

Friday, December 8, 2006 - 9:30 a.m.

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# Minutes

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

## **SOUTH BAY SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

Carson Community Center  
801 E. Carson Street  
Carson, CA 90745

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The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by  
Vice-Chair John McTaggart

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Service Sector Representatives Present:

John McTaggart, Vice Chair  
John Addleman  
Margaret Hudson  
Lou Mitchell  
Devon Deming

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Officers:

Dana M. Coffey, General Manager  
Joanne Harper, Council Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Metro**

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1. **Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Contact** by Metro South Bay Volunteer.

Myrine White provided the safety contact, which included 10 steps for responsible driving:

1. Plan your route.
2. Maintain your vehicle.
3. Focus your attention.
4. Minimize your distractions.
5. Know your surroundings.
6. Share your space.
7. Watch your speed.
8. Keep your distance.
9. Signal your intentions.
10. Always wear your seatbelt.

2. **APPROVED** Minutes of the November 17, 2006 Council Meeting.

3. **RECEIVED UPDATE** on the Financial Stability Policy

Terry Matsumoto, Executive Officer, Finance Department, provided the financial stability policy update.

Mr. Matsumoto said the financial stability policy is the result of a Board motion by Directors Parks and Lowenthal. The concepts within the Motion include a “financial standards” policy statement that Metro has used for several years. The current financial stability policy is a combination of those policies and an analysis, including various other statements. The later concepts included the ability to have reserves in case of economic downturns.

Mr. Matsumoto answered questions and defined the structural deficit discussed at the last meeting on November 17, 2006. While he emphasized that reserves are necessary to operate effectively, Metro does not have the ability to set aside reserves because of inadequate operating funds. Mr. Matsumoto said that key items within the financial stability policy include (1) relevant fares, (2) resolving deficit issues and (3) cost control measures.

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Representative Hudson asked Mr. Matsumoto whether the financial stability policy had been approved or presented to the Board. Mr. Matsumoto said it was presented to the Board for adoption and the action was carried over to January 2007.

Representative McTaggart asked about the amount of the deficit, discussed at last month's meeting. He was advised the \$1.8 billion structural deficit involves the next ten years.

General Manager's Presentation:

Ms. Dana Coffey made a presentation to Scott Greene and Madeline Van Leuvan for their outstanding contributions to the South Bay Sector and their participation in community outreach events during evenings and weekends. She said Ms. Van Leuvan and Mr. Greene are very knowledgeable and their efforts on behalf of South Bay Service Sector are appreciated.

4. **SCHEDULED** a Public Hearing for February 2007 for FY08 Service Changes by Scott Greene, Transportation Planning Manager.

Mr. Greene explained the service changes to become effective December 17, 2006 and described proposed service changes for Fiscal Year 2008. He asked the Council to set a public hearing date of February 9, 2007 to receive public input for service changes to take effect in June 2007, for the fiscal year 2008.

The Public Hearing date will be widely advertised in several newspapers. Public comments will be received via fax, e-mail, written letters, or in person at the public hearing on Friday, February 9, 2007, 9:30 a.m., at Carson Community Center, Carson, California.

Mr. Greene proposed that the public hearing be the focal point of the Governance Council meeting on February 9, immediately after the January minutes are approved. He recommended the public hearing process begin with a presentation including a narrative with maps of proposed service changes. He also suggested that detailed information of service changes be available in January, before the public hearing.

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Mr. Greene projected that savings will be realized as a result of the service changes and revenues for South Bay Service Sector will increase. He provided a summary of proposed changes with a preliminary list of lines being affected. These recommendations are scheduled to take effect in June 2007 or later, and will be presented to the Council for approval in March 2007:

**Preliminary List of Service Change Proposals**  
 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
 Metro South Bay Sector

The Metro South Bay Sector will hold a public hearing on Friday, February 9, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Carson Community Center. The purpose of the upcoming public hearing is to receive public comments on proposed changes to Metro bus services operating in the South Bay and other portions of Los Angeles County. Approved changes will be in effect June 2007 or later.

