

MINUTES

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

SOUTH BAY SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Community Center
(Carson Community Center) – Room 109 A/B
801 E. Carson Street
Carson, CA 90746

Called to Order at 9:30 a.m.

Sector Representatives present were:

Ralph Franklin, Chair
John Addleman
Devon Deming
Rena Kambara
Robert Pullen-Miles
Lou Mitchell
Kim Turner
Don Szerlip

Officers:

Dana M. Coffey, General Manager
Raynard Price, Council Secretary



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1. Pledge of Allegiance was held.
2. Quorum was established.
3. Introductions were made.
4. **RECEIVED** Safety Awareness Tip by Lt. Obenberger. Lt. Obenberger of the LA County Sheriff Transit Bureau announced 2010 is a census year. He advised when approached by Census Takers to look for a handheld device and a Census Bureau badge. He warned against giving out Social Security numbers or banking information or donations. These will not be requested. The Census Bureau will only be inquiring about the number of people living on the premise. The Census Bureau will not contact anyone by email but may call. He firmly stated that the Census Bureau is not associated with the nonprofit Acorn. While he said the information is important he strongly suggested that everyone be careful. The Chair added that the information is confidential and is not associated with Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). However, he said data collection will have important implications when it comes to funding. Representative Szerlip requested that Lt. Obenberger next month provide a visual of the Census Bureau badge.
5. **APPROVED** Minutes of December 11, 2009.
6. **RECEIVED** update on the graffiti issue on the rainbow bridge owned by Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) by Chris Limon, Assistant Manager Wayside System. Mr. Limon did not attend. Chair Franklin provided background to the Rainbow Bridge graffiti issues and surrounding area including the nearby Park n' Ride lot for the 103rd Street Station on the Metro Blue Line, and he stated General Manager Coffey invited people involved in the community to get clarification as to who is responsible for the bridge and to achieve resolution of all the issues.

The Chair introduced Paul Racs, Director, Office of Community Beautification, Los Angeles City Board of Public Works. Mr. Racs said his department handles the graffiti abatement program throughout the City of Los Angeles, 7 days a week removing 29 million square feet of graffiti from 7,600 locations. He said way too often graffiti is removed but then reappears in a few days. The city has paint crews under contract to paint over graffiti. Crews have not addressed the Rainbow Bridge because of two reasons: (1) potential safety issues involving crews working above the active railroad tracks under the bridge, and (2) the bridge is painted in rainbow colors making the job more complex. Mr. Racs said his understanding is the community would like for the bridge to remain multi-colored. Painting multiple colors over graffiti is very labor intensive. He concluded by stating that the bridge is under the jurisdiction of the CRA.

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Chair Franklin introduced Charlotte Brimmer, CRA Project Manager for the South Los Angeles Region which includes the Watts Corridor area. Ms. Brimmer shared information about the bridge and surrounding area which is called the “Cultural Crescent.” She provided a map demonstrating a shaded area owned by the CRA. She pointed out that the bridge, which is not included in the shaded area, is not owned by the CRA but by the City of Los Angeles. She said the bridge is the responsibility of the City of Los Angeles.

In presenting a history of the area, she advised that in 1986 the CRA was to enter into an agreement with the City of Los Angeles to construct the bridge but the contract was never executed according to her research. However, throughout the years, different entities removed the graffiti as a courtesy involving various layers of colors. For the past two years, MTA (Metro) paid for graffiti removal and painting.

As for the Park n’ Ride (one of the other issues) she said that it is CRA’s responsibility and that CRA will handle graffiti abatement. In response to the darkness of the lot the CRA upgraded the lighting two years ago. Public member Dortha Jaster suggested that CRA staff make a visit to the Park n’ Ride to ensure that the lighting is still intact. There is supposed to be a sign identifying the area as a Park n’ Ride. The Chair stated one of the complaints is a fence making it difficult to enter into the lot. Ms. Brimmer said there is no fence around the lot preventing the public from entering.

