

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

5:00-6:30PM

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# Minutes

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL  
SERVICE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

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

Call to Order

Council Representatives:

Joe Stitcher, Chair  
Jeffrey Jacobberger, Vice Chair

Catherine Bator  
Perri Sloane Goodman  
Art Ida  
Elliott Petty  
Glenn Rosten  
Jerard Wright

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Officers:

Jon Hillmer, Director  
Jody Litvak, Community Relations Mgr.  
Suzanne Handler, Council Secretary



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

## **Please turn off cell phones or put them on vibrate**

1. **APPROVE** Minutes for June 8, 2011 meeting - approved, one abstention, Catherine Bator
2. **PUBLIC** Comment
  - Ken Rubin: On my way here last month at La Cienega and Jefferson at the Expo Line, I did not see a step and fell injuring my nose. I bring you greetings from one of the former General Managers, Jack Gabig, who is now head of Gardena Transportation. Mr. Gabig was our speaker at the transit advocates meeting Saturday. I just want to make a comment on “nextbus” sometimes it works for me and sometimes it does not. I am trying to get with Mr. Martinez one of the engineers on the program and work with him on this system. Personally I prefer the time of the day to be noted not how many minutes until the next bus.
  - Wayne Wright: First of all I have been looking at the service plan for this coming weekend and I noticed that the contract line 218 is not on the list. What bothers me is that Laurel Canyon will be jammed this coming weekend (405 closure). When you get on the 218 it will be crowded. Regarding the proposed service changes, line 102, 105 and 200, since the board voted to short line the 102 from USC going east to Cudahy. Which means service west of USC to LaBrea and Coliseum will be eliminated. I would ask the board to consider asking staff to work with LADOT to look at rerouting 3 of its’ routes DASH routes to serve Exposition, Coliseum and Rodeo consider routing 42 to USC.
  - Joseph Dunn: I have an issue with Big Blue Bus, I went to a meeting about the Rapid 7 bus regarding a stop at 28<sup>th</sup> Street, and this is the wrong place to put a stop it should be at Venice Clinic. Please read my comments on the sheet that was passed around to you. The 212 is poorly managed in the evening, we have 7:56pm departure going NB at Wilshire Blvd. This bus is chronically late by 30 to 40 minutes and is bunched with another bus. The line should be running every 10 to 15 minutes at night instead of once an hour.

Chair Stitcher apologized for arriving late at his first meeting.

3. **RECEIVE** Director’s Report, Jon Hillmer
  - Performance Report
    - a. Metro Bus System target is 80%; May system wide was 76.3%; Westside for May 75.7%
    - b. Complaints per 100,000 passengers: Metro system 2.56; Westside 2.06

- c. Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls: Metro system 3,400; Westside 2,700
- d. Metro Clean Bus Program Trends: Metro System is 8.2; Westside 8.0
- e. Accidents per 100,000 Miles: Metro System 2.51; Westside 4.09
- f. Monthly Ridership: Metro system 32,560,000; Westside 18,370,000
- g. Average weekday ridership on all systems is 1,489,370; bus 1,187,869; rail 301,501
- I-405 Weekend Closure from July 16 at Midnight through July 18 at 5am
  - a. Metro red/purple lines operating peak service; Metro green line doubling service levels; Metro orange line increase service levels to 6 minutes; double service levels on metro local line 2 and 150; double service levels on metro rapid lines 704, 720, 733 and 761; double service levels on Metro express line 534; 16 buses will be placed on standby at divisions 7, 8, 10 and 15
  - b. We had a petition/resolution from Jerard Wright and Kymberleigh Richards to expand the free fare service to other bus lines.
- Enhanced Public Communications Plan
  - a. The information page for the website was presented along with pictures of the council and staff. Our website should be up by September showing all service councils and phone number for contact.
  - b. We would like to continue with a program that was introduced and expand it to all the councils “we cannot go anywhere without you” operators choose their best customers and they are chosen among the entrants.
  - c. Representative Bator would like to see the webpage in Spanish also.
- Quarterly meeting with the Westside transit service providers
  - a. Scheduled Meeting for August to be held at UCLA
  - b. The last time we met in culver city the most of the focus was on the Expo interface.
  - c. Topics will include the bus/rail interface, service coordination, and potential route and service changes
- Meet and Confer June 30, 2011
  - a. The Meet and Confer with Art Leahy and Lonnie Mitchell was well attended. Mr. Leahy spoke about future bus buys and his philosophy on buying 40 ft. buses he explained that it costs less per seat vs. a 60 ft bus. Lonnie Mitchell gave a presentation on redeployment of resources to address deferred maintenance. Bruce Shelburne updated the attendees on the Expo Line and BOC/ROC Emergency Action Plan for bus or rail incidents. Mr. Leahy introduced John Roberts and Alex DiNuzzo.
- Metro Board Actions in June
  - a. Request for proposal for up to 30 super low/zero emission buses
  - b. Procurement of 100 45-foot composite CNG buses
  - c. 2011 countywide preliminary project funding strategy
  - d. SCRRA FY202 budget and metro’s annual work program
- Public Hearings in August