<b>LINE</b>	<b>LINE NAME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE</b>
115	Manchester – Firestone	Cancel service west of Sepulveda Bl. and replace with extended Line 625 (Green Line Shuttle World Way West)
119/126	108 <sup>th</sup> St. – Manhattan Beach Bl.	Cancel service
120/121	Imperial Highway	Restructure service to operate as two separate routes
124	El Segundo Bl.	Cancel service
202	Willowbrook - Compton–Wilmington	Cancel service due to low ridership
305	Crosstown Bus	Cancel service north of Pico Bl.
442	Hawthorne – Inglewood – Los Angeles Express	Cancel service
445	Los Angeles - San Pedro Express	Consider converting some peak hour trips to faster service via Line 455X
455X	7 <sup>th</sup> /Metro – Harbor Beacon Park-Ride Super Express	Consider new peak hour service with one stop at Harbor Metro Green Line Station
622	Late Night Service	Cancel service
625	Green Line Shuttle World Way West	Extend to Playa del Rey to replace Line 115 west of Sepulveda Bl.
710	Crenshaw – Vine Metro Rapid	Cancel service north of Wilshire Bl. on Rossmore Av. and Vine St. and reroute to new northern

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LINE	LINE NAME	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE
		terminal at Wilshire-Western Metro Red Line Station

5. Chair’s Comments

Vice-Chair McTaggart noted the late night service cancellation and asked for the number of passengers affected as a result of service changes on the proposed cancellations. He requested, specifically, how those passengers will be notified and how their travel needs will be met after the changes are implemented. He said that more publicity is necessary and asked Mr. Greene to have the requested information available at the January meeting.

Representative Margaret Hudson expressed concern about the cancellation of Line 202 service and whether the changes will seriously affect some passengers’ ability to get to and from work. She asked if Line 202 and Line 205 could coordinate service and if Mr. Greene had discussed this issue with Carson’s Transit Manager, Ms. Cara Rice. Ms. Hudson said Line 202 also serves a Department of Public and Social Services (DPSS) Center and canceling service may create a problem. Mr. Greene said the sector will communicate the proposed change to the City of Carson to determine their interest and minimize impact to the riders.

Representative Addleman said elimination of late night service poses a real problem if no alternative service is available, especially if 28 people are affected. The Council needs public input on the proposed cancellation of Line 622. He asked for actual statistics of riders using late night service between 12:30 and 1:30 a.m.

Public Comment

Rafi Katzir suggested that Line 625 service operate seven days a week if Line 115 is canceled. He opposed cancellation of Line 710 service and suggested numerous other service changes and submitted a detailed analysis of recommended changes for consideration.

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Representative Lou Mitchell asked how Line 120/121 will be restructured to operate as two separate lines. Mr. Greene explained how service will operate on December 17, 2006.

Mr. Addleman requested more publicity on all proposed changes. He suggested that widespread circulation of changes be listed in the Long Beach Telegram, City Hub, Easy Reader, Daily Breeze, L.A. Wave, L.A. Sentinel and other local newspapers, including San Pedro's local paper, and suggested changes also be published in foreign language newspapers.

Mr. Drummond asked if the advertising will be paid by Metro. Ms. Coffey said the Sector will coordinate circulation with the media and schedule advertising early enough to receive appropriate feedback. She said Metro has very strong support from the media, and will be provided with free advertising. Mr. Greene affirmed that the Board Secretary's office will advertise the public hearing in newspapers.

Mr. Drummond said he saw an advertisement posted on a bus operated by San Gabriel Valley Sector (SGVS) that appeared to be effective. Ms. Coffey said South Bay Sector will adopt SGVS's method and post advertisements.

Mr. Sachs addressed the cancellation of Line 126 and said that service on Line 130 is inconsistent and unpredictable. Between 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., timely connections with Beach Cities Transit are difficult. Passengers are confused about the schedule. He said if service is canceled on El Segundo, some riders, including seniors, will be seriously affected. No service will be available to the Air Force Base and DMV offices on El Segundo Boulevard.

Mr. Drummond commented that he supports new Line 455X but not if some Line 445 trips are eliminated or converted. He suggested that Metro could implement this service as Line 450X was implemented. Mr. McTaggart suggested that J.K. send comments to Councilwoman Janice Hahn for a transit station or service initiation in San Pedro.

Rafi Katzir suggested cancellation of Line 445, replacing it with Line 550 and 650. He suggested new service on Figueroa, replaced by Line 650, along with other line

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changes. Suggestions were submitted for Lines 108 and 358, 308, 110, 212 and 312, 445, 550, 555 and 650. These were given to the secretary of the Sector and will also be included in the record with the permanent minutes.

