
Dolores Ramos, Council Admin. Analyst  
Henry Gonzalez, Council Comm. Rel. Mgr.  
David Hershenson, Comm. Rel. Mgr.  
Carl Torres, Transportation Planning Mgr.

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

6:03 P.M.

3449 Santa Anita Avenue  
Division 9 Building  
El Monte, California 91731

REPORTER: Laura D. Guerrero, CSR No. 7684

1 EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA

2 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014, 6:04 P.M.

3 \* \* \*

4  
5 THE CHAIR: I'm going to call the meeting to  
6 order of the council and ask that we stand and join me  
7 in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

8 (Whereupon, the pledge of allegiance  
9 was recited by all.)

10 THE CHAIR: First order is approval of the  
11 January 13 minutes.

12 Can I have a motion for approval?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HARRINGTON: So moved.

14 THE CHAIR: Are there any comments?  
15 Corrections? Any objections to the minutes? Then those  
16 are approved.

17 We have a public comment section. Is there  
18 anybody who wishes to address the council on any item  
19 that's not on the agenda at this time? Nobody? Okay.  
20 There's a comment card in the back that says "Request to  
21 Speak." That's to address this -- this --

22 DIRECTOR HILLMER: -- public hearing?

23 THE CHAIR: No, that's not the public hearing.  
24 That's to address us.

25 Then there's another card back there that says

1 "Comment Card"; and, also, "Request to Speak" to the  
2 public hearing, that's the green card. If you want --  
3 if anybody wishes to speak that used the green card for  
4 the public hearing and you just wish to have a written  
5 comment, fill out the "Comment Card" for the public  
6 hearing, but we will get to the public hearing as soon  
7 as this -- this meeting is done.

8 But seeing no request to speak to the -- to  
9 the council, I'll move on to the executive director's  
10 report.

11 Mr. Hillmer?

12 DIRECTOR HILLMER: Yes, please. We'll go  
13 through this fairly quickly, talk about the Metro bus  
14 service performance for each of our regions, including  
15 San Gabriel Valley for the past six months, as well as  
16 the system. That's not too bad. Okay? So I'll go  
17 through this fairly quickly. Stop me if you have any  
18 questions.

19 On-time performance, our goal is 80 percent.  
20 Systemwide it improved a bit up to 76.4; and for our  
21 service for the Greater San Gabriel Valley, it's  
22 75.7 percent. This will include all of the lines that  
23 operate within the San Gabriel Valley, even those that  
24 operate here and then go through into Downtown  
25 Los Angeles and beyond. So it includes some service

1 that's on the Westside, some service that's on the  
2 Southside, but it's a service that operates a  
3 significant amount of its service in here in the  
4 San Gabriel Valley.

5 For our customer complaints, we had a  
6 continuing bad period of time in terms of customer  
7 complaints. Our goal is 2.2 customer complaints per  
8 100,000 passengers. You can see how the system went up  
9 to a little over 4 and a quarter, and that's been a  
10 steady and sorrowing increase for the past six months.  
11 San Gabriel Valley was at 5.38, well above our -- our  
12 system average. I would like -- we have a new  
13 transportation manager here at "9." Most of our service  
14 here in San Gabriel works out of "9." Peter Mellon, who  
15 was here last month with our -- the acting  
16 transportation man- -- manager Tanya -- but Peter was  
17 here, and I'll have him come either at our next meeting  
18 or in April to introduce himself and let us know what  
19 his programs are for improvement.

20 Looking at our mechanical reliability, this is  
21 the miles between a mechanical road call. Our goal is  
22 4,000. Systemwide, we exceeded that 4100; and for  
23 San Gabriel Valley, it's up to 3900. It's been up and  
24 down a little bit. And, typically, it's been over that  
25 4,000-mile mark; but for the last four months, it's been

1 down a bit. We will have to have some discussions with  
2 the maintenance team to see what's driving those down  
3 below 4,000 miles.

