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METRO GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE COUNCIL

MARCH 10, 2011

SUBJECT: METRO GATEWAY CITIES PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES

ACTION: APPROVE FINDINGS OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ADOPT REVISED SERVICE CHANGE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Approve findings of Public Hearings conducted in February, 2011 for service changes proposed to be implemented on June 26, 2011 or later;
- B. Adopt the original service change proposals for Lines 26, 102, 200, 254, 577, 611, 612, and 760; and adopt the revised proposal for Line 460, as outlined in this report.

ISSUE

Federal guidelines and MTA policy require that a public hearing be held when major service changes to the bus system are considered. Accordingly, the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council conducted a public hearing on February 10, 2011, 2:00 pm, at the Salt Lake Park on Florence Av. in Huntington Park.

This report summarizes all of the input received during the public comment period. At the February 10 public hearing, nine people provided testimony on the proposed changes. Staff received dozens more written comments mostly via email.

This report contains a review of public input, an analysis of impacts, and staff's modified service change recommendations. The Council should consider the possible impacts from these proposals before approving them.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Council may 1) adopt a new subset of the proposals or 2) not adopt the revised service changes. Staff's recommendation attempts to balance the need for service to the public with optimization of available resources. A lack of approval would have a negative impact on the FY 12 budget.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

The proposed changes have been included in the FY12 proposed budget. If the changes are not implemented as presented, additional resources may be required.

BACKGROUND

Service changes proposed for implementation on June 26, 2011 or later include adjustments focused in the following areas: 1) Simplify, reduce duplication, and improve coordination between Metro Bus, Rail, and other Municipal Operators. 2) Streamline Harbor Transitway services; 3) Right size Metro Rapid corridors to meet service demand; and 4) Implement Exposition Light Rail Transit (LRT) Bus/Rail Interface Plan when the LRT opens for service, anticipated for late 2011 or early 2012.

In the Gateway Cities service area, staff proposed changes requiring a public hearing on the following nine bus lines:

- **Line 26: Hollywood – Compton – Artesia Transit Center via Avalon Bl.**
Discontinue service on Virgil Av and reallocate resources to enhances Lines 51~52/352
- **Line 102: Baldwin Village – South Gate via Coliseum St.**
- **Line 200: Echo Park – Exposition Park via Alvarado St & Hoover St**
Discontinue Line 102; extend select Line 200 trips over East Jefferson Bl to Vernon & Santa Fe Avs via route of Line 102
- **Line 254: Boyle Heights – 103rd St Station via Lorena St & Boyle Av.**
Discontinue Saturday service
- **Line 460: Downtown LA – Disneyland via Harbor Transitway & I-105 Fwy**
Discontinue service from Downtown LA to Norwalk Station
- **Line 577: El Monte Station – Long Beach via I-605 Fwy**
Move southern terminal to Long Beach VA Hospital
- **Line 611: Huntington Park Shuttle**
Operate service hourly
- **Line 612: South Gate Shuttle**
Operate service hourly
- **Line 760: Downtown LA – Artesia Station via Long Beach Bl**
Discontinue south of Metro Green Line; discontinue Sunday service and augment Line 60 service.

Public Outreach

The Notice of Public Hearing (Attachment A) was first published in the Los Angeles Daily News on Saturday, January 1, 2011. Additional notices were subsequently published in other local, regional, and foreign language newspapers system-wide. About 100,700 marketing take-ones were distributed on buses, trains, and at customer service outlets to inform riders of the proposals under consideration. The Notice of Public Hearing was also posted on Metro's main website.

During the month of January, Rider Alerts notifying patrons of the six public hearings were placed on the interior of all Metro buses. In addition, staff handed out marketing brochures and other transit information at seven strategic locations to notify patrons of the upcoming public hearings.

Summary of Public Comment

The public comment period closed February 17, 2011. Nine individuals spoke at the February 10, 2011 public hearing held in Huntington Park. Some riders also spoke at other Metro public hearings or they provided written input. In total, 130 comments specific to the Gateway Cities area were received via letters, facsimiles and emails. Riders also submitted a petition to support continued operation of rush hour service on Line 460. Attachment B summarizes the public comments by line number.

REVISED METRO GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE PROGRAM

Staff proposes one revision to the original service change program for the Gateway Cities service area. The revised service plan would continue to provide Line 460 service between Downtown LA and Disneyland in the weekday rush hours, evenings, and weekend evenings. The route would be shortened to operate between Norwalk Station and Disneyland in the off-peak (weekday midday 9 AM to 3 PM) and all day Saturday / Sunday / Holidays.

With Council approval, staff will discontinue Line 254 on Saturdays and will schedule Lines 611 and 612 to operate hourly. In addition, Line 26 will be shortened by discontinuing service on Virgil Av. and Line 577 will be shortened to a new south terminal at 7th & Channel in Long Beach (VA Hospital). Line 760 if approved will experience two changes: the discontinuation of service south of the Metro Green Line (seven days per week) and the discontinuation of all service on Sundays.

Attachment C estimates and describes the passenger impacts. Attachment D displays route segment performance, including boardings per revenue service hour, subsidy per boarding, change in annual revenue service hour, and boardings lost per revenue service hour change. Maps for the revised service plan are shown on Attachment E.

SUMMARY

The staff proposal for service changes in the Gateway Cities service area will help the MTA to meet FY 12 budgetary goals to use resources wisely and improve service efficiency.

NEXT STEPS

With Council and Board approval, the service changes will be effective June 26, 2011 or later. Staff will notify customers with on-board brochures describing service changes. New timetables with schedule and route modifications will be available on Metro buses in early June.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Notice of Public Hearing
- B. Summary of Public Comment
- C. Estimated Impact on Passengers
- D. Line Performance and Estimated Impact on Revenue Service Hours
- E. Revised Maps

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