

# FOOTHILL TRANSIT

## MINUTES

The meeting of the Foothill Transit Executive Board was held Friday, June 26, 2009, at the Foothill Transit Board Room, 100 South Vincent Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, West Covina.

Chair De La Torre called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. The following members were present, constituting a quorum of the Executive Board:

Michael De La Torre, Chair  
Roger Chandler, Vice Chair  
Hector Delgado  
Paula Lantz  
Doug Tessitor

Staff and guests present:

Doran Barnes, Executive Director  
Kevin McDonald, Deputy Executive Director  
Darold Pieper, Legal Counsel  
Ed Gill, Special Counsel  
Dietter Aragon, Planning Manager  
David Reyno, Director of Governmental Relations  
Jaime Becerra, Director of Safety & Security  
Richard Hasenohrl, Director of Finance  
Gary Nehls, Director of Procurement  
Roland Cordero, Manager of Performance Improvement & Sustainability  
Linda Somilleda, Director of Marketing & Communications  
LaShawn Gillespie, Planning Director  
Lewana Carter, General Manager  
Sal Garcia, General Manager  
Vanessa Rachal, Department of Public Works  
Martha Arana, Staff, Commission Services  
Lee Millen, Staff, Commission Services

### Pledge of Allegiance

Chair De La Torre led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair De La Torre introduced Ms. Martha Arana, new Commission Staff, and thanked Mr. Millen for his service.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 22, 2009**

The minutes for the regular meeting of May 22, 2009 were approved.

Motion: Vice Chair Chandler, seconded by Member Tessitor  
Vote: Unanimously carried

**PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 Contractors' Employee Recognition**

Lewana Carter, General Manager, introduced and recognized the Arcadia location MV Transportation Operator of the Month, Victor Otero, who has driven with Foothill Transit for nine years. Ms. Carter introduced and recognized the Arcadia location MV Transportation Employee of the Month, Anthony Avant, who has recently been named Coach Operator of the Month.

Sal Garcia, General Manager, introduced and recognized the Pomona location First Transit Operator of the Month, Thomas Ullberg, who has been a coach operator for eight and a half years with a perfect attendance record and an accident-free record.

Chair De La Torre congratulated those recognized.

**5.2 New & Promoted Staff**

Doran Barnes, Executive Director, introduced new and promoted staff in the Foothill Transit organization. Valarie Trujillo, Customer Service Representative, is returning to the Claremont Transit Store after several years in the private sector.

Luis Renderos, Facilities Technician, has 12 years of experience in the recreational vehicle repair business. Prior to coming to Foothill Transit he worked for Coachman RF in Chino, and also for Alman's RV in Baldwin Park.

Sharlane Bailey, Project Manager, was previously employed at Flour Corporation as a Project Engineer. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from Bradley University, and is a certified Project Manager. She has thirteen years of engineering and construction management experience in the gas, oil and telecommunications industry.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

The Executive Board adopted the Consent Calendar items 7-13.

Motion: Member Lantz, seconded by Member Tessitor

Vote: Unanimously carried

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**FOOTHILL TRANSIT ON GOOGLE TRANSIT**

Dietter Aragon, Planning Manager, reported that last year Foothill Transit upgraded its Hastus scheduling software and a Google Transit interface was included as part of the upgrade. Google Transit is a public transportation planning tool that combines the latest agency data with the power of Google Maps. It integrates traffic stops, routes, schedules, and fare information to make trip planning quick and easy for everyone. The service is free to the public and to all transit agencies that participate in the program. Google Transit can be accessed at [www.foothilltransit.org](http://www.foothilltransit.org).

In January 2009, a website link was created exclusively for Foothill Transit testing. All thirty-seven routes were tested for accurate travel patterns, along with 2,600 bus stop locations for proper placement and 300 different trip planning itineraries were developed to test schedule accuracy on the Google map interface and transfers. Throughout the testing, additional feeds were submitted for adjustment of route paths and stop locations.

