



## Board Report

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### OPERATIONS, SAFETY AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 19, 2023

**SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP ON METRO'S WESTSIDE CENTRAL SERVICE COUNCIL**

**ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATION**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

APPROVE nominee for membership on Metro's Westside Central Service Council.

#### **ISSUE**

Each Metro Service Council (MSC) is comprised of nine Representatives who serve terms of three years; terms are staggered so that the terms of three of each Council's nine members expire annually on June 30. Incumbent Representatives can serve additional terms if re-nominated by the nominating authority and confirmed by the Metro Board.

The Westside Central Service Council has a vacancy created by a Councilmember who resigned earlier this year.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Metro Service Councils were created in 2002 as community-based bodies tasked with improving bus service and promoting service coordination with municipal and local transit providers. The MSC bylaws specify that Representatives should live in, work in, or represent the region; have a basic working knowledge of public transit service within their region, and an understanding of passenger transit needs. To do so, each Representative is expected to ride at least one transit service per month.

The MSCs are responsible for convening public hearings to receive community input on proposed service modifications, rendering decisions on proposed bus route changes, and considering staff's recommendations and public comments. All route and major service changes that are approved by the MSCs will be brought to the Metro Board of Directors as an information item. Should the Metro Board decide to move an MSC-approved service change to an Action Item, the MSCs will be notified of this change before the next Service Council monthly meeting.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The individual listed below has been nominated to serve Westside Central by the vacant seat’s nominating authority. If approved by the Board, this appointment will serve for the remainder of the three-year term specified below. A brief listing of qualifications and the nomination letter for the new nominee are provided in Attachments A and B.

For your reference, the 2021 American Community Survey demographics and 2022 Metro Ridership Survey demographics for each region are compared to the membership, should this nominee be appointed.

Westside Central Service Council Nominee

- A. Thomas Praderio, New Appointment  
 Nominated by: Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass  
 Term: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024

% Region Total	Hispanic	White	Asian & PI	Black	Native Amer	Other
WSC Council Region	42.4%	30.7%	13.7%	9.1%	0.2%	3.9%
WSC Region Ridership	64%	10%	7%	17%	1%	2%
WSC Membership/No.*	33%/3	33%/3	11%/1	22%/2	0	0

The gender makeup of the Westside Central Cities Service Council will be as follows:

Gender	WSC Membership/No.	Los Angeles County
Male	55% / 5	49.7%
Female	45% / 4	50.3%

**DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT**

Maintaining the full complement of representatives on each Service Council to represent each service area is important, as each Representative is required to regularly use public transit, and each Council is composed of people from diverse areas and backgrounds. This enables each Council to better understand the needs of transit consumers including the need for safe operation of transit service and safe location of bus stops.

**EQUITY PLATFORM**

Metro seeks to appoint Service Council members who represent the diverse needs and priorities reflective of the demographics of each respective region. To encourage nominating authorities to nominate individuals who will closely reflect the region and its ridership, staff shares regional ridership, resident, and Service Council membership race/ethnicity, and gender demographics with each nomination request. This practice has resulted in the Service Councils becoming much more diverse in terms of both race/ethnicity and gender over the last several years. However, approximately half of LA County residents and Metro riders are women, and there is still work that needs to be done to achieve gender equity on some of the Service Councils. Staff will continue to

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share demographic information and encourage nominating authorities to give weight to gender equity when considering individuals for nomination.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

Approval of this recommendation supports the following Metro Strategic Plan Goal: 30 Enhance communities and lives through mobility and access to opportunity.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The alternative to the recommendation would be for this nominee to not be approved for appointment. To do so would result in reduced effectiveness of the Service Councils, as it would increase the difficulty of obtaining the quorum necessary to allow this Service Council to formulate and submit their recommendations to the Board. It would also result in the Service Councils having a less diverse representation of their respective service areas.

### **NEXT STEPS**

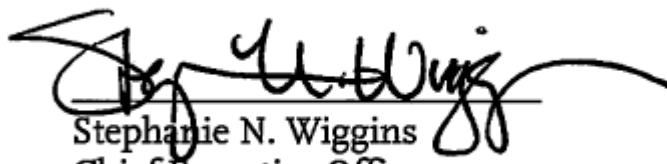
Staff will continue to monitor the major contributors to the quality of bus service from the customer's perspective and share that information with the Service Councils for use in their work to plan, implement, and improve bus service and the customer experience in their areas.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A - New Appointee Nomination Letter
- Attachment B - New Appointee Biography and Qualifications

Prepared by: Dolores Ramos, Senior Manager, Regional Service Councils, (213) 922-1210

Reviewed by: Conan Cheung, Chief Operations Officer, (213) 418-3034



Stephanie N. Wiggins  
Chief Executive Officer

NEW APPOINTEE NOMINATION LETTER



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

October 3, 2023

Ms. Dolores Ramos  
Senior Manager, Transportation Planning  
Metro Regional Service Councils  
One Gateway Plaza MS 99-7-1  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Ramos:

This letter serves as my recommendation to appoint Mr. Thomas Praderio to serve as a representative on the Westside/Central Service Council for the term ending on June 30, 2024. Mr. Praderio will fill the vacancy created by Margarita Alvarez Gomez.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Praderio is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

**Thomas Praderio, Nominee to Westside Central Service Council**



Thomas Praderio is an active public transportation user living in Echo Park. He is a car-free Angelino and commutes into Downtown Los Angeles for work every day. He depends on Metro to get him where he needs to go and is heavily invested in its success as a service. He hopes to use this opportunity to help shape the future direction of Metro and help it become as efficient, useful, and equitable as possible for all.

Thomas Praderio has worked as a Senior Software Engineer at Parallel Systems since July 2020 where he manages the team responsible for all software onboard Parallel Autonomous Rail Vehicles. Prior to that, he worked at SpaceX as a Software Engineer II from May 2013 to June 2019.

Thomas Praderio holds a bachelor's degree in electrical and electronics engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology.