

MINUTES

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

SOUTH BAY SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-
McDonald Community Center
(Carson Community Center)
801 E. Carson Street
Carson, CA 90746

Called to Order at 9:32 a.m.

Service Sector Representatives Present:

John McTaggart, Vice Chair
John Addleman
Lou Mitchell
Devon Deming
Ralph L. Franklin
Robert Pullen-Miles
Don Szerlip

Officers:

Dana M. Coffey, General Manager
Raynard Price , Assistant Board Secretary



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1. **ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION:**

Personnel Matters – G.C. 54957: - (Continued from previous Meeting)
Public Employee Performance Evaluation – General Manager
No report.

2. **Safety 1st Contact** by Metro South Bay Volunteer. General Manager Coffey encouraged everyone to be mindful that not only cars but bicyclists are using our streets to commute. Therefore, when you share the streets with the bicyclists remember to take extra precautions to prevent accidents. Ms. Coffey said safety is a joint effort.

3. **APPROVED** Minutes of the August 8, 2008 Governance Council Meeting.

4. **UPDATE** on Adopt-A-Line Program by Service Sector Representatives.

Representative Mitchell shared her experience on August 20 riding bus number 6358 from 103rd to Gateway Plaza, transferring at Central and Broadway. Operator 28191 had a good attitude, the bus was fairly clean but the windows were dirty and the bus lacked schedules. The 745 Rapid had a driver with a good attitude. The bus was crowded. On the return trip the Rapid was in poor condition without bus schedules. The local bus Operator had a good attitude but the bus was dirty. The timing on all trips was good as well as the connections.

Representative Addleman reported on the 450X he rode on September 3. Bus number 725 was packed with riders, the bus was clean and the ride was good. There was a 30 minute layover at the downtown destination. The return trip was packed with patrons. General Manager Coffey indicated that the 450X is unique in that it is a one stop express “Blue” bus – this route is in need of support to use an articulated bus because it is often crowded.

Representative Szerlip spoke of his trip to see the Dodgers. He took public transit from South Bay to Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles starting with the

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Green Line, to the Blue Line, to the Red Line, to a bus at Union Station. Representative Szerlip spoke well of his trip using public transit but suggested that the bus (not operated by Metro) may require consultation because the driver seemed to have some logistical problems. He noted that the bus leaving Dodger Stadium was standing room only and observed that the Red Line passengers were mostly from the Dodger game. He enjoyed his trip and said it beats driving.

Representative Deming said employees have given positive feedback regarding Line 625. She said, “You can set your watch by its arrival.” The line is on time. In the afternoon, the line continues to run a little late but employees have noticed the positive change in the bus schedule since there has been much effort towards fixing late arrivals.

Representative Pullen-Miles rode the Green Line from the Park and Ride. The platform was clean with buses waiting for passengers. He spoke to bus riders making bus connections, particularly Line 270 at the Long Beach Station. He received positive feedback regarding Line 270 – it was on time with enough time for passengers to make their connections. He enjoyed his experience.

Vice Chair McTaggart observed that the Line 440 seems to be increasing in ridership in spite of the fact that gasoline prices have dropped below \$4.00.

5. **Chair’s Comments.** Vice Chair McTaggart announced that the South Bay Sector is very fortunate to have Dana Coffey as a General Manager. There were many Sector members in agreement. The public applauded.
6. **General Manager’s Comments.** General Manager Coffey thanked everyone for their acknowledgement. She described her tour with business partners on the Harbor Transit Way visiting all of the terminals. She said there will be recommendations to improve the Park and Rides and to look at other alternatives beyond single car occupancy. Without a congestion plan and the execution of it, the public will be driving at no more than 8 miles per hour.

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General Manager Coffey announced upcoming meetings: the I110 Community Congestion Reduction Workshop; Fast Traffic Study; and the Expo Project Update. She encouraged everyone to go to MyMetro.net where many of the meetings of interest are posted.

Ms. Coffey described the “folding bikes” for which Metro received funding allowing more of these vehicles to use the buses outside of the peak periods. Metro has noticed an increase in bike boardings and will attempt to increase bike storage.

The General Manager introduced Stephanie Wiggins who provided an overview of the Congestion Pricing Workshop that will be one of two community events on Congestion Pricing. Ms. Wiggins encouraged Sector Representatives and the Public to attend the “Open House” Workshop to be held on the lower level of the Community Center immediately following adjournment of the Sector meeting. Noting the number of members of the public in attendance, Representative Franklin stated he was pleased to see the public engaged.

Prior to the Workshop Ms. Wiggins responded to questions from the public. Ms. Soledad Garcia from the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council asked when will there be an express bus from San Pedro directly to downtown Los Angeles. The General Manager shared that currently there is a layover and space problem but suggested an express bus may be considered while Vice Chair McTTagart said the San Pedro Councils should work with their City of Los Angeles Council representatives to get cooperation to build a transit center in San Pedro.

Ms. Garcia also commented that there is no one to assist in the purchase of tickets at the Artesia Transit area. She expressed a concern for patrons who may not be able to read or have the appropriate change. General Manager Coffey said there are no personnel available to be stationed at the stations but offered that improvements are in the works such as “Push to Talk” buttons to speak to someone at the Control Center. Additionally, vending machines will be installed as well as international signage.

Cara Rice, Transportation Manager for the City of Carson, inquired if the Congestion pricing fees have been determined for those driving alone. Ms. Wiggins said this has yet to happen; there are other factors such as low income assessment and fees that may change as congestion increases.

Diana Nave, Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, one of three San Pedro neighborhood councils and representatives in attendance, asked if an Environmental Impact Study (EIR) had been done on the impact on of a Congestion Pricing plan, and how the \$210M Federal grant will be used. Ms. Wiggins said that an EIR is required for the project in which Caltrans is the lead agency. The EIR has yet to be done. She further stated that the \$210M is an opportunity to use this money on transit. The Metro Board will consider a program of projects at the September 25th meeting that will include 60 new buses in the corridor, improvements at the Harbor Transit Way Stations, the El Monte Bus Way Stations, and possible additional parking in the 10 corridor. The General Manager said a list of the projects will be available on MyMetro.net.

Bus rider Connie Levy inquired further about a specific number to call for the project. Ms. Wiggins provided a number, 213.922.4200, for those who do not have access to the internet and may have questions about the Congestion Pricing Project. Ms. Levy told everyone she traveled to the meeting from the Beverly Hills area by way of the Red Line to Bus Line 446. She shared that her ride was “amazing.” The bus was on time and she got to the meeting on time.

7. **Public Comments**

Shelly Green. Ms. Green asked why there isn't a Metro Customer Center in the South Bay. Ms. Coffey said there is a customer center in the Baldwin Hills Mall on Crenshaw and Martin Luther King Blvd. across from the Sears store.

Evaristo Ramos. Mr. Ramos, a 24 year resident of Carson believes there should be more public transportation. He says if there were more public transportation, business would improve.

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Representative Deming announced new Fly-Away schedules that are more in line with the Metrolink Schedules at Union Station. This change was in response to customer comments.

Representative Franklin announced that there is a new Burlington Coat Factory in the City of Inglewood. He also mentioned a bus he rode that required maintenance. He provided the General Manager with the bus number.

8. **WORKSHOP Held** on Congestion Pricing by Stephanie Wiggins, Consultant, Metro New Business Development. (Workshop was held on the first level of the Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center immediately following adjournment.)

9. **Adjourned 11:52**

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raynard V. Price', with a stylized, cursive script.

Raynard V. Price