Representative Mitchell inquired about the colors on the bridge. Ms. Brimmer said she was informed that the bridge was to remain multi-colored. Representative Mitchell said as far as she knows only one person requested the multi-colors of the Rainbow Bridge. Others at an earlier planning meeting requested a solid color. This did happen at one time but shortly afterwards it was rainbow again. Representative Mitchell asked Mr. Racs to look into the rainbow color of the bridge that the community really did not want. The community wanted a neutral color. Chair Franklin asked if the bridge can be repainted a solid color. Mr. Racs said the local community has to make that decision. Ms. Brimmer said the bridge was painted as recently as August of last year. She said the real issue is to get the community and children in the area to take ownership of the bridge in order to keep graffiti off the bridge. There is community outreach attempting to do so. Ms. Brimmer offered to do a walk through with Mr. Racs. She said she needs help from all parties to make sure that the bridge is well maintained. She said she has been speaking with the Mayor’s office and the City Council.

Representative Kambara referenced and read a November 18, 2009 MTA report suggesting the MTA is responsible for the area. Ms. Brimmer responded she is aware of the report and that the report is in error because Metro does not own the bridge. Diane Dominquez, Metro Real Estate, agreed. Public Member Susan Meekins

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suggested the meeting should include a representative from Councilmember Hahn's office. Ms. Brimmer said she has been working with the Mayor's office and the Councilmember's office. She said Los Angeles City Office of Community Beautification should go to the area because it is their responsibility. Ms. Meekins said somebody needs to take responsibility for cleaning the bridge and agencies should stop blaming other agencies. Ms. Brimmer reiterated that the bridge is not owned by the CRA. Chair Franklin said this is a quality of life issue that the City of Los Angeles should handle.

General Manager Coffey said she brought together all the representatives to speak on the issues in hopes of resolution. Representative Szerlip said the community must first decide on whether it wants the bridge to remain rainbow or a more neutral color to help facilitate the removal of the graffiti.

In response to the issue of a swap meet at the train station. Diane Dominquez said Metro has a vendor program. Anyone who wants to sell items needs to first contact Metro as the program has requirements including a safety training class. She said vendors are typically issued permits for two years to sell hot dogs, jewelry, clothing, and similar items. Vendors are required to keep the permit visible at all times. LA County Sheriff Transit Bureau is given a list of the vendors and what they are permitted to sell. She said those who see unidentified vendors should contact either the Sheriff or her at 213.922.5253.

Ms. Brimmer said that the CRA is working to clean up the area including a rehab of the Martin Luther King Shopping Center. There are two community meetings on the first Thursday. Ms. Brimmer gave out her number 213.977.1960 if the public has concerns regarding the area. She has an open door policy to work with the community. Public member Mr. J.K. Drummond asked if the bridge is a requirement or a necessity. Ms. Brimmer said it was a part of a plan for the area. Representative Mitchell said the bridge is not used – children continue to walk across the tracks. Representative Mitchell thanked the Chair and General Manager for bringing all the parties to the Governance Council meeting, having heard more at this Sector meeting than all the other meetings in the community she has attended on these issues. She said if the bridge is a Mayor of Los Angeles issue she wants to know where to go to get things done because there has been just too much "talk." Chair Franklin suggested Representative Mitchell send a letter to Councilmember Hahn's office copying the Mayor's office.

Mr. Drummond suggested one way of defeating the graffiti issues is to provide plants growing from the bottom of the wall upward. Ms. Brimmer said she will take information from today's meeting back to all parties. Chair Franklin thanked everyone for coming out to resolve the several issues affecting the Rainbow Bridge and the Park n' Ride lot for the 103rd Street Station.