- a. Public hearings will be held on the following dates: Saturday, August 6 at 10am all Service Councils; Wednesday, August 10 at 5pm, Westside; Thursday, August 11 at 3pm Gateway and Thursday, August 18 at 6pm South Bay
- July Bus Rides for Proposed Service Changes
  - a. Will be scheduling bus rides in July on service change proposal routes, I'll be e-mailing you with the itinerary
- Mechanical Reliability by Bus Type Miles between Road Calls: 6 NABI 42 Hybrid - 1,043; 712 New Flyer/Neoplan 40 - 2,440; 777 NABI 40LF - 3,140; 463 NABI 45LF 6,385; 388 NABI 60 LF - 2,163

**Chair Stitcher:** You mentioned that the neoplans and hybrids are one year from retirement, is that scheduled retirement?

Jon Hillmer, we keep our buses longer than 12 years.

Representative Bator suggested we receive all information on any schedule/time/headway changes prior to implementation. Stephen Tu agreed.

Discussion on how passengers are counted bus vs. rail. One is done by an automated system where the other is counted by sight using an employee who rides in a rail car. Not as accurate as the automated system but effective.

**Representative Ida:** As these rail lines come on line, do you have any estimation on new riders?

Jon Hillmer: Yes, it is a survey taken once a year.

**Representative Ida:** Has there been a systematic pattern when a new rail system is introduced?

Jon Hillmer: Yes, the Eastside Gold Line attracted a significant number of new riders.

4. DISCUSS Proposed Service Changes for December 2011, Stephen Tu, Service Development and Planning
  - The only line that pertains to the Westside region is the 102 proposal which on the first go round already had been approved to be discontinued and replaced with the 200 segment. The 102 will be retained for the portion from USC and on East and that will replace portions of the 612 the southern portion. The only new points are June 30 the public hearing notices began being published in the newspapers, July 18 is when the take one brochures will be posted on the buses and trains.

Jon Hillmer: The proposal for the 102 actually impacts Westside and Gateway. What the proposal is for Westside we don't extend line 200 do not cancel Line 102. but rather that we keep the 102 from USC east and south, on the south end it would be

rerouted and extended in the Gateway area. The gateway area is to cancel 611 and 612 circular lines and replace them with extensions of the 105 and 102. The proposal is to put back the original regional service lines in that area.

Stephen Tu: It should be able to reduce for some people the number of transfers that will be required.

**Representative Ida:** I know from the last service change/public hearing, there were quite a few changes because of duplication of service pending on the Expo Line opening. How are we going to communicate to our passengers when they do change?

Stephen Tu: We will probably do it the same way we did the Gold Line Eastside had opened. We were able to target with take one brochures, metro staff volunteer their time on the buses actually speaking with the customers, handing out take ones at busy stops. Going to key transfer locations and posting to Metro.net. We will use all the resources available to us to get the word out.

**Chair Stitcher:** Will the frequency on the 102 change?

Stephen Tu: The 102 just as with any line it will be adjusted to demand and that is the 1.3 load ratio. Whatever the demand is after looking at the ridership.

**Representative Bator:** I appreciate what you are saying about getting the word out at high density places, the June 26 service changes went really, really badly on my local line 201, because it was never posted in the bus at all. It was not in the take-one because it was not something we were aware of here on the service council, it was a 5-minute difference added on to already 45 minute headway for the 201. I know that it said on the website "that schedules will be changing" but there was no reason to think the 201 was changing if we were not aware of it on the service council. My question, could we please get information on all the changes, all the bus lines. Could we get notices put on little local lines?

Jon Hillmer: there is a schedule program put together prior to the shakeup which is a summary of what the schedule makers are looking at to do. I can provide that to you, but it is updated on a regular basis as the schedule maker goes through and analyzes the route, ridership, running time, etc. I can bring this to you.

**Representative Bator:** I think that is great for us on the council, but I am concerned about the riders who do not have any notification, can we please put something on the buses that are affected by any schedule change.

Stephen Tu: Usually 80-90% of our lines will have small schedule changes during shakeup due to alternations of the routes. What we tried to do this time a week prior we posted on metro.net a preview of the new schedule. We'll try and put them out earlier on the web.

**Vice Chair Jacobberger:** Like Mr. Dunn mentioned ridership in the evening hours on the 212. When you look at the evening buses are they really full would you consider increasing the frequency of service and would we see that at the council?

Jon Hillmer: No you would not see those minor schedule changes that are done every 6 months.

**Representative Wright:** Any comments on the 780 with the Expo interface. Would that be included in the service change?