4 Now, in terms of cleanliness, our goal was  
5 increased this last fiscal year to 9 from 8.5.  
6 Systemwide, it's right at 8.5. San Gabriel is slightly  
7 over that at 8.53; and it's been pretty steady at that  
8 mark -- around that mark for the past, actually,  
9 12 months.

10 Now, looking at our traffic accident rate,  
11 this is a very key indicator. Our goal is 3.1 accidents  
12 per 100,000 miles of service. System, it came down from  
13 its previous month. It's still above its goal. It's at  
14 3.6. San Gabriel Valley is at 2.67. That's very good  
15 compared to the system, but the goal for Division 9 --  
16 again, this is for service not only out of "9," but  
17 other divisions, as well -- is 2.5, so we're above their  
18 goal a little bit for "9," still striving to improve on  
19 that.

20 Bus station cleanliness, I evaluate  
21 21 separate bus stations each month for cleanliness and  
22 operability. Our goal is 8.5. Systemwide is at 8.14.  
23 Barely steady, but kind of trending downward just a bit.  
24 For us, San Gabriel Valley, it has the cleanest of our  
25 stations, 8.55. El Monte station, still sparkling,

1 looks very good. Cal State LA, there's the upper-level  
2 deck station right at Cal State LA, redone that and that  
3 looks pristine. The two stations on the busway need  
4 some work. They have -- they have been improved quite a  
5 bit, but they still need -- particularly in paint. They  
6 need to be repainted. Some of the paint is starting to  
7 peel off particularly on the stairways and the  
8 handrails.

9 In terms of ridership, ridership came down in  
10 December. That's very common for ridership to drop in  
11 December. Westside had 604,000. Systemwide it was  
12 1.1 million riders. San Gabriel is at 1.8. We're  
13 actually catching up to San Fernando Valley, but very,  
14 very slowly in total ridership. We're -- we're  
15 increasing slightly faster than they are.

16 Taking a look at our Silver Line, you can see  
17 that it -- ridership came down in December, as well.  
18 It's a little over 12,000 boardings per -- per average  
19 weekday, and I just indicate there that every -- every  
20 December it's down. It's a holiday period. People tend  
21 not to go to work as much or if they are going to work,  
22 they may drive so they can bring home packages and so  
23 forth; but the weekend ridership also remained fairly  
24 strong.

25 Moving on now just to the end, recap, we did

1 have a public hearing on Saturday in Downtown  
2 Los Angeles for the service changes. We had about  
3 ten -- ten to twelve people who showed -- showed up, six  
4 people who gave some testimony.

5 We also had a public hearing in the  
6 San Fernando Valley last Wednesday where we had  
7 approximately 35 people show up and 20 testified. The  
8 vast majority of the service changes that are being  
9 proposed are in the San Fernando Valley, very  
10 significant service changes, including redirecting the  
11 service that goes over the Sepulveda Pass from --  
12 Van Nuys over the Sepulveda Pass. The proposal is to  
13 shift it to Sepulveda Boulevard Rapid over the pass, and  
14 there's a potential for a new express line when the  
15 405 Freeway construction ends from the Van Nuys  
16 Orange Line area over the Sepulveda Pass via the freeway  
17 HOV lanes to Westwood. Carl Torres will maybe give you  
18 a very brief snippet about that, as well.

19 Item No. 2, fare forums, the Metro Board  
20 approved conducting a public hearing to consider  
21 actually receiving public comment on a proposed  
22 potential fare restructuring plan. That public hearing  
23 will be in March -- go down one more (indicating) --  
24 March the 29th.

25 Prior to that, next month we will have what

1 are called "fare forums" at each of our service council  
2 meetings at our regular meeting time, 5:00 o'clock for  
3 us, and here we will have our regular meeting, and then  
4 we'll have a fare forum. We will explain what the  
5 proposed fare structure is, the reason for suggesting or  
6 recommending that we have a fare restructuring, and then  
7 we will ask people to give us their comments. We will  
8 have a court recorder here, as well, for those, even  
9 though this is not a public hearing. Public hearings  
10 for fares can only be conducted by the Metro Board, and  
11 we're told now that it needs to have a quorum of board  
12 members.

