

1 LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
2 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
3 PUBLIC HEARING

4  
5 JUNE 2016 PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES  
6

7  
8 SOUTH BAY SERVICE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

9 Ralph Franklin, Chair  
10 Paula Faust  
11 Roye Love  
12 Don Szerlip

13 OFFICERS:

14 Gary Spivack, Deputy Executive Officer of  
15 Metro's Service Councils  
16 Scott Page, Director of Service Planning and Analysis  
17 Scott Greene, Transportation Planning Manager  
18 Dolores Ramos, Service Council Analyst  
19 Danielle Valentino, Community Relations Manager  
20 Henry Gonzalez, Community Relations Manager

21  
22  
23 FEBRUARY 4, 2016

24 6:10 P.M.

25  
26  
27 801 East Carson Street  
28 Carson, CA 90745

29 REPORTER: Maronda Powell, CSR No. 13862

1 CARSON, CALIFORNIA

2 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016, 6:10 p.m.

3  
4 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Good evening and  
5 thank you for joining us. I will now call this public  
6 hearing to order. There is simultaneous Spanish  
7 translation available. If anybody needs it, please let  
8 us know by raising your hand. Anyone?

9 Well, it's there if you change your mind. I  
10 will now ask the interpreter to repeat that.

11 (Spanish translation.)

12 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Okay. Do you want  
13 him to sit right with you, or how do you want --

14 Are we all set? Good.

15 My name is Don Szerlip, and I'm a member of  
16 Metro's South Bay Service Council. I will serve as the  
17 presiding officer for tonight's public hearing.

18 Metro's Service Council is responsible for reviewing  
19 proposed bus service changes and determining if the  
20 proposed service changes should be approved, modified  
21 or denied.

22 Joining me are some of my fellow Metro Service  
23 Council members who I will ask to introduce themselves.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FRANKLIN: Ralph Franklin,  
25 Chair of the Metro Service Council for South Bay.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER LOVE: Roye Love, City of  
2 Carson.

3 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: We have one more who  
4 may be -- a little bit later, but she will be joining  
5 us.

6 Also with us our several Metro staff. As I  
7 introduce you, if you would just stand?

8 Scott Page, director of service planning and  
9 analysis. Thank you, Scott.

10 Scott Greene, transportation planning manager.

11 Gary Spivack --

12 MR. SPIVACK: Over here.

13 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: -- deputy executive  
14 officer of Metro's Service Council; Dolores Ramos,  
15 Service Council's analyst; and Henry Gonzalez, our  
16 community relations manager.

17 Thank you all for being here this evening.

18 The purpose of tonight's hearing is to receive  
19 public comment on the service changes proposed for  
20 implementation in June of 2016 or later, if approved.  
21 The comments made must be addressed to the proposed  
22 service changes listed in the public hearing notice.

23 Hearings convened in each of the Service  
24 Council regions will include a presentation of the  
25 changes proposed for the individual region, and a

1 regional hearing covering all of the proposed service  
2 changes will be held downtown at Metro Headquarters  
3 this Saturday, February 6th, at 10:00 a.m. And yes,  
4 you may attend both hearings and make comments.

5 Copies of the "Take One" brochure which lists  
6 all the public hearing dates, times and locations and  
7 all proposed bus service modifications are available at  
8 the sign-in table just outside, or at this spare table  
9 here just inside.

10 All comments made this evening will be  
11 transcribed and become part of the public record. The  
12 purpose of this public hearing is only to receive  
13 public comment on the proposed service changes. No  
14 decisions nor deliberations will be made this evening.

15 Today's public testimony and comments received  
16 via mail, phone and email will be summarized and  
17 responded to in the final staff report.

18 The report will be presented to the South Bay  
19 Service Council at our March 11th, 2016 meeting. And  
20 it will contain staff recommendations for the potential  
21 changes discussed here this evening.

22 Henry, am I going too fast, or are you good?

23 Okay. Staff will also present their  
24 evaluation of the impacts the service plan will have  
25 relative to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and

1 Environmental Justice Executive Order.

2 Persons who would like to submit testimony  
3 today will be called in the order in which they turn in  
4 the "Request to Speak" forms. That's this green form  
5 here. If you want to speak this evening, please fill  
6 out a form. And I assume there's also forms out on the  
7 table outside, if you need that.

8 If anyone wishes to comment on the proposed  
9 service changes, but has not filled out a form, please  
10 hold up your hand, and a staff member will give you one  
11 to fill out and turn in. Okay.

