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Monday, June 10, 2013

5:00 PM

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# Minutes

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
SERVICE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Metro San Gabriel Valley  
Division 9 Building  
3rd Floor Service Councils Room  
3449 Santa Anita Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731

Called to Order at 5:00 p.m.

Council Members:

Steven Ly, Chair  
Harry Baldwin, Vice Chair

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Juventino Gomez  
John Harabedian  
John Harrington  
Bruce Heard  
Dave Spence  
Rosie Vasquez

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Officers:

Jon Hillmer, Director, Regional Councils  
David Hershenson, Comm. Rel. Mgr.  
Dolores Ramos, Council Admin Analyst  
Henry Gonzalez, Council Comm. Rel. Mgr.



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

1. PLEDGE of Allegiance
2. APPROVED May 13, 2013 Minutes
3. PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the Agenda

Mai Lee takes both the Silver Line and the Silver Streak during the week, and has a transponder that she uses on weekends when she carools. She doesn't think maintenance fees should be charged for people who use the transponder to access carpool lanes and that carpoolers should not be required to use transponders. It is difficult to leave the ExpressLanes because there are so few access points, especially between Baldwin to Atlantic. It would be easier if the lanes were striped with dotted lines rather than solid lines so that people could get in and out of the lanes.

Mr. Hillmer responded that if she has a TAP card or a pass, she can link it to her transponder account and that her Silver Line-Silver Streak trips will earn credit which will eliminate the maintenance fee charge on her account, and that the Metro Board recently voted to rescind the monthly account maintenance fee for Los Angeles County residents for a period of 6 months and that they will reevaluate after the trial period.

Ms. Lee stated that she sometimes takes the Silver Streak because it's cleaner and the operators are more helpful. Sometimes there are two or three buses Silver Line buses parked and waiting but they won't allow people to board. She thinks there should be more bathrooms at the large transit center. Mr. Hillmer explained that the restrooms were installed as a pilot project, and that they will be evaluated to see if they should be retained, removed, or expanded.

Ms. Lee added that the crosswalks from Lot C should be reconfigured to shorten the walk to the station rather than forcing people to walk all the way around the lot. Mr. Hillmer replied that station management is aware of this issue and is planning to fix the problem in the near future.

Ms. Lee asked if the Lot C parking lot is for compact cars only. She saw an SUV get a ticket and asked if a Honda pilot can park there. Mr. Hillmer assured her that she could.

4. RECEIVE Report on Line 485 / 258 Test Trip, Carl Torres Transportation Planning Manager and Jon Hillmer, Director

Staff took a test trip ride to try out some of the alternate routes for potential Line 458 / 258 merger/improvements. There were problems encountered during the test rides while trying to traverse the campus. Since Line 170 was cancelled, an information booth was installed on Paseo Castillo Drive. The 45-ft bus used for the test trip couldn't keep within 2 lanes to pass the kiosk, making it unsafe for the bus to be routed through that area. The operator also couldn't make a left hand turn from that road as it would impede on the left hand turn lane. Then they took Circle Drive to travel back to the station on the back side of the campus. There are speed bumps on that road about every 500 feet,

which really slows down the operation. There weren't any good options to go through Cal State campus.

Other options include deviating at Davidson Dr. and to Corporate Center up to Campus Rd. and Circle Dr. There were no problems with the 45-ft bus going up and down the hills or making any of the turns; this route is a viable option.

The last option was to use the 1-10 fwy by using the Hellman onramp at Hellman and Fremont, which worked very well. Running time to Cal State was about 5 minutes; on the return trip, running time was about 6 ½ minutes because they had to go to Eastern to get to the 10 fwy.

They timed the trip from Valley and Fremont to Cal State LA busway Stn. via Valley and Mariana in case a decision was made to keep Line 485's current route; that route took 10 minutes in each direction. Next steps are to review the test trip findings with Service Planning, develop a mock schedule, examine potential layover spots, and see what the costs would be for all of the options. He should have more information at the next meeting.

Council Member Heard asked if study of the reroute would include ridership impact. Mr. Torres responded that it would. Mr. Hillmer added that none of the options presented will affect Line 258 route; however, routing of Line 485 through Corporate Center Drive would cause 6 or 7 current bus stops to be missed through Monterey Pass Rd. without having to double around. Using the freeway would not miss bus stops but would add travel time. Line 485 service goes from Altadena via Lake through Alhambra then ends at Union Station has lost significant ridership due to reduced service and because it no longer travels into downtown. Line 258 was added to the evaluation through a suggestion that Line 258 which duplicates Line 485 on Fremont could be used to take people to the Silver Line at Cal State LA. By combining Line 258 and 485 resources, we might be able to improve frequency of service on base service. We also talked about not taking the service as far north on Line 485, but truncating at Colorado Blvd. or the Gold Line.

