



Metro

**METRO SOUTH BAY SERVICE COUNCIL
July 10, 2015**

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 2015 PUBLIC HEARING

**ACTIONS: APPROVE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED DECEMBER 2015
SERVICE MODIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZE A PUBLICATION OF
THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve a Public Hearing to be convened by the South Bay Service Council during the month of September 2015 to receive public comment on a proposed service change on the Metro Silver Line and the discontinuation of Line 450, to be implemented in December 2015.

BACKGROUND

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. As part of this process, each Service Council is also required to consider potential impacts these changes may have on the community.

The Board approved a revised Motion 21 in February 2015 (Attachment A), directing staff to extend the Silver Line service to San Pedro and incorporate the existing Line 450 service into the Silver Line. Staff was also asked to evaluate extending trips on the Silver Line to Palos Verdes to provide all day express service to Downtown LA. In addition, staff was to coordinate with the South Bay Municipal Operators including Torrance, Gardena, Beach Cities Transit, and other relevant stakeholders.

South Bay transit stakeholders were not interested in having the Silver Line extended to Palos Verdes. This area is well serviced by Metro Line 344, Torrance Transit, PV Transit, and LADOT Commuter Express. It was felt that the Silver Line would duplicate other services already in place.

SUMMARY OF STAFF PROPOSAL

The core focus of the motion was to have the Silver Line extended to San Pedro, which is heavily supported by CD15 (Councilman Joe Busciano). This however would duplicate the existing route of Line 450. There are also no resources available to extend the service. After further study, it was determined that by folding Line 450 service into the Silver Line, through express service between downtown Los Angeles and San Pedro could be provided seven days a week and thereby maintain budgeted

revenue service hours. Patrons mid-day and on weekends would enjoy a new one-seat ride to Downtown LA. However, Staff is aware that Line 450 is important to South Bay patrons since its inception, which provides a slightly faster ride to Downtown LA than the Silver Line. Therefore, the proposal for the Public Hearing will be as follows:

- 1) Discontinue Line 450.
- 2) Extend the Silver Line to San Pedro providing the following services-
 - a. Create a new Silver Line service operating during weekday peak periods, duplicating the Line 450 route and stops, to be known as the “*Silver Xpress*”;
 - b. Monday through Friday in the mid-day and evening periods, and on weekends and holidays, extend the Silver Line to San Pedro, thereby eliminating a transfer at the H/GTC.
 - c. Some “*Silver Xpress*” trips will operate to El Monte Station, providing more travel alternatives for San Pedro residents to County USC Hospital and Cal State University at Los Angeles.
 - d. San Pedro stops will be analyzed in order to create a BRT type route on Pacific Av, providing a more streamlined and faster trip.

The draft Notice of Public Hearing (**Attachment B**), once finalized, will give the proposed time, date, and location of the public hearing to be held during in late August or early September. The notice of public hearing must be published at least 30 days prior to the public hearing. A brief summary of the changes under consideration is also included. The official notice of public hearing will be finalized after the July 10, 2015 meeting and will be published in local newspapers beginning as early as Sunday, July 19, 2015. Takes Ones will also be prepared for buses operating in South Bay.

Title VI Analysis of Proposed Changes

Title VI analysis of proposed changes will be prepared and presented prior to the beginning of the Public Hearing.

NEXT STEPS

Following the public hearing, staff will return in September with a report summarizing all public comments received along with and modification to the staff recommendations.

Attachment A: Copy of Board Motion 21
Attachment B: Draft Notice of Public Hearing
Attachment C: Maps of Proposed Changes

Attachment A

Motion by:

**Mayor Eric Garcetti, Director Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker,
Supervisor Don Knabe & Mayor James Butts**

February 19, 2015

Item 21: Bus Rapid Transit Service – Silver Line

The Silver Line was implemented in December 2009 by combining the freeway portions of three Harbor Transit-way express lines operating between San Pedro/Palos Verdes and Downtown Los Angeles) and two El Monte Busway express lines (Operating between Pomona and Downtown Los Angeles).