A Transit Partner Program was created by Google Inc. to encourage public transit agencies to add their schedule data to their web-based trip planner (Google Transit). Since then, over seventy public transit agencies in ten countries around the world have uploaded their schedule data to Google Transit. On May 29, 2009, Foothill Transit went live with all schedules uploaded to the web-based trip planner. There is no budget impact associated with the Google Transit implementation.

The Executive Board received and filed the Google Transit update.

Motion: Vice Chair Chandler, seconded by Member Delgado

Vote: Unanimously carried

**WEST COVINA PARK AND RIDE PROJECT**

Roland Cordero, Director of Facilities, reported that at the April 24, 2009, Executive Board Meeting, the Board directed staff to design elevations of an architecturally-pleasing concept for a three-level structure with an additional two levels below grade, and include the addition of a retail component.

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As the design concepts were developed, several significant challenges became apparent. A below-grade structure would require:

- Recirculation of the NEPA and CEQA documents prior to approval (approximately 3-4 months);
- Considerable grading and offsite transport of soil with related air and noise impacts;
- A longer project schedule due to excavation;
- Increased construction cost of approximately \$1 million per subterranean level;
  
- Additional cost for security, lighting and air ventilation for the two below-ground levels; and
- Increased maintenance cost versus a completely above-ground structure.

In light of these requirements, it appears prudent that a five-level above-ground park and ride structure be presented to the West Covina Planning Commission. The design would be the latest updated concept by Johnson Fain Architects incorporating 2,000 square feet of transit-related retail shops.

Funding for this project is scheduled in the approved Foothill Transit Business Plan. Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) approval of the EA was obtained ahead of the September 30, 2008 deadline, ensuring that \$5,075,393 in grant funding for this project was secured.

The Executive Board authorized the Executive Director to present a five-level ground park and ride structure design at the July 14, 2009, West Covina Planning Commission meeting. The design shall incorporate the latest conceptual drawings as developed by Johnson Fain Architects.

Motion: Member Delgado, seconded by Member Chandler  
Vote: Unanimously carried

**METRO CONGESTION REDUCTION DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE (ExpressLanes)  
MOU**

Kevin McDonald, Deputy Executive Director, reported that in February 2009, the Foothill Transit Governing Board approved an adjustment to the FY 2009 Business Plan programming \$8.5 million in Federal Section 5307 funds to the purchase of ten NABI 60-foot expansion buses to supply additional service on Line 699 and the Silver Streak as part of the Los Angeles County ExpressLanes project. The type of buses has since been revised and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently being drafted to incorporate the change to ten 42-foot NABI coaches. Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds will be provided for the operation of the vehicles during the demonstration program. The source of operating funds for service beyond the 18-month demonstration period is uncertain.

Foothill Transit is scheduled to receive \$6.2 million in capital funding for ten additional

buses that will operate along Interstate Highway 10. The demonstration project also includes \$3.2 million in CMAQ funds for operations. Project implementation is expected in late 2010.

Member Delgado commented that Foothill Transit should take advantage of any available funds and urged the Board make a motion to approve funding for the coaches. Member Lantz agreed, adding that she questions the potential success of the project.

Following discussion, the Executive Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Metro for \$6,239,000 in Section 5307 funds for the purchase of ten NABI 42-foot coaches and \$3,187,000 in Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for operation of the Congestion Reduction Demonstration Initiative (ExpressLanes) service during the demonstration period.

Motion: Vice Chair Chandler, seconded by Member Lantz

Vote: Unanimously carried

### **CONTRACT OPTION EXECUTION – NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES**

Kevin McDonald, Deputy Executive Director, reported that this item relates to the Metro Congestion Reduction Demonstration Initiative MOU in that it addresses receipt of funding to purchase ten buses to support the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane project on the Interstate 10 corridor. While final operational details are being developed, the additional vehicles are expected to supplement Line 699 commuter express service and Foothill Transit's Silver Streak service. CMAQ funds will be provided for the operation of these vehicles during the demonstration period. The source of operating funds for service beyond the demonstration period is uncertain.