12 If you have wish to submit comments, but do  
13 not want to speak, staff also has forms that you can  
14 use, three by five forms that you may use.

15 Written comments can also be submitted via  
16 email to servicechanges@metro.net. Is that up there  
17 are on the board? Very good. Also by fax. Is that  
18 still current technology? Did I miss something? By  
19 fax at 213.922.6988 or by mail to the Metro Customer  
20 Relations, Attention: December 2015 -- it should be  
21 June 2016 Service Changes; is that correct, Ms. Ramos?

22 SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: That is  
23 correct. It's correct up there.

24 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Okay. One Gateway  
25 Plaza, 99-PL-4, Los Angeles, California 90012-2932.

1           The deadline to submit written testimony is  
2 postmarked through midnight, Saturday, February 13th.  
3 So if you wait until Valentine's Day, you've lost your  
4 opportunity to spread your love among Metro.

5           The information about how to submit written  
6 testimony is listed in the public hearing "Take One"  
7 brochure.

8           Ms. Ramos, hold that up.

9           And was listed in public notices that were  
10 published to advertise these proceedings.

11           I now call on Service Council Analyst  
12 Dolores Ramos to read the Metro Board of Director  
13 Secretary Report. Ms. Ramos.

14           SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: Thank you.  
15 The notice of intent to hold this public hearing was  
16 published in the following publications: Asbarez  
17 Armenian Daily News, Asian Journal Publications, Inc.  
18 (Thai), The Daily breeze, Daily News Los Angeles,  
19 Eastside Sun, The Korea Times, Los Angeles Sentinel,  
20 La Opinion, Panorama (Russian), Press Telegram, Rafu  
21 Shimpo (Japanese), San Fernando Sun, San Gabriel Valley  
22 Tribune, Southwest Wave, The Register, Watts Times, and  
23 World Journal Chinese Daily News. The notice was  
24 posted on the Internet and distributed via take one  
25 brochure aboard Metro buses and trains.

1           Affidavits of publication are filed with the Metro  
2 Secretary and are available in the Metro Secretary's  
3 Office for review.

4           This concludes my report.

5           HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Thank you,  
6 Ms. Ramos.

7           Any questions so far? We'll proceed then.

8           MALE SPEAKER: You mean from the audience?

9           HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Just about what  
10 you've heard at the moment.

11           MALE SPEAKER: Once again, our South Bay local  
12 newspapers: The Beach Reporter, The Easy Reader and  
13 The Random Lengths have been omitted from this lengthy  
14 list of publications. They have names that are strange  
15 to the bureaucrats downtown, but these are local weekly  
16 in two cases and every two weeks in the other. And I  
17 would like to see them in those Beach and Harbor  
18 newspapers.

19           HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Thank you.

20           Ms. Ramos, if you would make note of the names  
21 of those? I know that Metro regularly advertises, at  
22 least, in a number of them.

23           SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: Yes. The  
24 publications that were selected for publication of the  
25 public notice were selected based upon the routes that

1 are being considered for changes in these public  
2 hearings.

3 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Thank you very much.  
4 Method to our madness.

5 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Ramos.

6 Service Planning Manager Scott Greene will now  
7 present a detailed overview of the bus service changes  
8 proposed within the South Bay. Following the staff  
9 report, the public comment portion of this hearing will  
10 begin.

11 Mr. Greene.

12 SERVICE PLANNING MANAGER GREENE: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Szerlip. Good evening to the South Bay Service  
14 Council and also to the public that showed up tonight.  
15 I'm going to -- thank you. I'm going to present the  
16 two service changes tonight that are here in the  
17 South Bay, and they have to do with Line 111/311 on  
18 Florence Avenue and also Line 51/52/352 on Avalon  
19 Boulevard. So we have a handout tonight and also the  
20 slides on the wall, if you want to follow along.

21 First off, the proposal for the Line 51/52/352  
22 today, we have just the 352 operating. That's a  
23 limited stop service, as I mentioned, on Avalon  
24 Boulevard, and it operates between the Wilshire Center  
25 on the north through downtown L.A. all the way down to

1 the Harbor Gateway Transit Center here in the  
2 South Bay.

3 And the proposal is to take those limited bus  
4 service trips that run on peak hour weekdays only and  
5 renumber them from 352s to become 351s. And in doing  
6 that, those limited stop bus trips would go to the  
7 Compton Blue Line Station instead of the Harbor Gateway  
8 Transit Center.