13           So we will have the fare forums here in  
14 March and transmit that information and comments to our  
15 board, and the board will conduct a public hearing on  
16 March, the 29th, on Saturday. That will be at 9:30. We  
17 have 11 board members out of our 13 who have committed  
18 to be there. We expect that to be a rather well  
19 attended and rambunctious hearing for us. I encourage  
20 you to come down and at least take a look at the  
21 operation and -- and the comments and so forth and be a  
22 part of the fun. We'll invite you to the -- to the back  
23 room so you can have a cup of coffee and maybe a nosh or  
24 something with -- with the board members.

25           And then, finally, gate latching, we will

1 begin latching the gates on the Green Line in the middle  
2 to the end of this month. The entire Green Line, its  
3 14 stations, will be latched very similar to the  
4 Red Line and the Purple Line subways, which are  
5 completely latched. We have -- we have gated or latched  
6 5 of our 21 stations on the Gold Line, and there are  
7 6 stations out of 22 on the Blue Line that have been  
8 latched so far, and that all seems to be going quite  
9 nicely so far.

10 And with that, that ends my presentation.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Jon.

12 Are there any closing remarks from our -- our  
13 council members or any questions they have?

14 I'd like to adjourn this meeting in memory --  
15 if you would give me some information about the member  
16 who was very, very important to the transportation  
17 agency and his input and he has passed away, so if you  
18 could give us some information.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Recently,  
20 Neil Bjornsen passed away. He was a member of the  
21 Metro Citizens Advisory Council since 1977, been  
22 chair --

23 DIRECTOR HILLMER: -- about six years, I think  
24 it is.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yeah; and so he

1 retired from L.A. County Department of Public Works. He  
2 also worked in maintenance, was a Navy veteran, and his  
3 passing will be mourned.

4 THE CHAIR: So we'll adjourn the meeting in  
5 his name; and with that, this meeting is adjourned.

6 And we'll now open up our public hearing on  
7 the proposed service changes that we have, and I'm  
8 glad -- I don't know who is here to testify; but do we  
9 have any speakers here?

10 ANALYST RAMOS: We do.

11 THE CHAIR: I'll do that after.

12 ANALYST RAMOS: I need to read the  
13 publications statement. Sorry.

14 THE CHAIR: Oh, okay.

15 DIRECTOR HILLMER: Do you have it?

16 ANALYST RAMOS: No. I haven't read it yet.

17 The notice of intent to hold this public  
18 hearing was published in the following publications:  
19 Daily News Los Angeles, Eastside Sun, La Opinion,  
20 Los Angeles Sentinel, Press-Telegram, Rafu Shimpo  
21 (Japanese), San Fernando Sun, The Orange County  
22 Register, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Southwest Wave,  
23 The Daily Breeze, The Korea Times, Watts Times,  
24 World Journal (Chinese Daily News), Siamtownus (Thai),  
25 Armenian Media Network and Panorama (Russian). The

1 notice was also posted on the internet and distributed  
2 via Take One brochures aboard Metro Buses and Trains.

3 Affidavits of publication are filed with the  
4 Metro secretary and are available in the secretary's  
5 office for review.

6 This concludes my report.

7 THE CHAIR: Now, we have a presentation of the  
8 service changes from Carl Torres.

9 And, Carl, this is going to be the service  
10 changes we have in our sector here, correct?

11 CARL TORRES: Yes, correct. Most of --

12 THE CHAIR: This statement -- anybody who is  
13 here, the service changes for all of the sectors are in  
14 this brochure which is in the back. We're just going to  
15 be discussing the service sector for the San Gabriel  
16 Valley; however, if anybody has a comment or a statement  
17 to make about any of the service changes in another  
18 sector, feel free to do that and that will be recorded  
19 and made a part of the public hearing and transmitted to  
20 the MTA.

