

Friday, August 12, 2011

9:30 – 11:30 AM

Minutes

SOUTH BAY CITIES SERVICE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Inglewood City Hall
Conference Room A
One Manchester Blvd.
Inglewood, CA 90301

Call to Order 9:41am

Council Representatives:

Ralph Franklin, Chair
John Addleman, Vice Chair
Devon Deming
James Goodhart
Rena Kambara
Roye Love
Robert Pullen-Miles
Don Szerlip

Officers:

Jon Hillmer, Director Regional Councils
Richard Morallo, Community Relations Mgr.
Suzanne Handler, Council Secretary
Christina Goins, Board Secretary's Office



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Please turn off cell phones or put them on vibrate

1. PLEDGE of Allegiance
2. ROLL Call – Ralph Franklin, Chair
3. SAFETY Tip, Lt. Obenberger
 - A. Most recent crime stats – Down by 3% on buses, robberies are down YTD by 17%, GTP (Grand Theft Person) down by 4% on the Blue Line , GTA (Grand Theft Auto) is down by 27% at the park and ride lot; Green Line – robberies are down 19%, GTP down by 16%, theft from vehicles down by 33%. The only crime that has increased this year is Grand Theft Auto. We are addressing this issue by scheduling additional personnel at the passenger station and park and ride locations that are having issues. In particular, the passenger station in Norwalk has a security guard on the upper level and the lower level.
 - B. The Los Angeles Unified School District, on Transit Community Watch “See Something – Say Something” flyer was passed out.
 - Next month will be the 10th Anniversary of September 11th. Please call the numbers on the flyer to report suspicious persons, activities, packages, etc.

Vice-Chair Addleman: How is the theft rate at the Artesia Transit Center?

Lt. Obenberger: We don't really have any problems. There is a good police presence because officers park their vehicles to complete paperwork.

4. APPROVED Minutes from July 8, 2011 Meeting with one abstention by Representative James Goodhart
5. RECEIVED Public Comments:
 - Dorothea Jaster: The operator on Line 205 ignored a Stop Request. When the passenger yelled, the operator stopped and let the passenger off instead of taking the wheelchair bound passenger four blocks to the next stop. When I board with my Rollator, I informed the operator of my destination. The operator called my stop and opened the door. For safety reasons I remain seated until the bus has come to a stop. Apparently the operator decided I was taking too long and started to move the bus. I was thrown onto a seat with no apology from the operator. Both incidents were

reported to the MV Transit General Manager and Scott and Liz were both copied.

- Wayne Wright: I would like Metro to expand Lines 206 and 209. I would like Line 206 brought back to travel on Normandie, south of Imperial via the Vermont/Green Line Station and back to Normandie and Rosecrans. I would like for Line 209 to be rerouted south to 135th on Van Ness to El Camino College also serving Crenshaw/Green Line Station. The renaming of the stations for the Blue and Green Lines should be as follows: 103rd St should be 103rd Street/Watts Towers, Vermont/I 105 should be Vermont/Athens Station, Hawthorne/I 105 should be Hawthorne/Lennox, Artesia Transit Center/Harbor Gateway is a good choice, and Imperial/Wilmington Rosa Parks should be Rosa Parks/Willowbrook. I ask that you keep Rosa Parks in our memory.
- Richelle Robinson: Why doesn't the City Ride pick up people in Inglewood and does Metro have anything to do with this service?
- J.K. Drummond: It is an LA City funded service and Inglewood is affiliated with LA County. Pigeons are becoming a problem at the Artesia Transit Center. The broken glass was taken care of at the PCH and 110 stop. The 110 FWY connection to the Terminal Island Bridge and the new J.F. Gibson Blvd. in Wilmington is going to be improved by the LA Harbor Department. This is going to affect the 450 MTA bus and the LADOT 142.
- James Carter: Why do the buses run slowly on Sunday? Why was the bus stop removed from 52nd and Crenshaw? I think there should be a stop there because seniors and the handicapped cannot walk two blocks in both directions to get to the Senior Center. I don't think this is right. I think bus drivers should contact dispatch or their fellow bus drivers when there is a passenger waiting at a bus stop. There should be something done about passengers not having respect for seniors. They don't offer their seats to seniors.

Scott Greene: There is a DASH bus stop there. MTA removed the bus stop because of an incident that happened in 2004 or 2005. Fresh and Easy Market is going to be built there and the area councilman thought it would be best that the bus stop not return until construction was finished. We will talk to Fresh and Easy Market to see if they would like the Metro bus stop returned.

Chair Franklin: Let's keep this in the hopper to weigh as an option so when the new development takes place we can consider replacing the Metro stop. Also, we need to make sure that there is adequate signage for the DASH. Regarding giving respect to seniors, can we reevaluate, legally, tweaking the signage to say, "Please yield seating to handicapped and seniors"?

Jon Hillmer: Actually, it does say seating is reserved for the disabled and the elderly but it's voluntary for those who are occupying the seats to get up. Bus operators are encouraged to remind people to allow seniors and the disabled to sit there but it is not mandatory to force people to get up.