**APPROVED** a motion for the Public Hearing to be held at the Carson Community Center, on Friday, February 9, 2007.

6. General Manager's Comments

Ms. Coffey said that the public's comments regarding community service changes are very important and provide useful feedback. Proposed service changes and alternatives require thorough discussion and assessment. The Sector will review evening and late night service alternatives and coordinate these with other municipal operators. She reported that Metro's partnership with municipal operators continues to be mutually beneficial for planning efficient service. Ms. Coffey said proposed changes will be posted on buses; however, some proposals may not be adopted.

Council Representatives' Reports and Comments

Vice-Chair McTaggart commented that he used the Trip Planner for a recent trip on Line 444 and the service was excellent. He expressed appreciation that everyone was listening during Mr. Greene's presentation.

Representative Deming reported that Line 625's on-time performance and speeding problems have improved. Customer complaints regarding buses that consistently run 15 minutes late on 18-minute headways are being received. Ms. Deming said this problem is limited to the same drivers. She suggested that the Sector be told which lines are running late to correct the problem.

Ms. Deming said extended service is necessary at the airport to replace the previously canceled service. Passengers wait at the old bus stop for a bus; they think service is still operating from World Way West to the terminals. One driver provided inaccurate information to passengers that a shuttle was operating there. She informed the driver there was no service. Ms. Deming requested that operators be informed so passengers will receive correct information. Customers observe buses

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going to be refueled and assume bus service is available. Ms. Deming said there is a need for midday service and mentioned that she continues to shuttle stranded passengers from World Way West back to Sepulveda.

Comments by Service Sector Representatives regarding Antonovich Motion:

Representative Addleman said the staff of Palos Verdes Transit, on Line 225/226, is doing an excellent job. During a recent bomb scare at Peninsula High School, Palos Verdes Transit Service's staff responded and evacuated 2,200 students, in 35 minutes.

Mr. Addleman said the Council needs more control of Contract Operators and more direct input to the budget in order to put the ideas of the public into effect and implement the proposals being submitted to the Council.

Ms. Deming reported that she submitted an evaluation of the Antonovich motion. She also favors more control of the Contract lines and better use of Metro's website services.

Mr. McTaggart said he supports Mr. Addleman's statement on the Antonovich motion.

Ms. Hudson said she submitted a written essay on the Antonovich motion. She said more people are riding Metro buses from the Artesia Transit center, customer service has improved and drivers are performing well. Ms. Coffey will share this comment with the drivers.

Ms. Mitchell agreed with Mr. Addleman that the Council, in its advisory capacity, needs more control. She represented Metro while riding on the trolley during the Watts-Willowbrook Christmas Parade. She thanked Mr. Zuleger for providing the trolley and attending the meeting.

7. Public Comments



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Evaristo Ramos commented that service change proposals are not meeting Carson's needs and suggested providing Rapid Service for Carson and anytime service availability, as offered in the Philippines.

Rafi Katzir commented that the 446 bus should run both northbound and southbound on Sunday afternoons. He proposed changes with recommendations to be filed with the minutes.

Dorothea Jaster said Vermont Avenue is being renovated by the County Department of Public Works. Northbound repairs are completed and southbound repairs have just begun. The bus stops are unclear and conditions are unsafe. Ms. Jaster reported that the new timetables which include service changes to be implemented December 17, 2006 were not available on buses.

J.K. Drummond commented on Line 109 and compared Metro's transit TV with Beach Cities Transit's classical music. He reported that the new bus schedules were unavailable. He suggested posting signs on northbound Avalon Boulevard indicating there is no midday service to downtown LA. In addition, he said that the buses are cold.

Arnold Sachs suggested a new bus stop for Line 232 at the new mall near Rosecrans and Sepulveda; he also suggested an alternative route or a small bus to replace eliminated service.

Tony Zuleger suggested providing rail service from downtown Los Angeles, via Metrolink access, to L.A. Airport, Carson, Long Beach, Paramount, and Downey, and extending Green Line rail service.

8. The meeting ADJOURNED at 11:05 a.m.



Joanne K. Harper  
Council Secretary