



METRO WESTSIDE/CENTRAL SERVICE COUNCIL

MARCH 7, 2011

SUBJECT: METRO WESTSIDE/CENTRAL 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; approve findings for service changes to be implemented when Expo Metro Rail opens;
- 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 Westside/Central Service Council conducted a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on February 9, 2011 at the La Cienega Tennis Center-Sunset Room in Beverly Hills.

The purpose of the hearing was to solicit public input, written comments and verbal testimony regarding proposed service in the Westside/Central service area. Four local lines and two Metro Rapid line were presented for testimony, to be implemented June 26, 2011 or later. Included in the Public Hearing were an additional eight local lines and two Metro Rapid lines that comprise the Expo Bus/Rail Interface Plan, to be implemented sometime later this year with the opening of the Expo Line.

A review of public input, an analysis of impacts and staff's service change recommendations are contained in this report. The Council should 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 Westside/Central service area, staff developed proposals requiring a public hearing for the following six bus lines;

- **Line 2 Downtown LA - Pacific Palisades via Sunset Bl:**
Relocate downtown terminus to Union Station to replace discontinued Line 704 segment east of Sunset Bl and Alvarado St.
- **Line 26 Hollywood - Compton - Artesia Transit Center via Avalon Bl:**
Discontinue service on Virgil Av and reallocate resources to enhance Lines 51/52/352.
- **Line 209 Athens - Wilshire Center via Van Ness Ave & Arlington Av:**
Discontinue service and reallocate resources to enhance nearby Line 207.
- **Line 217 Vermont/Sunset - Washington/Fairfax via Hollywood Bl & Fairfax Av:**
Relocate northern terminus to Hollywood/Vine Metro Rail Station.
- **Line 704 Downtown LA – Santa Monica via Santa Monica Bl**
Discontinue service east of Alvarado St.

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

- **Line 207 Hollywood - Athens via Western Av**
Line 757 Hollywood - Hawthorne via Western Av
Discontinue Line 757 and improve Line 207 service from Line 757 resources.

In addition, staff proposed changes to the following eight local lines and two Metro Rapid lines that comprise the Expo Bus/Rail Interface Plan, to be implemented sometime later this year with the opening of the Expo Line:

- **Line 30 Pico/Rimpau - Downtown LA - Indiana Station via Pico Bl & E 1st St**
- **Line 305 Westwood - Leimert Park - South LA - Willowbrook**
- **Line 550 San Pedro - West Hollywood via Harbor Transitway**
- **Line 730 Pico/Rimpau – Downtown LA via Pico Blvd.**
Discontinue **Line 305**. **Line 550** will terminate at the Artesia Transit Center and be renumbered **Line 350**. Select **Line 30** trips will be extended west from Pico/Rimpau terminal on San Vicente to West Hollywood.
- **Line 42 Downtown LA - LAX City Bus Ctr via ML King - La Tijera**
Reroute to EXPO Western Station and discontinue service east of Western Av. to downtown LA.
- **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 Av to Pacific and Santa Fe Aves via route of **Line 102**.
- **Line 217 Vermont/Sunset – Washington/Fairfax Transit Hub via Hollywood Bl & Fairfax Av**
- **Line 439 Downtown LA - Culver City Transit Center via I-10 Fwy**
Cancel **Line 439**; extend select **Line 217** trips over **Line 439** route south of Fairfax/Washington Transit Hub, serving the EXPO La Cienega Station.
- **Line 740 South Bay Galleria - Downtown LA via Hawthorne Blvd., Crenshaw Blvd. & M.L. King Blvd.**
Reroute to EXPO Crenshaw Station and discontinue service east of Crenshaw Bl. to downtown LA.
- **Line 534 Malibu - Washington/Fairfax Transit Hub via PCH & I-10 Fwy**
Modify route to serve the EXPO Robertson/Venice Station.

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. Approximately 100,000 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

Over fifty individuals attended the February 9, 2011 public hearing held in Beverly Hills. Twenty-two of those individuals provided verbal testimony and dozens more provided written testimonies via letters, facsimiles and emails by February 17, the close of the public record. In total, over 250 comments specific to the Westside/Central area were received.

The breakdown of the comments is as follows:

Line No.	Number of Comments			Total
	Support	Oppose	Modify	
2/704	1	18	9	28
26	1	1	8	10
30-305-550-730	2	63	15	80
42	2	5	3	10
102-200	2	3	3	8
209	3	18	4	25
217	3	11	0	14
217-439	2	14	10	26
534	0	1	1	2
740	2	9	1	12
757	0	31	5	36
TOTALS	18	174	59	251

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

REVISED METRO WESTSIDE/CENTRAL SERVICE PROGRAM

June 26, 2011 or Later Proposals

Staff proposes that the Line 2/704 and 209 proposals be removed from the original service change program. Line 757 service is proposed to be replaced by a new peak hour limited stop Line 307 service. All trips local and limited will be provided with articulated buses. All other proposed changes are to be implemented with Council approval.

Expo Bus Rail Interface Proposals

Staff proposes that Line 550 continue to operate from San Pedro to Expo Park, and that the service will be monitored for possible future adjustments once Expo Rail opens. 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.

Expo Bus Rail Interface changes, with Board approval, will be included in marketing materials prepared prior to the line opening.

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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