



**METRO SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SERVICE COUNCIL**

**MARCH 2, 2011**

**SUBJECT: METRO SAN FERNANDO VALLEY PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. Approve findings of Public Hearing conducted in February, 2011 for service changes proposed to be implemented on June 26, 2011 or later;
- B. Adopt staff's revised Service Change Program 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 San Fernando Valley Service Council conducted a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on February 2, 2011 at the Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center in Van Nuys.

The purpose of the hearing was to solicit public input, written comments and verbal testimony regarding proposed service changes to eight local lines and one Metro Rapid bus line in the Metro San Fernando Valley service area. These changes are slated for implementation on June 26, 2011 or later.

A review of public input, an analysis of impacts and staff's service change recommendations are contained in this report. The Council is required to consider the possible impacts from these proposals before approving them.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Alternatives to the staff recommendation are to 1) adopt a new subset of the proposals or 2) not adopt the revised service changes. Staff's recommendations optimize available resources but the Service Council may select other alternatives that meet budgetary goals if necessary. A lack of approval would have a negative impact on the FY12 Operating 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 June 26, 2011 implementation includes 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 Expo Rail Bus/Rail Interface Plan.

In the Metro San Fernando Valley service area, staff developed proposals requiring a public hearing for the following eight local bus lines;

- **Line 96- Downtown LA-Sherman Oaks via Riverside Dr, LA Zoo**  
**Line 155-Universal City-Burbank Station via Riverside Dr, Alameda Av**  
Shorten Line 96 northern terminal at Burbank Station. Modify Line 155 route to replace canceled Line 96 segment between Burbank Station and Sherman Oaks. Service proposed to operate on Olive Av instead of Alameda Av in Media District and extended via Riverside Dr to Sherman Oaks.
- **Line 183 Sherman Oaks-Glendale via Magnolia Bl:**  
Proposal #1 - Simplify route in Burbank and Glendale; discontinue Kenneth Road route segment and extend route via Colorado Boulevard in Glendale to Eagle Rock Plaza; discontinue segment to Glendale Station.
- **Line 92- Downtown LA-Burbank Station via Glendale Av, Glenoaks Bl**  
**Line 183-Sherman Oaks-Glendale via Magnolia Bl**  
**Line 234- Sylmar Station - Sherman Oaks via Sepulveda Bl, Brand Bl**  
Proposal #2 - Discontinue Line 183 service.  
Extend Line 92 from Burbank Station over route of Line 183 to North Hollywood Station and terminate.

Extend Line 234 east over Magnolia Boulevard from Sepulveda Boulevard to North Hollywood Station and terminate. Through patrons on Magnolia east and west of North Hollywood Station will transfer between proposed Lines 92 and 234 extensions. Discontinue Kenneth Road to Glendale Station route segment.

- **Line 230- Sylmar Station - Studio City via Laurel Canyon Bl**  
**Line 634-Mission College - Sylmar Station via Hubbard Av/St**  
Combine Line 634 route with Line 230 to Mission College, eliminating a transfer. Line 634 will be cancelled.

The following Metro Rapid bus line proposal was based on an evaluation of service with established measurable criteria.

- **Line 94- Downtown LA-Sun Valley via San Fernando Rd**  
**Line 794-Downtown Los Angeles - Sylmar Station via San Fernando Rd Rapid Staff Recommendation**  
Discontinue weekend Line 794 service and improve Line 94 service from Line 794 resources. Extend Line 94 route to Sylmar Station on weekends.

### **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**

A total of 35 individuals attended the February 2, 2011 public hearing held in Van Nuys. Eighteen of those individuals provided verbal testimony and 30 written testimonies were received via letters, facsimiles and emails by February 17, the close of the public record.

The 48 respondents provided a total of 71 comments on public hearing proposals. The majority of the comments or about 62% (44 comments) opposed the proposals. Approximately 28% (20 comments) supported and 10% (7 comments) suggested

modifications to the service change proposals. The respondents included the Cities of Burbank and Glendale and various other organizations including the Transit Coalition, Southern California Transit Advocates and the Valley Village Neighborhood Council.

The breakdown of the comments is as follows:

Line No.	Number of Comments			Total	Line Percentage		
	Support	Oppose	Modify		Support	Oppose	Modify
96/155	6	16	1	23	26%	70%	4%
183	4	8	2	14	29%	57%	14%
94/183/234	4	13	2	19	21%	68%	11%
230/634	3	---	---	3	100%	---	---
94/794	3	7	2	12	25%	58%	17%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>10%</b>

A more detailed summary of these comments is provided in Attachment B.

### **REVISED METRO SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SERVICE PROGRAM**

Staff proposes that both Line 183 Proposal 1 and 2 be removed from the original service change program. All other proposed changes are to be implemented with Council approval.

Attachment C estimates passenger impacts due to the proposed changes. Attachment D displays route segment performance data. Maps for the revised service plan are shown on Attachment E.

### **SUMMARY**

The revised service plan meets the FY12 budgetary goal to use resources wisely and improve service efficiency.

### **NEXT STEPS**

With Board approval, the service changes will be effective June 26, 2011. 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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