

**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**2<sup>nd</sup> REVISED**  
**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2013**

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LACMTA PUBLIC INPUT RULES****ACTION: APPROVE REVISIONS****RECOMMENDATION**

Approve staff's recommendation to revise the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Rules and Procedures for public input. The changes listed below will modify existing language pertaining to: (A) Public Input for Agenda Items, including general public comment (B) Public Input for Groups and Organizations, and (C) Rules Regarding Disruptive Behavior/Removal from Meetings. These recommendations are:

- A. Public Input for Agenda Items (Including General Public Comment) - The Board shall provide an opportunity at Board/committee meetings for the public to address the Board on agenda items, including general public comment on matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, before or during consideration of the item, for one (1) minute per item, or longer, at the discretion of the Chair. Individuals requesting to speak on more than three agenda items will be allowed to speak up to a maximum of three (3) minutes per meeting. For individuals requiring translation services, time allowed will be doubled. Any individual found to have engaged in disorderly behavior may be prohibited from addressing the Board at future meetings.
- B. Public Input for Groups and Organizations - In order to avoid duplicative testimony and at the discretion of the Chair, a single block of time may be allowed for one (1) designated speaker representing a group of individuals or an organization, to address the Board on an item, in lieu of taking input from each individual member of the group or organization. In situations where individuals who are part of a group or organization want to speak individually on an item, the Chair may allow one (1) minute per speaker to maximize time allowed for public input.
- C. Rules Regarding Disruptive Behavior/Removal from Meetings - The Chair shall order removed from the meeting any person who commits any of the following acts during a regular board/committee or special meeting of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority:
  1. Disorderly, contemptuous, disrespectful or insolent behavior toward the

governing board and Metro staff or any member thereof, tending to interrupt the due and orderly course of said meeting;

2. A breach of the peace, boisterous conduct or violent disturbance, tending to interrupt the due and orderly course of said meeting;

3. Disobedience of any lawful order of the Chair, which shall include an order to be seated or to refrain from addressing the governing board; and/or any other interference with the due and orderly course of said meeting.

4.—Any person removed from a Board/committee meeting on the basis of disruptive conduct as described in **this** section G may be prohibited from addressing the Board for up to a maximum of ninety (90) days. The period of prohibition will be determined by the Chair, or the Board upon a vote, based on the number and severity of prior incidents of disruptive conduct.

## **ISSUE**

At the September 2013 Executive Management Committee Meeting, Motion 55 (Attachment B) directed staff to revise Metro's public input rules in an effort to maximize public input and provide our board flexibility in conducting committee/regular board meetings.

## **DISCUSSION**

To address the motion's intent, staff reviewed existing public input rules for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and other public transportation agencies. The areas of change include public comment period for agenda items, public comment period for groups and organizations and consequences for disruptive conduct displayed at committee and board meetings. According to Metro's existing Board Rules and Procedures (Attachment A, Section V: Amendments), Metro's Board Rules and Procedures may be amended at any meeting by the Board of Directors if notice of such amendment is given on the agenda distributed to the Directors pursuant to these Rules and Procedures describing in general terms the nature of the amendment to be proposed.

## **DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT**

Approval of this item will have no direct impact on the safety of Metro's employees and customers.

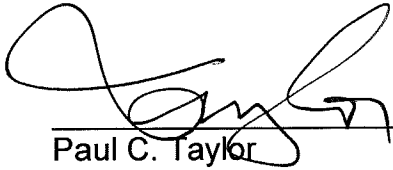
## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Approval of this item will have no direct impact on Metro's expenditures.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

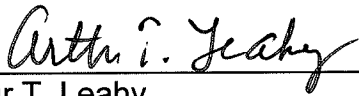
- A. Proposed Revisions to Public Input Rules and Regulations
- B. Motion 55: Review of Public Input Rules

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Paul C. Taylor  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



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Arthur T. Leahy  
Chief Executive Officer



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**BOARD RULES AND PROCEDURES**

Adopted: 06/23/1993  
Amended: 10/17/2013

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
RULES AND PROCEDURES**

~~Adopted July 31, 1997~~ Amended October 17, 2013

1. Agenda Items (Including General Public Comment) - The Board shall provide an opportunity at Board/committee meetings for the public to address the Board on each agenda items, **including general public comment on matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, before or during consideration of the item, for up to five (5) one (1) minutes on each per item, or longer,** at the discretion of the Chair. **Individuals requesting to speak on more than three agenda items will be allowed to speak up to a maximum of three (3) minutes per meeting. Each person will be allowed to speak for one minute.** This requirement shall not apply if, **as is the case for Board Consent Calendar items,** the opportunity for public comment on the item was previously provided by a Board committee or meeting at which a quorum was present and the item has not substantially changed since the committee hearing. (This requirement is in addition to any other hearing requirement specifically imposed by law.) **For individuals requiring translation services, time allowed will be doubled. Any individual found to have engaged in disorderly behavior may be prohibited from addressing the Board at future meetings.**
2. ~~Non-Agenda Items~~ ~~The Board shall provide an opportunity at Board meetings for the public to address the Board on non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, during the public~~

~~comment period which will be held at the beginning and/or end of each meeting, for up to twenty (20) minutes at the discretion of the Chair.~~

2. **Public Input for Groups and Organizations** - In order to avoid duplicative testimony and at the discretion of the Chair, a single block of time may be allowed for one (1) designated speaker representing a group of individuals or an organization, to address the Board on an item, in lieu of taking input from each individual member of the group or organization. In situations where individuals who are part of a group or organization want to speak individually on an item, the Chair may allow one (1) minute per speaker to maximize time allowed for public input.

Adopted June 23, 1993

- D. **Rules Regarding Disruptive Behavior/Removal from Meetings**-The Chair shall order removed from the meeting any person who commits any of the following acts in respect to a regular **board/committee** or special meeting of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority:
  1. Disorderly, contemptuous or insolent behavior toward the governing board **and Metro staff** or any member thereof, tending to interrupt the due and orderly course of said meeting;
  2. A breach of the peace, boisterous conduct or violent disturbance, tending to interrupt the due and orderly course of said meeting;
  3. Disobedience of any lawful order of the Chair, which shall include an order to be seated or to refrain from addressing the governing board; and/or, any other interference with the due and orderly course of said meeting.

**4. Any person removed from a Board/committee meeting on the basis of disruptive conduct as described in this section ~~C~~ may be prohibited from addressing the Board for up to a maximum of ninety (90) days. The period of prohibition will be determined by the Chair, or the Board upon a vote, based on the number and severity of prior incidents of disruptive conduct.**

~~4. Any person so removed shall be excluded from further attendance at the meeting from which he/she has been removed, unless permission to attend is granted by a motion adopted by a majority vote of the governing Board, and such exclusion shall be executed by the Sergeant-at-Arms Metro Security personnel upon being so directed by the Chair.~~

~~5. Annually, the Chair will appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms to provide for the orderly conduct of persons attending MTA Meetings.~~

## **SECTION V: AMENDMENTS**

5.1 These Rules and Procedures may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors if notice of such amendment is given on the agenda distributed to the Directors pursuant to these Rules and Procedures describing in general terms the nature of the amendment to be proposed.



DuBois Motion

Review of Public Input Rules

As this Agency implements the Los Angeles County mobility agenda, it is imperative that the public be provided with an ample opportunity to express their views. Additionally, the work of this Board is increasing in volume and intensity with decisions that require discussion and reconciliation of differing viewpoints.

Therefore, I am requesting that ~~County Counsel~~ staff return to this Committee, in October, with revised Public Input rules that maximize Public Input and provide this Board flexibility in conducting meetings.