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7. **CANCELLED.** Update on lighting, parking issue and egress to the Wilmington/Imperial/Rosa Parks Blue Line Station by Metro Representative.
8. **RECEIVED** update on the Artesia Transit Center Improvements by Tim Lindholm. Mr. Lindholm said it's hard to talk about Artesia Transit Center (ATC) without talking about the whole transitway. He said there are 9 stations. There is \$3.9M budgeted for the Harbor Transitway Improvements. He said there will be a law enforcement substation at the ATC that will assist with security and be able to monitor the 140 cameras that will be installed at many of the stations and park-ride lots. Also planned are lighting upgrades at all stations and parking lots; new bus stops at Slauson and Manchester; Push to Talk Telephones (PTEs) at stations (customer telephone information); variable message signs; sound enclosure pilot test at 37th Street Station; and environmental signage and passenger way finding improvements. Mr. Lindholm said that construction will start March 2010 and will be completed in phases between December 2010 and June 2011. He provided pictures of future plans. He said Metro does not own the stations or maintain the stations, they are owned by Caltrans. In response to Public member Dorthea Jaster who said she thought the clock at the ATC was just decorative and not there to tell time, Mr. Lindholm said the clocks cannot be fixed and will need to be replaced. Representative Kambara asked about a timeline for the variable message signs, and if they will provide real-time information that will be helpful to riders. Mr. Lindholm said the design is complete and is being reviewed. He is not sure if the signs will provide real-time information. In response to Chair Franklin, Mr. Lindholm advised that the law enforcement substation will be manned but not open to the public and may not be manned 24 hours. Also public restrooms would not be included consistent with MTA policy. Mr. Lindholm concluded his report and the Chair asked for questions from the Council Representatives.

Representative Devon Deming said she wants to go on record that we need to deal with the problems she sees due to the lack of public restrooms. Mr. Lindholm responded that MTA does not support public restrooms. They are only considered when they are cost-neutral and typically are only provided through joint development. He said that although El Monte Station presently has a restroom, it will not have one after reconstruction. Public member J.K. Drummond suggested Metro staff visit the Long Beach transit mall where a public restroom is available with hot water and stainless steel fixtures.

Representative Turner asked if the Metro Silver Line or Line 450X would use one of the bus bays in the park-ride lot. Scott Greene, Metro Transportation Planning Manager, said that a more northern island at the station may in the future be used for Line 450X if the existing bus bays become overcrowded, and because the 450X

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provides service to many of the park-ride customers. Mr. Lindholm concluded his report.

9. **RECEIVED** Chair's Comments. Chair Franklin announced the next meeting will be held on February 12th. He thanked the staff for allowing him to review the minutes and agenda before finalizing. He also commended Metro staff for being sensitive to the public's concerns by bringing all parties and stakeholders to the table regarding issues surrounding the Rainbow Bridge. The Chair requested new business cards. Ms. Coffey noted that the new cards are on order.

10. **RECEIVED** Governance Council Representatives Comments.

Vice Chair Addleman said this meeting was one of the most illuminating meetings in his years on the Governance Council. He suggested continuing this type of effort in the future. He asked that the Fiscal Year 2011 budget be agendaized for the next meeting. The placement of signs for Lines 225 and 226 will be completed by the end of January. He shared that the Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority provided special service by transporting 150 people during the New Year's celebration. These were people not on the streets driving.

Representative Kambara rode the Metro Silver Line on January 6 from the Harbor Freeway Transitway Station at 6:44 a.m. northbound with Operator number 18379. The new bus was clean. She said Line 450X passed her bus at Adams. She said overall the ride was fine. In the afternoon she returned on Line 450X, bus 5341, at 6:13 p.m. southbound from 7th and Flower, Operator 9120, thinking it would be faster and it was.

Representative Deming said she participated in a pedestrian audit at the 5th Street Metro Blue Line Station in Long Beach. She made notes on landscaping, curb cuts, lights, sidewalks, crosswalks and everything around the station that needed repair and said these findings will be sent to the City of Long Beach for action. She was appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of the audit. She is excited about moving within walking distance to the Blue Line.

Representative Mitchell announced that January 9 there will be a meeting regarding improvements of the Rosa Parks Station at the Ron McNair elementary school. She encouraged all the Governance Council members to visit the Rosa Parks Station or attend the meeting. Chair Franklin requested the information be emailed to him to send to members.

Chair Franklin said on January 5 he rode Line 210 at 9:55 a.m. northbound on Crenshaw, Bus 6354, Operator 23446 and was pleased to have an enjoyable trip. The bus was clean. He stood the majority of the ride because it was packed. There were plastic bags on the bus. He said this particular bus had a variety of schedules. He

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said the City of Inglewood is starting to clean bus stops. He rode Line 210 at 11:27 a.m. southbound bus 6383, Operator 25641. The bus had only one plastic bag as one enters the bus. There were no replacements for the bag as the content started to leak. The bus was almost full, clean with air conditioning. He noticed graffiti on the outside of the windows on both sides. After informing Ms. Coffey she immediately responded to his complaint and took the windows off the bus to clean the graffiti. Using this incident as an example, he encouraged the representatives to fill out the forms so that they can be given to the General Manager especially if there are concerns of public safety. The Chair announced a Public hearing will be held on the proposed I-405 interchange at Arbor Vitae Street that will impact La Cienega Blvd. The meeting is Tuesday, January 19, at Crozier Middle School near Inglewood City Hall. Chair Franklin announced that he is the Chair for the City of Inglewood for the U.S. Census count. The office will open on January 12. He will follow up on the ID card demonstration as requested by Representative Szerlip.

