

TO: SBCCOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: RALPH L. FRANKLIN, CHAIR, METRO SOUTH BAY SERVICE COUNCIL
SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL, 2019
DATE: APRIL 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:33am at Inglewood City Hall and Mr. Gary Spivack gave us the safety tip for the day, "Prepare and Prevent to avoid accidents."

The first presenter was Mr. Drew Phillips, Budget Director, who provided the Annual Budget Update. Unfortunately, his presentation was so weak that he wasted our time and failed to provide the Service Council Members with any specific information on the upcoming budget for our region. Following the presentation of a generic video that was extremely vague, the Service Council Members requested that he return when he could address the Green Line extension, the Y Intersection, the Metro Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Line, the Metro Maintenance Yard on Aviation Blvd at Arbor Vitae St, etc. The Budget Process was developed to solicit public comment and in April 2019, a presentation/report was to be provided on the Operating Budget and Regional Subsidies and Mr. Phillips had nothing to report. The only substantive information we received was from Ms. Sandra Solis, Metro Manager of Operations, who announced that all diesel buses have been pulled from the fleet and there will be 66 new CNG buses on-line by July 6, 2019.

Mr. Brett Roberts, Metro Senior Construction Relations Officer, spoke on the New Blue Line Improvements Project. Metro is investing \$350 million on improvements to the Blue Line to enhance safety, increase reliability and improve the customer experience. The improvements include train control, track work, overhead power, re-wiring, landscaping and some station area improvements. Improvement work at the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station will include platform extension demolition and work on the Community Plaza, train control work at Compton interlocking (crossover to crossover) section and station improvements such as painting, the installation of digital displays, new signage and landscaping. The modifications to the existing system are approximately 80% complete. It is critical to note here that the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station improvements will require that the location be out of service for eight (8) months, from February 2019 to September 2019. Blue Line Local Shuttles will be made available to riders for FREE at all closed stations and will operate during Blue Line hours. The Blue Line Select Shuttle will also serve the closed stations and offer FREE transfers with Tap or \$1.75. The service information noted above will apply to all stations designated as out of service between Compton Station and 7th Street/Metro Center. A variety of media notifications have/will go out during the station closures to provide a seamless transition for riders and insure that they get to their destinations within the noted time schedules.

Mr. Gary Spivack, Metro Deputy Executive Officer gave the Regional Service Performance Report. The buses continue to receive good ratings on cleanliness and on-time performance with a decrease in the number of customer complaints and short fares/no fares remain at 1.3% of riders who are not paying their fair share. It was also noted that the average weekday Metro bus ridership was down 3.16% in February, 2019 compared to the February ridership in 2018 (2019 = 868,085; 2018= 896,457). It was also mentioned that the On The Move Riders Program presents Older Adult Transportation Pop-Up events. Metro and GTrans will co-host an event that will include services geared to the older adult audience on Thursday, May 2, 2019, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center located at 1700 West 162nd

Street, in the City of Gardena. In addition, it is with great sadness that, during his presentation, he announced his retirement from Metro effective Monday, April 29, 2019. He stated that Mr. Scott Paige will be his temporary replacement and that a special luncheon will take place on that day in his honor at an off-site restaurant near the Metro Offices.

The last presenter was Ms. Devon Deming, Metro Commuter Services Director, and she presented an update on the Universal College Pass (U-Pass) Program. It was good to hear that the program began in 2016 with only four (4) colleges who were encouraged to have their students use public transit and, today, the current number of U-Pass Participant Colleges/Organizations is nineteen (19). Since the inception of the program, the overall U-Pass registrations show: 20% are new riders to the system, 24% were previously using another type of pass and 55% of U-Pass riders were previously paying by stored value. A standard monthly Metro pass is \$43 but a monthly U-Pass is only \$10.03 per month charged to the student and/or college. By Spring 2019, U-Pass will be valid on 10 bus agencies including Metro, Dash, Culver CityBus, Long Beach Transit, Torrance Transit, GTrans, Norwalk Transit, Big Blue Bus, Montebello Bus Lines and Pasadena Transit. When the student boards the bus and swipes the U-Pass Card, the student will only be charged the lowest fare either by the operator or Metro. As an example, the Metro Student bus fare, one way, is 75 cents but GTrans only charges students 50 cents and therefore, the student is only charged 50 cents for the one way ride.

Lastly, the Service Council Members gave their Line Rides and Comments. I want to note a special request from Service Council Member Luis Duran who provided a comprehensive history on the contributions of the late Nipsey Hussle to South Central Los Angeles and, at his request, we had a moment of silence in honor of Nipsey Hussle.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40am and, at the request of Gary Spivack, Devon Deming sang a song in his honor of his retirement entitled, "At Last".

This concludes my report.