21 Go on.

22 CARL TORRES: Yeah. As Jon Hillmer had  
23 mentioned, most of the service changes proposed for this  
24 June are going to take place in the Valley, combining  
25 lines; also, Express lines going over the pass using the

1 405. And, also, actually, the Westside has a proposal  
2 on the Line 534 to cut it short when the Expo Line  
3 Phase 2 comes into being, so that will be a natural fit  
4 there, but that won't happen until the Expo Phase 2  
5 comes into being.

6 Now, those changes that will occur in the  
7 San Gabriel Valley that are proposed for June will be  
8 the 577. Right now, currently, the line has been  
9 modified to serve Rio Hondo College. This has been on a  
10 demonstration basis, and what we propose is, in June, to  
11 make this route permanent. What we have done is,  
12 instead of getting on the 605 Freeway there at  
13 Peck Road, we have modified the route to serve Rio Hondo  
14 College and have the college students be able to ride  
15 the 577, instead of the 270. What we'll do is, as Jon  
16 showed you, ridership in December is very low; and the  
17 colleges, a lot of that month, they're not even in  
18 session. So we should be getting the January ridership  
19 numbers probably on the 15th of this month, so Planning  
20 will analyze the ridership and also the TAP data so we  
21 can identify who's been riding the 577, and next month  
22 we'll come back with that data to show you. So....

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VASQUEZ: How long have we had  
24 the demonstration? How long have we had the  
25 demonstration project?

1           CARL TORRES: Since December 16th, is that  
2 when the -- I believe that's when the service change  
3 started.

4           DIRECTOR HILLMER: This past December.

5           COUNCIL MEMBER VASQUEZ: Past December.

6           So we really don't know.

7           CARL TORRES: Right.

8           DIRECTOR HILLMER: Correct.

9           CARL TORRES: So with that, that concludes my  
10 presentation. If there's any other questions from the  
11 council.

12           DIRECTOR HILLMER: I might just add quickly,  
13 the route of the 577 was actually modified a few years  
14 ago, simply because of construction on the 10 Freeway,  
15 made the transition from the 10 to the 605. This line  
16 used to enter the 10 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue, and  
17 then proceed to the east to the 605 and then south, a  
18 very express way to go when there's not a lot of  
19 traffic. However, due to the traffic that builds up  
20 on -- on the 10 during construction, it was much faster  
21 for buses to stay on the surface street and take Peck  
22 down to get on -- on the freeway.

23           So this extension, this temporary -- or this  
24 demonstration was actually a relatively small additional  
25 surface street route took the bus by Rio Hondo College.

1 And, again, we're hopeful that this will generate some  
2 significant ridership increase for individuals going to  
3 and from the college. This will be an expressway, a  
4 very fast way to get to the college from both the  
5 Long Beach side as well as the El Monte side.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Any other questions?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VASQUEZ: I was just curious as  
8 to why we couldn't just extend the demonstration period  
9 until we had some additional numbers, and then make it a  
10 permanent one later on.

11 DIRECTOR HILLMER: That actually could be  
12 done. It's the opinion of the service council,  
13 actually, that could -- could cite -- continue the  
14 demonstration. I believe we will have some numbers for  
15 our March meeting when we come back with the summary of  
16 public comment for our services, and then the council  
17 will be asked to either approve it, modify or deny the  
18 proposed service changes. So it's totally within the  
19 council's purview to say you'd rather continue this  
20 demonstration for another six months, say.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VASQUEZ: We're not taking any  
22 action today -- right? -- so the action would be in  
23 March?

24 DIRECTOR HILLMER: Correct.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VASQUEZ: And we would have

1 those figures then?

