

Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2014
5:00 PM

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
SERVICE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

Metro El Monte Division 9 Building
3449 Santa Anita Ave. (Santa Anita Ave. & Ramona Blvd.)
Third Floor Service Council Room
El Monte, CA 91731

All Metro meetings are held in ADA accessible facilities. Meeting location served by all Metro, Foothill Transit and El Monte Shuttle lines serving the El Monte Station.

Called to Order at 5:00 p.m.

Council Members:

John Harabedian, Chair
Harry Baldwin
Bruce Heard
Steven Ly
Dave Spence
Rosie Vasquez

Officers:

David Hershenson, Comm. Rel. Mgr.
Dolores Ramos, Council Admin Analyst
Henry Gonzalez, Council Comm. Rel. Mgr.
Carl Torres, Transportation Planning Mgr.
Scott Page, Service Development Manager

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զանգահարել այս հեռախոսահամարով՝ 323-466-3876

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Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

1. PLEDGE of Allegiance
2. APPROVED Minutes of September 8, 2014 Meeting
3. RECEIVED Presentation on Proposed Renaming of the Gold Line's East Los Angeles Civic Center Station to the East Los Angeles Civic Center/Gloria Molina Station, David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager

Metro's Board of Directors passed a motion in September 2014, asking staff to prepare a plan to re-name the East LA Civic Center Station on the Gold Line for Gloria Molina. Staff was asked to bring this plan to the Board's Executive Management Committee meeting on January 15, 2015.

Metro's current Property Naming Policy states that stations may be dedicated to individuals, rather than named for them; when stations are dedicated to an individual, a plaque commemorating the individual is placed at the station. There are currently eight stations that are dedicated to individuals. Metro's practice has been to commemoratively include individuals when stating a station's official name but not in any other customer-facing, day-to-day, operational station identification. The one exception to this is for Rosa Parks at the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station. Metro's policy also states that station dedications are for individuals who are deceased.

Based on the Board's direction regarding these two stations, staff will bring a two-part recommendation to the Board in January. The first recommendation will be that the Board amend the Property Naming Policy to permit stations to be dedicated to living individuals; the second recommendation will be to implement dedication of the stations to Directors Molina and Yaroslavsky in the same manner as has been used previously for other station dedications. Comments from the public regarding these proposed changes should be submitted by no later than November 14.

Chair Harabedian asked why Patsaurous Plaza was named after a living person. Mr. Hershenson replied that that the Plaza isn't a rail station, and that the current naming policy was put into place for rail stations. Chair Harabedian replied that the policy exists for a reason. While he has nothing against the Supervisor, she is running for office and it seems somewhat inappropriate. He asked how the proposal was made. Mr. Hershenson replied that the motion was made by the Board and received 7 votes approving it to move forward.

Councilmember Heard asked if they Board considered installing a plaque to recognize the Supervisor without changing the name of the station and expressed concerns about further potential station name confusion. Ms. Ramos clarified that the change would be only in the official name as opposed to the operational name, and that station signage and maps would not be changed.

Councilmember Spence commented that he has no objections. He originally didn't think it was the right thing to do as she is currently running for another office. If it is not going to confuse the public by having the station announced by the revised name, he has no objections to putting up a plaque in her honor.

Chair Harabedian expressed that he thinks it sets a dangerous precedent, opening a window to start naming stations for everyone who has termed out of office or has done something related to transit. He thinks it's a flawed process. He has nothing against her and she obviously done a lot, but he believes this action reflects poor policy making.

Councilmember Heard advocated for keeping naming conventions as simple as possible for the passenger, and commented that bulking up station names is confusing.

4. RECEIVED Update on Eastside Transit Corridor Phase II Upcoming Board Action, David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager

Two routes are being considered for extension of the Gold Line East, as were no build or enhanced transit options. Both communities where the potential alignments are located advocated for the projects to be built in their cities. A design variation was developed on the put together on SR-60 to avoid a superfund site.

A series of community meetings were held and over 1,000 comments received regarding the potential project. The staff recommendation to the Board is to move forward with studying both rail alignments. The proposed routes will be revised to change routing to Washington Blvd. as there were lots of complaints about aerial section around Garfield. Staff will try to identify a different route. The item will go to the Metro Board this Thursday. It was presented to the Planning Committee last week, where it passed. After the technical study is complete, staff will come back with operational questions. To build both alignments would presents challenges with having two trains come into a station, as it might make headways longer. Staff will report back next month on Board Action on the item.