9 Now, the Line 52 would continue to run and  
10 would continue to serve the Harbor Gateway Transit  
11 Center at approximately the same service levels as the  
12 352 does today. That's approximately every 20 minutes.  
13 So there's really only -- no loss of service to the  
14 Harbor Gateway Transit Center. It's only a renumbering  
15 of the limited stop service trips -- limited trips for  
16 those who may not know are little bit faster than the  
17 local buses, and that they only stop at the major cross  
18 streets. And so the 351 would continue to offer an  
19 expedited trip for our customers. But the bus, instead  
20 of going all the way down to the Harbor Gateway Transit  
21 Center, it will go to Compton Blue Line station as  
22 shown on the map.

23 So that would provide a faster service option  
24 to the Line 51 riders which constitute a majority of  
25 riders on the Line 51. It's a big line. It carries

1 over 25,000 riders on an average weekday so it's a very  
2 heavy demand for the Line 51. Avalon Boulevard carries  
3 a lot of riders especially north of the Green Line.

4 So that's the proposal for Line 352 is to  
5 cancel 352 and run more 52s to the Harbor Gateway  
6 Transit Center, and the 351 would go to the Compton  
7 Blue Line station. And the 351 would be a new branch  
8 of this line.

9 So let's move on to the next one which is Line  
10 111/311 on Florence Avenue running from LAX City Bus  
11 Center on the west to the Norwalk Green Line station on  
12 the east.

13 And the proposal for this service is to  
14 discontinue the Line 311 limited stop trips which run  
15 only in a peak hour and only on weekdays. Those Line  
16 311 trips would be replaced by local Line 111 trips.  
17 So similar to the other proposal, there would be no  
18 loss of service levels on Florence Avenue. We would  
19 continue to run the same frequency as we do today.  
20 There would be, in addition, more local bus service to  
21 the stops that are there in between. There's  
22 approximately 20 stops that are in between the major  
23 arterials that bisect Florence Avenue.

24 So this proposal would improve service to over  
25 20 local stops on Line 111. It's a very heavy line

1 serving the Blue Line and Huntington Park area where we  
2 tend to have a lot of riders. So this would help more  
3 people with more frequent service at the in-between  
4 stops with no loss of service to the limited stop  
5 customers because there would be more 111s than there  
6 are today.

7 This Line 111 is also a very well-used line.  
8 We have over 17,000 average daily riders on Line  
9 111/311 today. So in making this changing of  
10 discontinuing the 311, we would expect that ridership  
11 levels would stay about the same. We don't expect any  
12 riders to stop riding the bus because the 311 would no  
13 longer be running.

14 So these are proposed for June of 2016 for  
15 implementation, June 2016 or later. Both of the lines  
16 have relatively short average trip length of under the  
17 system average which is 4.1 miles. And Line 51 has an  
18 average trip length of about 3.15 miles, and Line 111  
19 3.25.

20 So both of them are, on average, a shorter  
21 trip being made which just implies that perhaps the  
22 limited stop services aren't really segregating a  
23 market, and customers just take the first bus that  
24 comes along today whether it be 111/311, or 52/352. So  
25 there would be very few impacts with the proposals here

1 today if they are implemented.

2 And that is pretty much all I had to say on  
3 the two proposals for South Bay. So the last slide  
4 just tells us about our next steps.

5 So after we hear your comments tonight, we  
6 will consider modifying the proposals, and we'll  
7 present those modified proposals, if they are modified,  
8 at the March 11 South Bay Service Council meeting which  
9 is at Inglewood City Hall, 9:30 in the morning. That's  
10 a Friday. We always meet the second Friday of the  
11 month at 9:30, Inglewood City Hall. And the Council  
12 will consider the staff recommendation at that time and  
13 vote on whether or not the Council agrees with the  
14 staff's recommendation.

15 And then after that, the Metro Board will also  
16 hear the report at its April 28th meeting.

17 So if both the Service Council and Metro Board  
18 approve, then we will implement in June 2016 or later.

19 And Mr. Chair, that concludes my presentation.

20 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Thank you  
21 Mr. Greene.

22 During your presentation, we were lucky enough  
23 to have another member of our Service Council join us.

24 Would you please introduce yourself?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FAUST: Paula Faust with

1 Gardena G-Trans.

2 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Thank you. We also  
3 had another member of Metro staff, our community  
4 relations manager Danielle Valentino.

5 Would you rise, please, and just acknowledge  
6 the throngs of applause?

7 (Applause from the audience.)