2 DIRECTOR HILLMER: That's correct.

3 THE CHAIR: And from my understanding, the  
4 demonstration routing could be -- go on for as long as  
5 one year, Jon? Is that --

6 DIRECTOR HILLMER: Well, it could be -- it  
7 could be extended based upon the council's public  
8 hearing purview. It has to go to a public hearing, and  
9 then either made permanent or not; and so what's  
10 happening is you'll go to the public hearing, and then  
11 the council can decide to continue the demonstration for  
12 a period of time.

13 THE CHAIR: When does this period end, at the  
14 end of March?

15 DIRECTOR HILLMER: It would be -- no.

16 THE CHAIR: The current demonstration time.

17 DIRECTOR HILLMER: That will end in June.

18 THE CHAIR: That will end in June?

19 DIRECTOR HILLMER: Yes.

20 THE CHAIR: And June is when our -- we're  
21 making -- we make -- make recommendations to make these  
22 changes, correct?

23 DIRECTOR HILLMER: Well, no. Actually, in  
24 March, this next -- our next meeting we'll come back in  
25 and present this to the council again.

1 THE CHAIR: Okay.

2 DIRECTOR HILLMER: And at that point you'll  
3 have a summary of all of the public comment received on  
4 this line, and then the council can decide to continue  
5 the demonstration, make it permanent or have the  
6 route -- have the line go back to its original routing  
7 on the freeway.

8 THE CHAIR: Okay.

9 DIRECTOR HILLMER: It will be totally up to  
10 the service council.

11 THE CHAIR: Okay. Any other questions? We  
12 have one speaker's request card.

13 Wayne Wright?

14 WAYNE WRIGHT: Thank you, ladies and  
15 gentlemen. I only have two questions.

16 I'm for the service change, but two questions  
17 I wanted to know. Number one, will the two-fare zones  
18 still be the same? And, also, will the line stop at  
19 Rose Hills Cemetery? I know you can't answer the  
20 question right now; but, you know, in the future, you  
21 know, give me an answer. Thank you.

22 DIRECTOR HILLMER: It's up to the council if  
23 the chair -- you can respond.

24 THE CHAIR: Yeah. If you have a response,  
25 yes.

1           DIRECTOR HILLMER: I believe that the -- the  
2 zone service should be reviewed, anyway, to determine;  
3 but when -- keep in mind, there's a proposal for a fare  
4 change that would actually have all Express lines go to  
5 one -- one zone. So if that's proposed, this would --  
6 the 577 would be a one-zone express service, as well.

7           As far as the stop at Rose Hills, I don't know  
8 how many employees are there. That would have to be  
9 reviewed. I think Carl is the person who would -- could  
10 take those proposals from people who -- who would use  
11 it. They could -- they could recommend or suggest  
12 adding a stop to that line, and then it would be taken  
13 into consideration.

14           CARL TORRES: Yeah. We could actually go to  
15 Rose Hills and ask.

16           DIRECTOR HILLMER: Yeah. The only issue there  
17 is to make sure we have a crosswalk.

18           THE CHAIR: Any other comments or questions?

19           Well, in that case, I want to thank everybody  
20 for being here, and be sure that -- any other comments  
21 that someone would like to make, they can certainly do  
22 it in writing to us and have them go to the board at the  
23 time.

24           Do I have a motion to close the public  
25 hearing?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER GOMEZ: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER HARRINGTON: Second.

THE CHAIR: Moved and seconded. This public hearing is closed.

(The proceedings adjourned at 6:24 p.m.)

\* \* \*

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
3 ) SS  
4 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )

5  
6  
7 I, LAURA D. GUERRERO, a Certified Shorthand  
8 Reporter of the County of Los Angeles, State of  
9 California, do hereby certify that said proceeding was  
10 taken down by me in shorthand at the time and place  
11 therein named, and thereafter reduced to print by means  
12 of computer-aided transcription under my direction, and  
13 the same is a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
14 said proceedings.

15 Dated this 17th day of February, 2013,  
16 Long Beach, California.

17  
18  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura D. Guerrero, CSR 7684  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25