



**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL  
March 9, 2009**

**SUBJECT: REVISED METRO SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SERVICE CHANGE PROGRAM**

**ACTION: APPROVE FINDINGS OF FEBRUARY 2009 PUBLIC HEARING AND  
ADOPT REVISED SERVICE CHANGE PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. Approve findings of Public Hearing conducted on February 9, 2009 for service changes proposed to be implemented in June 2009 or later;
- B. Adopt Revised Service Change Program as outlined in this report.

**BACKGROUND**

During February 2009, Metro conducted five public hearings to receive comment on proposals to implement major service changes in June 2009 or later. Federal guidelines and Metro policy require that a public hearing be held when major service changes are proposed. Metro San Gabriel Valley Governance Council conducted a public hearing on February 9, 2009. The system wide Notice of Public Hearing is shown in Attachment A.

The public hearing comprised of three distinct service groups; Gold Line Bus-Rail Interface Plan; Line 910 Silver Line; and Contract Bus Line changes. The SGV Sector proposed to implement four route modifications related to the anticipated June 2009 or later opening of the East Los Angeles portion of the Metro Gold Line. The opening of a proposed new bus line, the Metro Silver Line, would provide high frequency express bus service between El Monte Bus Station and the Artesia Park-Ride on the Harbor Expressway. In addition, local Metro Line 177 will be modified to provide better service when and where the demand is directionally located. Line 256, a low performing line, is proposed to be canceled.

Together, all of the proposed SGV service changes will be cost neutral.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

There are four basic alternatives to the Staff Revised SGV Service Plan:

- 1) Status quo by retaining bus service as currently operated on the El Monte Busway;
- 2) Not adopt a service plan that will better serve the Metro Gold Line;
- 3) Maintain Line 177 route and schedule as operated today; and
- 4) Keep Line 256 as a Metro line.

Staff does not recommend these alternatives.

The Gold Line Bus-Rail Interface Plan modifies bus service to:

- Provide improved community connections to the new rail line;
- Reduce duplication of bus/rail service;
- Connect Line 620 with Line 665; and
- Fulfill an FTA requirement.

The Metro Silver Line will:

- Implement a reduced fare;
- Reduce duplicative service in downtown Los Angeles;
- Provide a faster bus ride;
- Improve on-time performance;
- Connect two major transit hubs

The Line 177 contract service schedule modifications will:

- Provide better service in the peak direction of travel; and
- Maintain a level of mid-day service.

Line 256 is an unproductive route that was proposed for cancellation. The public hearing generated a considerable amount of opposition via email, letters, a petition, and public testimony. Therefore, staff is recommending the cancellation of Line 256 should a municipal operator agree to operate the service. Should no operator be found, Metro will continue to provide the service.

### **IMPACT ON BUDGET**

Proposals for the Gold Line Bus/Rail Interface Plan and Line 910 Silver Line are cost-neutral. Should Line 256 be operated by a municipal operator, an annual savings of \$1.7 million would be realized. The schedule modifications for Line 177 will save approximately \$232,560 annually.

### **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was outstanding public participation during the review of the proposed service changes. For Metro San Gabriel Valley, over 101 individuals, organizations, cities, and political leaders participated in this public hearing process. Representatives from Los Angeles City Council Members Huizar and Reyes, California Assembly Member Kevin De Leon, JPL, Caltech, Los Angeles International Charter High School, LA 32 Neighborhood Council, Northeast Mental Health Center, Southern California Transit Advocates, and BRU provided comments.

Of the 101 people attending the hearing, 41 speakers spoke on items specific to the SGV service proposals. In addition, a total of 178 comments were also received via mail, e-mail, fax and phone by the close of the public record on February 14. At the hearing, a petition related in opposition of the Line 256 cancellation with 1,575 signatures was presented by the LA 32 Neighborhood Council.

A summary of these comments, including suggested alternatives, is provided in Attachment B.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed service modifications are consistent the Metro Transit Service Policies, the goals and objectives of the Metro Connections Program, and establishes a bus/rail interface plan as required by the FTA.

Based on the public comments received, Metro San Gabriel Valley staff has made modifications to the original service plan and is recommending the Revised Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Change Program. This revised program is summarized below:

## **REVISED SERVICE PLAN**

**Gold Line Bus/Rail Interface Plan** – No changes are proposed by staff to the plan as presented at the Public Hearing.

**Line 910 Silver Line** – No changes are proposed by staff to the plan as presented at the Public Hearing.

## **Contract Service Modifications**

**Line 177** - The original proposal was to operate service only to and from Pasadena City College to JPL. After further review and input from patrons, staff's recommendation is to operate Line 177 in the peak direction of travel only (west in the AM, east in the PM) from Sierra Madre Villa Station to JPL. Mid-day service will be provided from JPL to PCC. SGV staff will work closely with JPL and Caltech staff to evaluate the new service once it is implemented.