Stephen Tu: We are taking a look into that right now, making a connection between the Washington/Fairfax transit hub and the new Expo La Cienega train station. The 105 and 705 currently provide frequent service to connect those two. It might be a good idea to bring the 780 or 217 down or one of those two to bring it down for a one-seat ride into Hollywood.

5. **DISCUSS** Bus and Rail Transit Plans for I-405 Closure, Stephen Tu, Service Development and Planning

- This will elaborate on what Jon already mentioned in his report. This will have impact on our system especially our buses. There will be free fares on the red/purple/orange line and anything that connects to these lines. Increased service levels 100 buses and 32 additional rail cars. On top of our regularly scheduled service. We will have special service between the red line stations toward Century City. Note they will not be going any where near the 405. We want to make sure that riders in the middle do get served and do not suffer as a consequence of the 405 closure. This also includes Venice blvd will be going to Venice/ National for these extra trips and that is also where the future expo Culver City station will be located. The 761 we don't know what to expect on the Sepulveda Pass so what we are going to do is make sure the riders between the Pacoima on the north side and Ventura on the South side of Sherman Oaks do get good service on Van Nuys Blvd. they will be able to transfer to the Orange Line. The red/purple lines will have rush hour service with longer trains. Green Line will have service every 10 minutes. Metrolink will have special service on the Ventura County Line which normally does not run on weekends, Antelope Valley.

**Representative Rosten:** If on Sunday it turns out that it is not as bad as first thought, is there a plan to reduce the service?

Stephen Tu: The short answer is no, we are going to operate this service Saturday and Sunday because we have committed the manpower and equipment requirement. We have a last minute addition to the San Fernando Valley we will be doubling the service on the lines that run every hour or 30 minutes. (showed list of lines that would have double the service) Metro.net/405

**Representative Wright:** on the Westside, are we having the same levels on top of the lines we have identified? Or is it just going to be business as usual?

Stephen Tu: The Westside will not have the doubled up service since they run so frequent on the weeks, but there will be extra runs slotted into the schedules.

**Representative Wright:** I was speaking of Fairfax, are we adding additional trips?

Stephen Tu: That is a good point. Net increase of 100 metro buses, 32 extra rail cars needed this weekend. Additional bus and rail supervisors will be added throughout the valley and Westside. Major service added to Orange Line to the Red Line in North Hollywood, to the Purple Line and use the Wilshire bus service. We will have extra service on the green line for those needing to go to LAX.

**Chair Stitcher:** Have you had any updated information on Sepulveda Blvd. and the Southbound 405 freeway lane opening and closures we are getting conflicting information regarding the southbound freeway.

Stephen Tu: Based on what I've heard, there is no update if they will close it off for local access only. They will not be checking ID's to see if you are a local resident. The 761 we are going to monitor it on Sepulveda, but if they get stuck, we will have to reroute through the Sepulveda Pass, that is why we are running the extra service away from the closed area. There are no plans for overnight rail service (answering a query from Ken Rubin).

**Chair Stitcher:** The actions to reopen the freeway, what is our goal?

Jody Litvak: The "source" there is a story where they give you the basic schedule of when they will start closing on ramps and when they start putting down the dirt, through to the end of the project. There will be minute by minute updates on the I-405 closing.

**Representative Wright:** The 704 will have the short line service from Century City to Santa Monica. Do we have a layover zone for Santa Monica?

Stephen Tu: We will be using the westbound Santa Monica Blvd. far side of Vermont.

6. **DISCUSS** Miles Between Road Calls, standard buses vs. Artics, Jon Hillmer
  - Already discussed in Director presentation
7. **UPDATE** on Young Oak Kim Middle School for Westside meeting, Catherine Bator

There was a flurry of activity this month, insurance was handled, and the paperwork is ready for a signature from the Principal. A \$40 application fee/check which will go with the application should be received within the next

two weeks. Once all the signatures are on the paperwork it will be hand-delivered to LAUSD administration office on Bixel Avenue.

**Representative Ida:** When will this start?

Jon Hillmer: We are hoping for September but it could possibly be October.

## 8. Council Members and Chair comments

**Representative Wright:** Was the resolution ever brought up? I want to put it in the minutes: this is a resolution that Kymberleigh Richards and myself wrote in terms of relation to the Sepulveda Pass and we also had a conversation with the CEO's office about preparing such a resolution. It is in front of you. I will not read this, since most of it was discussed and brought up by Stephen Tu.

**Representative Bator:** I would like to report on, Line 81 which goes in front of LA Live there is construction in front of LA Live so they are not stopping at the regular stop, and they take you all the way down to Pico which is two very long blocks. Could they stop on the far side of 12<sup>th</sup> Street where there is no barrier?

**Chair Stitcher:** I apologize for being tardy. But it is nice to know I have a good Vice Chair who will step up and start the meeting. I want to thank Member Bator for her service as our immediate past chair. Thank you for a job well done. Staff, if any one would like to share with me your turnaround plans for Santa Monica this weekend, I would be happy to share that with our police department.

## ADJOURNMENT