Bradley Tollison: Staff should receive more training on how to use the Tap card. Regarding the Gardena Line, the 209 can connect with the 126, giving you a line down Van Ness and down Manhattan Beach Blvd. with two existing lines.

6. RECEIVED report on the Crenshaw/LAX Corridor, Roderick Diaz, South Bay Area Team

Mr. Diaz gave a presentation on the progress of the project.

Project Milestones:

- Release final EIS/EIR – August 2011
- Board adopts project and certifies EIR – September 22nd
- File notice of determination – End of September 2011
- FTA record of decision and begin project implementation – End of October

Adopted Locally Preferred Alternatives (LPA)

- 8.5 mile Light Rail Transit Exposition Blvd. to Metro Green Line
- 6 Stations: Exposition/Crenshaw, Crenshaw/Martin Luther King Jr., Crenshaw/Slauson, Florence/West, Florence/ La Brea, Aviation/Century

Recommended Changes to LPA

- La Brea Avenue grade separation
- Exposition Blvd. to 39th St. (below grade)
- Partially covered LAX trench
- Maintenance facility near LAX

Next Steps

- Complete final environmental impact statement/final environmental impact report
- Board consideration – September 2011
- Continue preliminary engineering/value engineering
- Board consideration of Life-of-Project budget – Fall 2011
- Start construction 2012

Representative Szerlip: Would MTA be acquiring the properties on Florence between La Brea and Hillcrest by eminent domain for the purpose of building the Florence/La Brea Station? Also, is the funding available for the acquisition of the property?

Roderick Diaz: Certified letters were sent to all property owners affected by our potential purchase process. Metro organized one-on-one meetings with all of the property owners to explain what the project is about and to explain the property purchase process. Funding is available to relocate the businesses.

Chair Franklin: Please cover pedestrian bridges, air quality, and noise that may interrupt the quality of life of the residents within the communities?

Roderick Diaz: The trains are electric and would not have air quality emissions. We did not find where it would be necessary to put in pedestrian bridges or crossings. For the most part, a lot of the line operates within a commercial environment and there aren't significant impacts to what is called, "sensitive receptors".

PUBLIC Comments:

- James Carter: What will happen to the existing tracks on Florence?

Roderick Diaz: We are looking at installing three tracks in the right of way. Two tracks for the Light Rail system and one track for sustained freight service.

- Wayne Wright: When the line is complete, will the Redondo Beach rail yard remain or will it be moved to Westchester?

Roderick Diaz: When the line is completed and the new maintenance facility is completed the maintenance facility capacity at the Hawthorne yard, Division 22, will remain.

- J.K. Drummond: The Aviation/Century bus station will be farther from LAX than at present. What will happen to the old city bus terminal?

Roderick Diaz: We are looking to have one central point at Aviation/Century because this is where all of the buses converge. It would be very efficient to have all of the buses converge here because it serves two light rail lines and it would be the most logical place to put the connection.

Bronwen Trice, Sr. Community Relations Officer

- Metro ExpressLanes construction to close the Harbor Freeway Transitway carpool lanes will occur during late night/early morning hours effective Sunday, August 7, 2011. The new traffic configuration will be implemented for the duration of one year.

Public Comments:

- Bradley Tollison: I ride the Silver Line after 10pm and noticed that the announcement says you can take the 81 but not the 45 when getting off at Imperial. Other than that it seems to run well and has been on time.

- J.K. Drummond – I rode the Silver Line last night and thought it was all screwed up. The passengers didn't know where they were going nor did the bus drivers. The windows have a very dark tint on them to where you can't see out. If you are not familiar with the neighborhood you may have trouble knowing where to get off. I think that should be looked into.

7. RECEIVED Director's Report, Jon Hillmer

Performance Report for the month of June

- On-time performance goal is 80.0%: Metro Bus System 76.6% and Year to Date 75.2%; South Bay Cities 75.3% and Year to Date 73.3%
- Complaints per 100,000 passengers: Metro Bus System Target 2.52 – June 2.64 and Year to Date 2.72; South Bay Cities Target 2.78 – June 2.55 and Year to Date 2.64
- Miles between mechanical road calls: Metro Bus System Target 3,664 – June 3,757 and Year to Date 3,426; South Bay Cities Target 3,635 – June 3,809 and Year to Date 3,499
- Accidents per 100,000 miles: Metro Bus System Target 3.14 – June 2.58 and Year to Date 2.88; South Bay Cities Target 3.40 – June 3.49 and Year to Date 3.48
- Monthly ridership: Metro Bus System Target 29,470,000 – June 31,890,000 and Year to Date 29,890,000; South Bay Cities Target 7,540,000 – June 8,750,000 and Year to Date 7,910,000

Major Highway Projects

- I-710 Resurfacing Project
 1. Beginning August 6th, the resurfacing project will occur over ten weekends within 3 months. The freeway will be closed for two 8 hour periods and some lanes will be restricted.
- Harbor Transitway Closure
 1. The project will last one year beginning August 13th. The Transitway will be closed from 10pm to 6am everyday and five transit stations will not be served. The express buses will be in regular traffic lanes and will only serve the Green Line Station.
- The Artesia Transit Center bus berths are being reassigned. In addition, there will be improvements made to the center.