**Line 256** - The original proposal was to cancel this lower performing contract service bus line. This is a lengthy 24 mile long line operating from Altadena to Commerce. Along the route the line serves Highland Park Gold Line Station, Cal State LA, PCC, and Allen Av. Ridership on weekends is significantly lower than weekdays. While the line averages of about 22 daily passengers per bus hour, this falls to 12 on Saturdays and 10 on Sundays. Staff is recommending the cancellation of Line 256 should a municipal operator agree to operate the service. Should no operator be found, Metro will continue to provide the service.

## **NEXT STEPS**

With the approval of the Metro SGV Governance Council, staff will implement the revised service changes beginning June 29, 2008 or later.

Prepared by: Scott Page, Service Development Manager

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Public Hearing Notice

Attachment B: Summary of Public Hearing Comments & Staff Response

Attachment C: Transcripts



## ATTACHMENT A

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will hold five public hearings in February 2009 to receive community input on proposed modifications to Metro's bus services. Approved changes will become effective June 28, 2009 or later. Details of the hearing dates, times, and locations are listed at the end of this notice.

The upcoming public hearings are being held in conformance with federal public hearing requirements outlined in Section 5307 (d) 1 of Title 49 U.S.C., and public hearing guidelines adopted by the MTA's Board of Directors in 1993, as amended.

Listed below are the service proposals to be considered at the hearings, and the respective service sectors that will host the public hearings. In general, the proposed modifications will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the public transportation system through a better use of resources. The public can attend any of these hearings and comment on proposals of interest to them.

#### METRO SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SERVICE SECTOR

<u>LINE/ ROUTE</u>	<u>LINE NAME</u>	<u>PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE</u>
30-31	Pico/Rimpau – Monterey Park Via Pico Bl & East 1 <sup>st</sup> St	Restructure service for the Eastside Gold Line Extension Bus Rail interface. Line 30 is proposed to terminate at Dozier/Rowan terminal. Remainder of the service (on Hammel St. and Floral Dr.) is proposed to be served by restructuring of Line 287. Reduce service frequency on First St. between Alameda St. and Atlantic Bl. (This line is governed by the Westside Sector Governance Council).
68	Montebello via Cesar Chavez Av	Discontinue route segment from Riggins St. and Atlantic Bl. to Montebello Town Center, replaced by an extension of Line 287 from the Montebello Town Center to Atlantic Bl., continue on via Floral Dr. and Rowan Av. to the Indiana Gold Line Station.
177	La Canada – Sierra Madre Villa via I-210, California Bl and Walnut St	Discontinue route segment from Sierra Madre Metro Gold Line Station to Pasadena City College (PCC). Service will be improved from every 30 minutes to every 12 to 15 minutes in the peak periods; mid-day service will be eliminated.
256	Commerce - Altadena via Eastern Av & Hill Av	Discontinue service.
287	Montebello Town Center - Sierra	Extend west from the Montebello Town Center to

	Madre Villa Station	the Indiana Gold Line Station, providing service on the Line 30 route portion on Floral Dr. and Rowan Av. The route portion from the Sierra Madre Gold Line Station south to El Monte Station will be replaced by Line 487.
484	Pomona –Downtown LA via Valley Bl & El Monte Busway	The route portion from El Monte Station to Downtown Los Angeles will be replaced by the Dual Hub BRT.
487	Sierra Madre Villa Station – Downtown LA via San Gabriel Bl & El Monte Busway	Extended from the Sierra Madre Gold Line Station over the Line 287 route segment to El Monte Station.
490	Pomona - Downtown LA via Ramona Bl & El Monte Busway	The route portion from El Monte Station to Downtown Los Angeles will be replaced by the Dual Hub BRT.
620	Boyle Heights via Cesar Chavez Av & State St	Extend east to the Indiana Gold Line Station.
BRT	El Monte Station – Artesia Transit Center via El Monte Busway & Harbor Expressway	New BRT route connecting El Monte Station and the Artesia Transit Center through Downtown LA.

**LOCATION AND DATE OF SECTOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SECTOR**

February 9, 2009, 6 PM  
 SGV Sector Office  
 3369 Santa Anita Av  
 El Monte

Additional details about these proposals will be available for public review after January 26, 2009. To obtain this information contact the address listed below, or visit your nearest Metro customer relations center. Information can also be accessed at: [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net)

These proposals may be approved in whole or in part at a date following the public hearings. Approved changes may also include other alternatives derived from public comment. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the upcoming hearings and provide testimony on any service change proposal (public comments will not be restricted to just the bus routes operating in one geographical area). All public comment received will be forwarded to the responsible Sector Governance Council to be considered prior to taking action on the service change proposals. Persons unable to attend the hearings may submit written testimony postmarked through February 14, 2009. All written testimony should be addressed to:

**Metro Customer Relations  
 One Gateway Plaza, 99PL4  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932  
 Attn: Service Changes June 2009**

Comments can also be sent via e-mail with Service Changes June 2009 as the subject to:

[customerrelations@mta.net](mailto:customerrelations@mta.net)  
 Facsimile at: 213-922-6988