



December 22, 2000

AN
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012-2952

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: JAMES L. de la LOZA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**SUBJECT: METRO BLUE LINE SERVICE SOUTH OF THE WILLOW
STATION**

ISSUE

At the November 16, 2000, Planning and Programming Committee Meeting, staff was directed to review current Metro Blue Line operation which terminates some trips at Willow Station, and determine whether or not these trips should be extended into Downtown Long Beach. This report addresses this Board request.

DISCUSSION

The Metro Blue Line, which operates from Downtown Los Angeles to Long Beach, currently turns back every other trip during the peak hours at Willow Station. Because ridership is heavier north of Willow Station, the peak hour schedule provides a five-minute headway between Downtown Los Angeles and the Willow Station, and service every ten minutes to the Long Beach Transit Mall.

Ridership Demand

Ridership data shows that the greatest passenger demand on the Metro Blue Line occurs north of the Willow Station (peaking in the vicinity of Florence Station). Even during the busiest peak periods of the day, the average number of passengers on board a train south of Willow Station is less than 50% of train capacity. Therefore, there is insufficient demand to warrant additional service south of Willow Station, and the additional \$1,138,000 that it would cost annually to extend these trips.

NEXT STEPS

As part of the MTA's on-going review of system performance, Metro Blue Line ridership will continue to be monitored to identify any changes in demand and travel patterns. Should future data indicate additional service is required south of Willow Station, the Board will be advised of staff's findings and recommended action.

Prepared By: Martha Butler
Transportation Planning Manager IV
Operations Planning