Upon execution of an MOU with Metro, \$6.2 million in capital funding will be available, and will be used to fund the purchase of ten additional buses that will operate along Interstate Highway 10. Project implementation is expected in late 2010.

The Executive Board authorized the Executive Director to negotiate final contract terms and conditions, subject to execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Metro to fund the project, and execute a final contract option in the amount of \$6,239,152 with North American Bus Industries (NABI) for the purchase of ten 42-foot low-floor CNG fueled High Occupancy Vehicles.

Motion: Member Tessitor, seconded by Chair De La Torre

Vote: Unanimously carried

### **PROPOSED CANCELLATION OF LINE 189**

LaShawn Gillespie, Planning Director, reported that Line 189 travels between Claremont and Glendora on weekdays carrying 2.61 riders per vehicle service hour, well below the system-wide performance target of 19.7 passengers per vehicle service hour.

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Subsequent to the Governing Board's direction at its May 6, 2009 meeting, a public outreach campaign was implemented. Notices were provided in Footnotes through advertising in various local newspapers, E-Notices were sent to customers, and a notice was placed on Foothill Transit's web site.

A public meeting was held in Pomona, a major transfer and transit point, and a public hearing was held in the City of Claremont. No customers or interested parties attended these meetings. Cancellation of Line 189 will result in a budget savings of \$231,000 in FY 2010 and a projected savings of \$239,000 in FY 2011.

Chair De La Torre called for public comment regarding the cancellation of Line 189; there was none.

The Executive Board recommended cancellation of Line 189 to the Governing Board.

Motion: Vice Chair Chandler, seconded by Member Tessitor

Vote: Unanimously carried

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENT**

Doran Barnes, Executive Director, reported the following:

- The City of Pasadena is now officially a member of the Foothill Transit JPA; all member agencies have taken action to include Pasadena as a member. The Board of Supervisors approved inclusion to the JPA on June 23, 2009. Foothill Transit is very excited with the new association.
- Mr. Barnes, Chair De La Torre, and Vice Chair Chandler met with Foothill Transit's Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C. to discuss changes to federal changes to charter regulations. These changes will have a significant impact on operational services to the Rose Bowl and Hollywood Bowl. Ed Gill, Special Counsel, reported that he met with Department of Transportation General Counsel regarding this issue and expressed that there is strong congressional interest in the charter vote, both in favor and in opposition to the proposed changes.
- A Special Meeting of the Foothill Transit Governing Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2009, at 7:45 a.m. Two key items at the meeting will be the cancellation of Line 189 and the selection of an alternate to Cluster 3 (Northwest). Electing an alternate to Vice Chair Chandler will also be in order due to Mr. Dan Kirby's ineligibility to serve on the Governing Board.
- Credit was given to Foothill Transit's promotion department for its effective "Dump the Pump" promotional campaign. KTLA news interviewed Felicia Friesema, Marketing and Communications Manager, on the "National Dump the Pump Day". Foothill Transit provided free bus rides on that day. Statistics show that it was a success; 2,000 riders went online to get coupons and 100 completed surveys.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Member Delgado thanked Mr. Barnes and his staff for their excellent efforts in bringing the City of Pasadena into the JPA, and also thanked the Executive Board for its support in this important issue. Vice Chair Chandler added that the addition of Pasadena was a long-overdue decision that will greatly enhance Foothill Transit's prestige.

Chair De La Torre thanked Vice Chair Chandler and Mr. Barnes for the productive work they accomplished on the Washington, D.C. trip.

**6CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Significant exposure to litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(b): Written request for mediation received from Watry Design, Inc.**

**CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code § 54956.8) – Property Address/Location: APN #84474-009-009**

The Executive Board recessed at 8:40 a.m. to Closed Session.

The Executive Board reconvened at 9:43 a.m. from Closed Session.

Darold Pieper advised that no reportable action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Executive Board adjourned at 9:44 a.m.