11. **RECEIVED** General Manager's report. Ms. Myrine White, Metro Administration and Finance Manager, in presenting the Sector budget report said there is a positive variance in Labor of \$246,644 due to vacancies and overtime. The Non Labor variance of \$261,660 is due to funds in the Parts-Revenue Vehicles line item. The Allocated accounts have a favorable variance of 3.7M (\$3,786,756) for a total positive variance of \$4.3M. The favorable variance in the Allocated Accounts is due to savings in Worker's Compensation and Public Liability and Property damage (PLPD). Chair Franklin asked if the vacancies have a service impact. Ms. White said the vacancies are short term and do not affect service.

Ms. Coffey said that either Michelle Caldwell or Terry Matsumoto will be attending next month's meeting to provide budget updates. Ms. Coffey said the Sector has met all of its targets in the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). Complaints remained consistent. In-Service-On-Time Performance (ISOTP) is targeted at 67% but should be higher. Year to Date (YTD) it is 66.59%. It is a work in progress to raise this number beyond the target. New Workers Compensation Indemnity claims, targeted at 10.5, are at 12.46 YTD, Bus Traffic Accidents Per 100,000 Hub Miles is targeted at 4 and the YTD is 3.37 while Passenger Accidents per 100,000 Boardings is targeted at .24 with a YTD at .21. In conclusion Ms. Coffey asked everyone to call in commendations for good Operators.

She read a letter from Line 442 riders commending Operator Rodney Smith, badge 25224, for an outstanding job stating, "We enjoyed the time we had with Rodney...he has been extremely courteous and his customer service has been beyond reproach. We appreciate everything he's done for us and hope that the next bus operator will extend the same customer service we received from Rodney." The letter was signed by 15 riders. Other Bus Operators who received commendations are: Mauro Sulub,

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Teodoro Andrade Silva, James E. Mitchell from Division 5; Lee O. Sillemo (2), James B. Hicks, Yolanda R. Jones, and Keimyah M. Williams from Division 18. Ms. Coffey shared articles from Metro.net and a letter from CEO Art Leahy regarding the continuation and support of the Governance Councils with designated staff leads for Councils to cover important responsibilities handled by the General Managers. She stated she is not sure who will be attending next month's meeting and concluded her report.

12. **RECEIVED** Public Comments.

Dorthea Jaster. Ms. Jaster said she used to receive emails regarding the meetings, but no longer does. She could not access the link to the meeting schedule on metro.net. She said she is happy that her Sunday morning connections can be made within 5 minutes if the bus is on schedule. She said the new Metro Silver Line does not stop very close to Union Station. She asked about access to bus stops at PCH & Vermont and indicated she will contact LA City Council District 15.

J.K. Drummond. Mr. Drummond said the day after Christmas Line 225 did not show up. The next day the bus showed up but without the regular driver.

Melinda Hines. Ms. Hines said she enjoyed today's meeting. She said she noticed that the Beach Cities Transit buses are running around empty. She said despite a City of Redondo Beach report, she only sees people on the buses around 3 p.m. when school is out. She said she discovered from an active person in the community that Redondo Beach plans to build a Transit Center on Kingsdale and she asked why it is needed. She said that she only rides Line 232 to LAX but she has a friend who takes the bus everywhere and that public transit works. Representative Szerlip said there is an existing transit center in Redondo Beach but it has been outgrown. It will now become a multimodal transit center. The original idea for a transit yard will not work because it is too far from the city. The new transit center will serve several transit agencies with future expansion for rail, commercial development, and residential.

Adjourned 11:40 a.m.

Prepared by:



Raynard V. Price
Council Secretary