8 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Okay. And also I'd  
9 like to acknowledge our sergeant-at-arms this evening  
10 as represented. We're grateful to have members of the  
11 Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

12 If you wouldn't mind introducing yourselves to  
13 us, please?

14 DEPUTY HARVEY: Deputy Harvey with the IOP  
15 Team, and this is Deputy Carson.

16 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Thank you very much  
17 for being here this evening.

18 So we will move now -- let's get back to the  
19 script -- I will now open the hearing for public  
20 comments. Please limit your comments to those lines  
21 listed in the public hearing notice so that we can  
22 focus on the issues at hand.

23 Again, if you'd like to comment on the  
24 proposed changes, you must fill out a "Request to  
25 Speak" form. That is available from staff.

1           Anybody wishing to speak that has not  
2 submitted one, you can raise your hand now. Staff  
3 would be glad to give you your green ticket.

4           Each person providing comments will be limited  
5 to two minutes. There is a timer. And when you hear  
6 it ring, that signals that your time has concluded. I  
7 will call the name of the next person to speak as well  
8 as the name of the person to follow so that the person  
9 can be prepared.

10           First up to speak is Jose Dennis Alabaso, and  
11 next up will be J.K. Drummond.

12           MR. ALABASO: Thank you. I would like the  
13 proposal, and I really enjoyed it because I live right  
14 not too far from the Del Amo Metro Blue Line station in  
15 the South Bay region because my future usage regarding  
16 those proposed that I just heard it's my main concern  
17 is by the Harbor Gateway Transit Center, and I just  
18 discovered that the Harbor Gateway Transit Center  
19 doesn't serve -- connect to the Silver Line. It goes  
20 further down south, down to San Pedro (inaudible) to  
21 the Harbor Gateway Transit Center doesn't serve for the  
22 region that -- Downtown Santa Monica Expo won't open  
23 until early April or after Easter. That's the only  
24 main concern about the Metro Expo Line which is opening  
25 sometime in spring.

1 I really like that comment about the  
2 connection, the only main concern is about the Expo  
3 Line (inaudible) it is about the Harbor Gateway Transit  
4 Center (inaudible) I went there earlier, and it doesn't  
5 serve the Santa Monica (inaudible) region -- that is  
6 try to get downtown Santa Monica Expo Line which isn't  
7 open until early April or after Easter this year.  
8 That's the main concern about the connection with the  
9 Metro Silver Line.

10 That's why I need to make the perfect  
11 connection. I go to church every Sunday called St.  
12 Marcus Catholic Church where I go there every Sunday.  
13 That's the only thing. I have to wait until the Metro  
14 Expo Line Phase II is going to be opened by early April  
15 or after Easter. That is very important for the  
16 perfect connection.

17 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Okay. Thank you  
18 very much.

19 Next J.K. Drummond will be followed by  
20 Richard.

21 MR. DRUMMOND: I'm speaking this evening at  
22 first on behalf of the Southern California Transit  
23 Advocates who opposes the shortening of the 460 to  
24 Disneyland. It should go all the way to Disneyland.

25 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: J.K., 460 is not on

1 our agenda this evening. Please confine your comments  
2 to the lines that are being reviewed here this evening.

3 MR. DRUMMOND: I thought you could speak on  
4 any line.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FRANKLIN: Not here. It's only  
6 the public --

7 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: It's only the public  
8 hearing for these proposed changes. If you were  
9 listening, I said it at least twice in the introductory  
10 comments.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FRANKLIN: And you can do that  
12 next Friday at our regular public meeting.

13 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: And we'll be glad to  
14 hear those comments.

15 SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: Let me  
16 clarify -- let me clarify. They can comment on  
17 anything that is in the service change notice.

18 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Oh. Is that -- my  
19 apologies.

20 SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: Yes. And we  
21 will not be accepting comments on these service changes  
22 at your meeting next Friday. Public comments, oral  
23 testimony will only be accepted during this public  
24 hearing or any of the other public hearings, including  
25 this public hearing that's being held this Saturday.

1 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: My apologies J.K.

2 MR. DRUMMOND: Likewise.

3 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Please continue with  
4 your comments.

5 MR. DRUMMOND: The other one that we oppose --  
6 I assume that went into the record about the 460  
7 (inaudible).

8 The 190/194, we don't want service  
9 discontinued. If you can get another provider to do  
10 it, well that might be all right.

11 This brochure is deceptive about the 352. It  
12 says the 351 will serve all the limited stops that the  
13 352 serves. No. The 352 serves the Harbor Gateway  
14 Transit Center, and that will be dis-served if it is  
15 substituted with the 351.