5. RECEIVED Update on El Monte Busway Station Construction, Carl Torres, Transportation Planning Manager

In December, Metro is going to close both stations on El Monte busway side for a partial replacement at CSULA and a complete replacement at USC. The closure will last approximately 3 weeks, coinciding with CSULA's winter break. Metro worked with the contractor to keep the Metrolink platform open during construction. The County USC Hospital Station will close immediately after CSULA is reopened. Because the complete replacement, it will require a full 5-week closure. Metro will run a Silver Line shuttle between CSULA and County USC hospital. There is a plan to notify the public via service change notices on all buses that use El Monte busway, as well as rider alert cards to let passengers know. Metro also plans to have light duty and safety monitors at all 4 stations to hand out brochures and directing people as to where they can catch the bus.

Councilmember Vasquez asked if the shuttle is free and if it has been advertised as such. Mr. Torres confirmed that it is free and that promotional materials do make mention of that fact.

Councilmember Baldwin asked what effect the project will have on the Station elevators. Mr. Torres replied that the CSULA elevator will be the only one impacted. Travel route will remain the same; only thing is if they're getting off at those stations they'll have to

get off at the specified stop to get the shuttle where they're going. Only one station will be under construction at a time.

Chair Harabedian asked how long of a travel time delay is estimated. Mr. Torres replied that at the USC Medical Center, and extra 30 minutes would be added to a patron's travel time. Chair Harabedian asked if the delays might be reduced by providing more frequent shuttle service. Mr. Torres replied that Metro is attempting to match the shuttle service to current Silver Line frequency. The shuttle service will be monitored, and if there too many people waiting or waits are longer, Metro will add buses. Work has been scheduled during the CSULA winter break, when ridership is about 30% of what it is regularly is.

Councilmember Baldwin asked how service will be affected if there's overlap in construction times due to construction delays. Mr. Torres replied that the USC project will not start until CSULA has been completed.

Councilmember Spence commented that he is pleased to hear will have in-person assistance, as many patrons will likely need assistance.

6. APPROVED Holding February meeting on Monday, February 9, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. to be followed by a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. at the East Los Angeles Library or another suitable location on the Eastside, Council Members
7. APPROVED Council to go Dark for December 2014, Council Members
8. RECEIVED Director's Report, David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Scott Page, Service Development Manager

Starting in December, Silver Line weekend service will be increased in the early am and pm peaks. Staff looked at the travel time on return trips between the South Bay to El Monte and realized that if they ran service on the way back, rather than not working, it would add 19 trips to the Silver Line at no additional cost.

Metro is going to undertake an extensive review of bus service. Service Planning is going to look back to the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee on how to identify and use the best lines, and feed those lines to make travel simpler and more intuitive to the customer. Metro now has a lot of data from TAP that will help to identify travel patterns. They will also work with the Citizens Advisory Committee and discuss potential improvements to service structure with the Service Councils at the beginning of the year. The in-depth review process will likely take about a year.

Councilmember Spence mentioned a recent Los Angeles Times article about Metrolink and their problems with people being able to get tickets. He hopes that Metro is ahead of the game and makes a strong effort to make purchase TAP cards and fare as easy as possible for passengers. Mr. Page replied that the TAP department is looking at ways to make TAP card and fare purchase easier for patrons. Metro potentially will add two more ticket vending machines at the Silver Line bus bay at El Monte Station and four

machines are to be installed at the Harbor Gateway Transit Center to make boarding easier as has been requested.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the Agenda

Mr. James has been a bus rider since he was 7 years old in the Boyle Heights and South Central areas. He suggested that Metro implement a marketing campaign to encourage patrons to ride a bus ahead if they can because the bus may run late, avoid stress and make sure on time to destination. He commented that it is not easy to understand bus routes. He cited Lines 70 and 71 as an example, saying one might assume that they travel in the same direction but they don't. He thinks they should be numbered differently.

Wayne Wright commented that last Tuesday, the Daily News mentioned potential delays in opening the Foothill Gold Line extension and Expo Line Phase II because the new rail cars Metro has ordered aren't ready. He finds it appalling and thinks that people will be angry and frustrated if opening of service has to be delayed or reduced until the new rail cars come in. regarding comprehensive service assessment. Lines 780, 770, and 762 all have problems. Line 762 service is poor, Line 780 needs to be broken up to run from Hollywood to Pasadena, it doesn't serve the Expo Line because of its schedule which causes problems. As he commented previously, Line 577 should be expanded to the Gold Line Station and run weekend service for people who don't want to go all the way downtown to get the Blue Line to Long Beach.

10. CLOSING Remarks, Council Members and Staff

ADJOURNED at 6:08 p.m.