

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

5:00-7:00 PM

MINUTES

Westside/Central Service Sector
Governance Council

Regular Meeting

La Cienega Tennis Center
325 S. La Cienega Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Called to order at: 5:07 p.m.

Council Members present:

Brad Robinson Chair
Jerard Wright, Vice Chair
Peter Capone-Newton
Greg Fischer
Carol Gross
Joyce Perkins
Glenn Rosten
Terri Slimmer

Officers:

Mark Maloney, General Manager
Michele Jackson, Council Secretary

1. RECEIVED Public Comment for items not on the agenda

Ken Ruben – While riding Culver City No. 6 bus, asked to be let off at Veteran in order to catch the No. 20 bus, but the driver just took off. Also commented to driver of a 720 bus that the TV sound was on, but there was no picture. Driver responded that he didn't care. Feels drivers are a little testy.

Chris Kost, transit dependent L.A. resident – Agrees that there are empty buses running along Wilshire (720/20/21), and that cutting service is one way to address that issue. Feels a better solution would be to implement the bus-only lane with better spacing.

Wayne Wright – Complained about lack of air conditioning, drivers not carrying Metro Muni transfers, not having hole punch, not activating the AVA system, not calling stops, transit TV's not working. Also asked about the possibility of having transfers/day passes printed from the farebox.

Council Member Gross advised Mr. Wright to take note of the bus number when he sees problems.

2. APPROVED Minutes from January 10, 2007

Council Member Slimmer abstained from the vote.

3. RECEIVED report from Council Members on their line rides

Council Member Gross - Early Sunday morning No. 33 bus on Venice was running very fast. Passed about 8 people at Motor. Got to Overland; stopped short of the intersection to let people off, then crossed the intersection to pick up passengers.

Council Member Rosten was driving eastbound on Wilshire coming off the 405 freeway and trying to go left into Westwood Village. Pleasantly surprised when Rapid Bus driver in the left lane, slowed down to allow him to enter the left lane in front of him. He added that this was one of the buses coming from Santa Monica practically empty.

Council Member Wright rode Local Bus No. 33 at 7:30 p.m. Commented that this bus remains very crowded at night from Venice/Hughes to Western.

4. RECEIVED General Managers Report

Introduced new Council Member, Terri Slimmer from City of West Hollywood.

General Manager Maloney reported that January numbers are headed in the right direction, and he expects to meet targets by the end of the fiscal year **in road calls, customer service, and workers compensation.**

Changes made to improve running time analysis, provide more on-street supervision and give drivers more layover time are achieving positive results; in service on-time performance is getting better.

There was also a decline in the number of accidents in December and January. Staff is still addressing the problem with the bus mirrors. Complaint and workers' compensation numbers are also very strong for the year.

Mr. Maloney clarified the change to Lines 10/11. Line 11 is the portion that is being removed. Service is actually being added to Route 10 on Hoover.

Mr. Maloney also announced that the Communications Department is undergoing some changes. Jody Feerst will be replaced by Rich Morallo to support the sector. However, Jody will continue to stay involved in major projects including the Wilshire bus lane and other issues. Council members should feel free to stay in touch with Jody if they ever have any questions.

5. RECEIVED report on FY07 YTD January 2007 Financials, Michael Davis, Administration and Finance Manager

Year-to-date expenditures are \$87.4 million vs. year-to-date budget of \$86.2 million. Contract wages are over budget by \$866,111. Repairs to articulated buses used a great deal of overtime, as well as that caused by the operator shortage.

Public liability is \$3,645,131 over budget and workers' comp is over by \$165,397. The number and cost of workers' compensation claims is beginning to decline. Year to date February account variance is down to \$1 million.

Despite some increase in price, the fuel category year-to-date February has a positive variance of \$1.1 million.

Regarding the FY08 budget, Mr. Davis reported a \$4 million increase caused by a 3.5% increase in labor costs and 2.3% for non labor. The fuel budget was decreased based on FY07 actuals. The plan is to add \$1.5 million to that preliminary figure. Public liability/property damage is increasing by \$2.1 million while workers' compensation is decreasing by \$1.7.

Chair Robinson asked to see Mr. Davis's report sooner in the future so that Council Members can bring in their questions about the budget.

Council Member Perkins asked if an additional \$2 million is sufficient in the public liability chargeback category. Mr. Davis responded that he was told that no extraordinary claims are anticipated. The \$2 million allotment was made based on FY07 actuals.

6. APPROVED findings of the Public Hearing conducted on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 regarding proposed service changes for June 2007 or later: and

CONSIDERED the following Service Changes for June 2007
Rogelio Gandara, Service Development Manager

Route 11 – Consolidate Routes 10 and 11. Discontinue Route 11.

Route 16-316 – Extend limited stop service area to La Brea. Shorten route in downtown L.A. at 6th Street and Maple Avenue.

Route 304 – Replace limited-stop service with metro Rapid 704.

Route 704 – Implement new Rapid service on Santa Monica Blvd., replacing limited-stop Route 304 as previously approved by the MTA Board.

Unanimously APPROVED recommended changes to Lines 10/11,16/316, 304 and 704.

Route 920 – Implement Rapid Express service between Wilshire/Vermont Red Line Station and Santa Monica as previously approved by the MTA Board.

Council Member Wright asked the frequency of the 920. Mr. Gandara said every 6 minutes in the peak direction of travel, which will dovetail with the Red Line schedule.

APPROVED implementation of Route 920 with Council Member Rosten abstaining and Council Member Fischer voting no.

Route 720 – Implement short turns in Westwood and downtown L.A.

Council Member Wright asked if there would be enough layover space at Wilshire/Veteran to accommodate all the 720's and 761's. Mr. Gandara responded affirmatively, noting that only one 720 would be in Westwood at any one time.

APPROVED implementation of short turns on Route 720 with Council Members Fischer and Slimmer voting no, and Council Member Rosten abstaining.

Route 20-21 – Shorten route 20 in the Westwood area and discontinue Route 21.

Questions were raised about the possibility of a negative impact on the timing and frequency of other lines (Line 20 vs. Santa Monica buses). Despite lengthy discussion and numerous votes, no consensus was reached.

NO ACTION TAKEN regarding Route 20/21

RECEIVED Public Comment

Ken Ruben, Southern California Transit Advocates – (Line 20/21) Confirmed with Santa Monica Big Blue Bus that they will not honor the regular MTA pass or Day Pass. Passengers will not only have the inconvenience of the transfer, but will have to pay an additional 25 cents.

Lisa Adler, Bus Riders Union – Opposed to cuts on 720 and implementation of the 920, as the 920 is not a true exchange of service.

Lionel Jones, Southern California Transit Advocates – Eliminating Line 20 is a 40% reduction in service. Big Blue Bus will not be able to pick up the additional service from the loss of the 20. Current proposal shows 800 people affected from Westwood instead of 1,600 previously estimated. What happened to the additional stops previously promised for the 720?

Wes Joe, Silverlake Transit Coalition – Spoke in favor of changes on Hoover.

Jorge Alberto, Bus Riders Union – Spoke against service cuts on Line 720.

Tae Soon Jeon, Bus Riders Union – Opposed service cuts to Lines 20/21.

Hank Fung, Southern California Transit Advocates – Opposed service cut to Commerce and East L.A.

7. CARRIED OVER final draft on 2007 Transit Service Policy, Stephen Fox, Program Manager for Metro Rapid Operations

8. Chair's Remarks - None

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Michelle Jackson

Council Secretary