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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: WILLIAM L. FOSTER
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SUBJECT: JUNE 2014 SERVICE CHANGE PROGRAM

ISSUE

Metro Bus and Rail services are adjusted two times per year, in June and December, improving schedules and modifying routes to adapt to the current operating environment. This report outlines service changes planned for implementation in June 2014 or later. A Receive and File report, along with Title VI analysis of the service changes, will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors (Board) in May 2014.

DISCUSSION

Metro Bus and Rail services are adjusted two times per year in June and December to improve productivity, cost effectiveness, capacity utilization, and service quality. June 2014 service changes focus on improving connections to regional destinations through route adjustments at no additional cost, including route modifications to serve the new Bob Hope Airport Transportation Center, Metro Rapid modifications in the San Fernando Valley, a new express line to be implemented pending available funding, and other minor service changes.

In compliance with federal public hearing requirements and MTA's administrative code, each Service Council is required to conduct a public hearing and consider public testimony before approving significant modifications to the bus system. Public hearings on proposed June 2014 service changes were conducted at the Service Councils during the month of February 2014 and changes were approved during the March 2014 meetings.

In addition, a Title VI analysis was conducted on all proposed major service changes as well as the final list of recommended changes. The analysis

concluded that there are no disparate or disproportionate impacts resulting from the June 2014 service changes. A formal Title VI report will be presented to the Board for consideration in May 2014.

June 2014 Service Changes

The following service changes were approved through the Service Councils for implementation in June 2014 or later:

- **Lines 169** (West Hills – Sunland via Saticoy St – Sunland Blvd.) and **222** (Sun Valley – Hollywood via Hollywood Way – Cahuenga Blvd.)

Service Change - Modify route to serve and terminate/layover at the Regional Intermodal Transportation Center (RITC). Discontinued segment on Line 169 will be taken over by Metro Line 222 as described below.

Discussion - Currently, Line 169 operates Monday through Friday from West Hills to Sunland. It is proposed that weekday trips be split near San Fernando Road, and the western portion of the line be extended south to the new RITC, providing a convenient one-seat ride between West Hills and the Bob Hope Airport.

The eastern portion of Line 169 would be combined with the northern end of Line 222 to Sunland. The new proposed route over Sunland Blvd. by Line 222 will still maintain key transfer locations at San Fernando Road and Foothill Blvd. and will provide a one-seat ride between Hollywood and Sunland. Service will also be provided to the new RITC.

- **Lines 741** (Northridge – Tarzana – California State University – Northridge (CSUN) via Reseda Blvd.), **761** (Pacoima – Westwood via Van Nuys Blvd. – Sepulveda Blvd.), and **734** (Sylmar Station – Sherman Oaks via Sepulveda Blvd.)

Service Change – Extend Line 741 east from Reseda and Ventura Blvd. to Sepulveda Blvd., and combine with Line 761 north of Ventura Blvd. and along Van Nuys Blvd. to Glenoaks Blvd. Service on Line 761 south of Ventura Blvd. to Westwood would be replaced by an extension of Line 734.

Discussion - Concepts for this proposal evolved out of internal and external meetings that combined the following findings: Line 741 today is too short to be productive or useful; CSUN students who need to access UCLA have to take three buses on average to reach Westwood; the headway on Line 741 (16 minute peak, 30-minute base) is not frequent enough to benefit the Reseda Blvd. customer; and the Reseda/Ventura Blvd. terminus causes unnecessary transfers. This service change is expected to improve on time performance on Van Nuys by eliminating the connection of the line to Westwood and improve connections west

of Sepulveda to Westwood. In addition, Line 761 south of Ventura Blvd. will be connected to Line 734 on Sepulveda Blvd. to combine service along Sepulveda Blvd. into one route from Sylmar Metrolink Station through Sherman Oaks to Westwood.

- **Line 534** (Washington/Fairfax Transit Hub-Malibu via Pacific Coast Hwy. Express)

Service Change – Modify schedule to reduce service between the Washington/Fairfax Transit Hub and Downtown Santa Monica when Phase II of the Metro Expo Line (Expo Line) opens.

Discussion - It is anticipated that customers currently riding express service on Line 534 between the Culver City Station and Downtown Santa Monica will shift to the Expo Line when it opens in early 2016. There are still a number of customers, however, that are traveling to the Washington/Fairfax Hub and transferring to other lines at that location. As a result, every other trip will be shortened in Downtown Santa Monica on weekdays only. No change is recommended to weekend service.

Staff will monitor ridership on Line 534 after the Expo Line opens to determine if the express portion of the route is still viable.

- **Line 577** (El Monte Station - Long Beach VA Hospital via I-605 Freeway)

Service Change – Modify route to serve Rio Hondo College

Discussion - Rio Hondo College (located in incorporated Los Angeles County near Pico Rivera and City of Industry) is served by Line 270 (Monrovia – Norwalk Station via Workman Mill Road & Peck Road). Customer use of Line 270 to the college has increased substantially in recent years as a result of the cancellation of Norwalk Transit service to the college. To improve service to the college, it is proposed to modify the route of Express Line 577 by detouring from the I-605 Freeway to serve the college. Customers bound for the college with a Metro Student ID Tap Card may utilize the new service at no additional cost.

- **Line 588** (North Hills – Westwood via Van Nuys/I-405 Freeway)

Service Change – New express line from Nordhoff Street to Westwood via Van Nuys Blvd. and I-405 Freeway. Funding or resources would need to be identified prior to implementation.

Discussion – Both the San Fernando Valley and Westside/Central Service Councils have directed staff to analyze a potential new express line between San Fernando Valley and Westwood that would utilize the new High

Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes currently being constructed on I-405. The routing of this line would be along Van Nuys Blvd. from Nordhoff Street to the Metro Orange Line, continuing along Oxnard Street to Sepulveda Blvd., Victory Blvd. to the I-405 south on-ramp on Haskell Avenue, then via the I-405 Freeway to Wilshire Blvd. and Westwood Avenue. Initially, the line would operate on a 15-minute frequency peak-only. Based on the evaluation of the trial period, service levels could be modified. Currently there is no funding nor resources identified for this new service. Therefore, implementation would be delayed until funding or resources are identified specifically to implement this service.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

Resources for proposed Line 588 would need to be identified prior to implementation. All other proposed changes are anticipated to be cost neutral based on the current operating budget.

NEXT STEPS

With the exception of Line 588, all other service changes will begin on June 29, 2014 or later.