Motion by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

1. Maintain service hours on Metro Tier 1 and Rapid Bus service for FY12.
2. Monitor passenger loads and on-time performance.
3. Develop a strategy and timeline to complete UFS or TAP.
4. Provide an implementation plan for quarterly bus service evaluation program.
5. Appoint an internal compliance manager to report on Metro bus service quality.

6. Identify a minimum of five Bus Rapid Transit Corridors in the County.

Motion by Villaraigosa-Katz-Yaroslavsky-Dubois

1. Green construction equipment policy
2. Develop a plan & timeline for Metro funded projects in local jurisdictions
3. Develop a technical assistance program to support local jurisdictions
4. Work with Caltrans to develop framework applicable to Metro funded projects

Motion by Yaroslavsky-O'Connor-Villaraigosa

1. Explore pilot bike share program at rail and BRT stations
2. Determine whether or not to use public or private funding
3. Develop a technical assistance program to support local jurisdictions

Motion by Antonovich

1. Support Palmdale Station and Bakersfield to Palmdale to LA alignment of HSR
2. Request September 2011 CAHSRA board meeting in Antelope Valley

Planned Service Council Tours

1. ROC/BOC – September 2011
2. Metro Art Tour – November 2011
3. Rail & Bus Division Tour – January 2012
4. Orange Line Extension – March 2012
5. Gold Line Foothill Extension – May 2012
6. CMF Bus Mid-Life Rebuild – July 2012
7. Green Line Extension – September 2012

Proposed Station Names – Metro is looking for public comments

1. From “Imperial Wilmington/Rosa Parks” to “Willowbrook”
2. From “103rd Street” to “Watts Tower”
3. From “Vermont/I-105” to “Athens”
4. From “Hawthorne/I-105” to “Lennox”
5. From “Universal City” to “Universal/Studio City”
6. From “Venice/Robertson” to “Culver City”
7. From “Anaheim” to “Anaheim Street”
8. From “Artesia Transit Center” to “Harbor-Gateway Transit Center”
9. From “Long Beach Transit Mall” to “First Street Transit Gallery” or “Transit Gallery”

Chair Franklin: I am offended by the removal of Rosa Parks’ name. It should read, “Willowbrook/Rosa Parks”.

Representative Goodhart: We should really look into the number of pigeons at the Artesia Transit Station. We should take a look at the police coverage to maintain the safety at the station.

Representative Deming: I agree that Rosa Parks' name should remain in the name of the Willowbrook Station. I would also like for Long Beach to be in the name of the station in Long Beach.

Representative Pullen-Miles: Some of the name changes are confusing if you are not familiar with the area.

Public Comments:

- James Carter: I think someone needs to address how bus drivers treat senior citizens.
 - Dorothea Jaster: I agree with everyone regarding the name changes. No one knows where Athens and Lennox are.
 - J.K. Drummond: Regarding the Artesia Transit Center bus berth proposed assignments, the goal originally was not to have a bus route going in different directions from the same bay. The bus serving the same street should use the same or adjacent bays. I think using specific names/street names are best. I would like to see 182nd Street added to Harbor Gateway.
 - Darrell Wall: The name should be Harbor/91 FWY Transit Center. I think it would be easier for bus operators and passengers traveling westbound or southbound to use the north side of the terminal. If you are going eastbound or northbound you would use the southbound terminal.
 - Bradley Tollison: The new names of the stations are confusing. Please be consistent with the names. The stations should not be named by jurisdiction.
8. REPORT on Quarterly Meeting with Transit Providers, Scott Greene, Community Relations Manager

Municipal Operators met on July 27th at Gardena Bus Lines. The following service changes were discussed:

- LADOT will be getting new buses for their Commuter Express Lines
- Beach Cities Transit is contemplating changes to their system
- Gardena will have three lines going to the Artesia Transit Center
- Los Angeles World Airport is discussing having Fly Away Buses stop in Long Beach

9. RECEIVED Council Member Comments

- Chair Franklin:
 1. Date – 8/3/11; Line #710 Rapid; Bus Run #10; Operator Badge #160007; Boarding Location: Crenshaw Blvd & Imperial HWY; Boarding Time: 8:08am; Direction – North; Bus Cleanliness – Good; Comments: Bus ride was pleasant and was less than a 1/3 full. The sidewalk at the bus stop was dirty and the sign read Line 210 but not Line 710.
 2. Date – 8/4/11; Line #710 Rapid; Bus Run #1; Bus #9523; Operator Badge #16706; Boarding Location: Crenshaw Blvd. & Manchester Blvd.; Boarding Time: 8:40am; Direction: South; Bus Cleanliness: Good; Comments: Driver acknowledged passengers getting on the bus and exiting the bus. The driver would delay travel to pick up passengers that were running toward the bus. The driver was focused and friendly which made the trip very enjoyable. Plastic bags were located at the entrance. The bus was 1/3 full and schedules for the 740 were posted but not for the 710. The bus stop sidewalk was dirty with spills and gum build up. Overall it was an enjoyable experience and the driver was great.

Adjourned at 1:11pm

Christina Goins, Council Secretary