16 There are some good suggestions in here. The  
17 234 from Sylmar being extended down to the Expo Line,  
18 that's excellent. The 68 and the 106 combined, that  
19 sounds pretty good.

20 In general though, without the maps, it's hard  
21 to figure out what is going on sometimes. If we knew  
22 more about it, the combination of the 485 in with some  
23 other line, I don't think that's really practical at  
24 Cal State L.A. That's pretty much it, except that I  
25 never saw this notice of public hearing until tonight

1 when I brought the notice of the Westside public  
2 hearing which I did get. But here in the South Bay,  
3 I've been told they're on the buses, but that's like a  
4 lot of time you're told it's on the bus, but you don't  
5 find them. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Drummond.

8 Richard. Is there a Richard?

9 SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: I believe he  
10 left.

11 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: That was the  
12 gentleman here? Okay. Did you get some comment from  
13 him maybe?

14 SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: Yes. It  
15 unrelated to the hearing.

16 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Okay. I have a  
17 Michael Bazemore.

18 Please come to the microphone.

19 MR. BAZEMORE: The change that I'm opposed to  
20 is the 311. I live by the 311 and 111, and I caught  
21 the 311 and 111 yesterday, and they are both slow --  
22 both slow and very overcrowded. I just -- I just hate  
23 the idea that during 2001 up to the present, all the  
24 limited bus line are leaving our community. The  
25 limited bus that was on Figueroa is gone. The limited

1 bus on Manchester, and the 715, it's gone. And I just  
2 feel that taking another limited bus in the inner-city  
3 community is terrible, a terrible choice because --  
4 first of all, you hooked us on getting limited service  
5 in 2004 all the way up until now. And now you want to  
6 take it away from us. No one wants to be going from  
7 bus stop to bus stop to bus stop to bus stop -- rather  
8 just going on limited streets.

9 And to me, it's a disservice to the community  
10 in the inner city, as well as to the people who have to  
11 go to work, and you know go to work, and you just catch  
12 a slow bus. And I don't think that's fair. I don't  
13 think everything that we have in the inner-city  
14 community has to be taken away from us.

15 So I am against the taking away of the 311.  
16 In fact, what we should do is increase it, rather than  
17 take it away. So please do not take the 311 away from  
18 our community. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Bazemore.

21 That's all of the slips that I have. Is there  
22 anyone else who wishes to make comments this evening?  
23 Speak now or forever hold your peace.

24 Okay. This concludes -- are we done here  
25 Ms. Ramos?

1 SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: That's it.  
2 You guys don't make any comments so --

3 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: This concludes our  
4 public comment portion of this public hearing.

5 FEMALE SPEAKER: I was wondering if anybody  
6 sent any emails or faxes that are (inaudible) --

7 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: I can't hear her.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FRANKLIN: Were there any  
9 emails or faxes sent in for comments?

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: -- or emails or faxes for  
11 this meeting.

12 SERVICE COUNCIL ANALYST RAMOS: We were  
13 gathering them. We gather all of the public comments  
14 through the deadline which is midnight, Saturday,  
15 February 13th. We have received multiple letters and  
16 emails so -- and we continue to receive them. We will  
17 then compile them and all of the information and  
18 comments therein will be compiled in the final staff  
19 report that will be presented in March.

20 HEARING OFFICER SZERLIP: All of that goes  
21 downtown and will eventually find its way back to us  
22 when we have our hearing on this issue in March, and  
23 you're welcome to join us at that meeting, please.

24 Just to reiterate, that meeting will be  
25 March 11th in Inglewood City Hall at 9:30 a.m.

1           So this concludes public comment portion of  
2 the public hearing.

3           Do any of our council members wish to make any  
4 closing comments? Don't speak all at once.

5           Okay. As there are no further comments, I  
6 would like to thank everyone for attending this  
7 evening. I will remind you that you have until  
8 midnight on Saturday, February 13th to submit your  
9 comments.

10           This public hearing is now adjourned.

11           (The proceeding adjourned at 6:38 p.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
3 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ) SS

4  
5 I, Maronda J. Powell, CSR No. 13862, a  
6 Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of  
7 California, do hereby certify that said proceedings  
8 were taken by me in shorthand at the time and place  
9 herein named and was thereafter reduced to print by  
10 means of computer-aided transcription under my  
11 direction, and the same is a true, correct and complete  
12 transcript of said proceedings.

13 Dated this 7th day of February, 2016, Los  
14 Angeles, California.

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18 Maronda J. Powell  
19 CSR No. 13862  
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