The freeway segments of the lines were combined into the Silver Line which provides service between Harbor/Gateway Transit Center and El Monte Bus Station via downtown Los Angeles.

The local segments of the lines between San Pedro/Palos Verdes and Harbor/Gateway Transit Center, and Pomona to El Monte Station, operate as separate local lines.

Separating the local and freeway segments was done to improve on time performance on both local and freeway segments, and allow for more flexibility in matching service levels to demand.

However, by separating the segments, passengers who previously had a one seat ride between the local and freeway segments now are required to transfer.

Since inception, Silver Line ridership has more than doubled.

Much of the increase in boardings is along the southern segment between Harbor/Gateway Transit Center and Downtown Los Angeles.

Many of these passengers originate in South Bay communities, including San Pedro and Palos Verdes.

Given the significant increase in South Bay boardings, it is important to reassess the travel time impacts of the transfer between the freeway and local segments at the Harbor/Gateway Transit Center, and the benefits of improving the connection between the South Bay communities and Downtown LA.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board direct the CEO to evaluate options for improving the connection between the Silver Line and service operating into South Bay communities via the Harbor/Gateway Transit Center, including:

1. Direct routing of Silver Line trips into Palos Verdes and San Pedro
2. Improved frequencies on local services, including Lines 246 and 344, for better connections with the Silver Line.
3. Timed transfers and improved on time performance to ensure connections are met.
4. Evaluation is based on the demand for the connection by time of day and day of week, and address fare pricing implications, resource and other requirements, ridership impacts, and implementation schedule.
5. Report back with the findings on all the above by the June 2015 Regular Board meeting.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will hold a public hearing in August 2015 to receive community input on proposed modifications to Metro’s bus service. Approved changes will become effective December 13, 2015 or later. Details of the hearing dates, times, and locations are listed at the end of this notice.

The upcoming public hearing is 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 Metro’s Board of Directors in 1993, as amended.

Listed below is the service proposal to be considered at the hearing, and the respective Service Council that will host the public hearing. 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 the hearing and comment on proposals of interest to them, or respond via email to servicechanges@metro.net.

METRO SOUTH BAY CITIES

LINE	LINE NAME	<u>PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE</u>
450/Silver Line	Metro Express - Downtown LA - San Pedro via Harbor Transitway / Metro Silver Line	Discontinue Line 450 and fold existing service into the Metro Silver Line. AM and PM peak hour service will remain as scheduled today and called “Silver Xpress” service. New Silver Line service will operate mid-day, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays from San Pedro to El Monte Station via Downtown LA. The fare will remain the same at \$2.50. When using TAP, transfers to other Metro buses are free up to two hours after initial TAP.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

SOUTH BAY CITIES

Date, Time, and Location to be determined by Metro South Bay Cities Service Council

Note: These proposals may be approved in whole or in part at a date following the public hearing. Approved changes may also include other alternatives derived from public comment. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the upcoming

hearing and provide testimony on any service proposal under consideration (public comment will not be restricted to only bus routes operating in one geographical area). All public comment received will be forwarded to the responsible Service Council, and considered prior to taking action on the service proposal. Persons unable to attend the hearing may submit written testimony postmarked through midnight August 14, 2015, the close of the public record.

Comments sent via U.S Mail should be addressed to:

Metro Customer Relations
Attn: December 2015 Service Changes
One Gateway Plaza, 99-PL-4
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932

Comments via e-mail should be addressed to:

servicechanges@metro.net
Attn: "December 2015 Service Changes"

Facsimiles should be addressed as above and sent to: 213-922-6988.

ADA REQUIREMENTS: Upon request, sign language interpretation, materials in alternative formats and other accommodations are available to the public for MTA sponsored meetings and events.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: Upon request, interpreters are available to the public for MTA sponsored meetings and events. Agendas and minutes will also be made available in other languages upon request.

All requests for reasonable accommodations, interpretation services and materials in other languages must be made at least three working days (72 hours) in advance of the scheduled meeting date. Please submit requests by calling (213) 922-4600 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our TDD line is (800) 252-9040. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711 + Metro phone number.

Attachment C – Map of Proposed Changes