Council Member Avila asked if public meetings would be held along those lines to gather public input. Mr. Hillmer affirmed that public community meetings would be held somewhere along the route.

Council Member Heard expressed hope that a way to extend the route back into downtown will be found. When the Line was cut and stopped traveling into downtown, which is part of the reason ridership has dropped so much.

5. APPROVE Potential Line 485 Regional Meeting Date and Location, Council Members

If we can review findings at the July meeting and Council opts to continue forward, a meeting should be scheduled for September to allow time to publicize the public hearing.

Council Member Harabedian asked where the majority of passengers are boarding and getting off of the line; it would help inform the decision as to where to hold the meeting. Mr. Hillmer replied that most Line 458 boardings occur along Huntington Dr. and Fremont; on Line 258, which runs between Paramount and Alhambra, there are more boardings south of I-10 than north of I-10.

Vice Chair Baldwin asked how many people are expected to attend. Mr. Hillmer speculated that as many as 10 riders may show up, and that such a meeting would also likely attract 20-30 area residents. Council asked that staff research the San Marino Recreation Center or Crowell Public Library for a September meeting. If neither facility is available, then staff can review whether Pasadena Central Library is a viable option.

6. RECEIVE Presentation on June Shakeup Changes, Carl Torres, Transportation Planning Manager

There are few San Gabriel Valley schedule changes this shakeup. There will be some stop consolidations on Colorado Blvd. that will affect Lines 180, 181, 256, 687, and 686. Between Catalina and Raymond, most stops are currently located less than 1/4 mile apart; every other stop will be removed which will still leave 1/2 mile between stops. Metro has worked with the City of Pasadena to coordinate the stop removals, so the change should have low impact on transit users. Line 68 was supposed to begin to travel into the new East Los Angeles City College Station on June 23, but that change probably won't happen until July. The near side stop on Chavez and Collegian stop has to be moved to the far side, which is being coordinated with the City which is taking longer than expected. On the Silver Line, a north bound stop is being added at Figueroa and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to improve access to the Expo Line's 23<sup>rd</sup> St. Station, provide a closer stop and improve ADA access.

System wide, 31,000 hours of service have been added this shakeup, the majority of which is on the Orange Line, in a concerted effort to improve on-time performance.

Council Member Heard asked if there were any changes on Line 780 or if it was affected by stop consolidations. Mr. Torres responded that it was not.

7. RECEIVE Director's Report on April 2013 Service, Jon Hillmer, Director

- On-time Performance: 76.2% Goal: 80%, System: 76.1%
  - A bus is "on-time" when it is less than 1 minute ahead of schedule and less than 5 minutes behind schedule recorded at a time point along the route.
- Complaints Per 100,000 Passengers: 4.32, Goal: 2.20, System 3.03
- Miles Between Mechanical Road Calls: 4,259, Goal: 3,900, System: 4,242
- Bus Cleanliness: 8.75, Goal: 8.5, System: 8.57
- Accidents per 100,000 miles: 3.04, Goal: 3.10, System: 3.87
- Bus Station Cleanliness Ratings by Region: 8.64 Goal: 8.0, System: 8.21
- Bus Average Weekday Ridership: San Gabriel Valley: 168,058 of 1,167,163 System
- Silver Line Ridership: 12,873 Weekdays, 5,637 Saturdays, 3,484 Sundays.
- Average Weekday Ridership: Bus: 1,168,222; Rail: 356,407; Combined: 1,524,629

Chair Ly asked how Gold Line ridership has been doing over the last few of months. Mr. Hiller replied that it has exceeded the Green Line in ridership. Weekend ridership had been increased with the increase in weekend service to every 6 minutes, but the frequency was causing some Pasadena traffic issues, so the weekend service is going to adjusted back to every 7 1/2 minutes to address the traffic issues.

Chair Ly asked whether Metro is providing the shuttle to Dodger Stadium during baseball season. Mr. Hillmer responded that Metro is still providing the Dodger Stadium shuttle service, and that the service has been more effective and popular, as the designated lanes have been reinstated by the City of Los Angeles. Chair Ly asked if there are any surveys of what transit services shuttle users are arriving from, and requested information on Gold Line rider use of the Dodger Stadium shuttle.

8. ELECTED New Chair Harry Baldwin and Vice Chair John Harabedian for FY 2014
9. CHAIR and Council Member Comments

**ADJOURNED at 5:58 p.m.**