



# 43

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

# 43

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

213.922.6000

**SUBJECT: FY 2004 SERVICE CHANGES FOR METRO WESTSIDE/  
CENTRAL LINES 58 AND 218**

**ACTION: ADOPT SERVICE CHANGES**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. Receive results of public hearing held on September 11, 2003 concerning service modifications proposed for FY 2004 (Attachment A);
- B. Adopt service adjustments to become effective October 26, 2003 or later (Attachment B).

**ISSUE**

The MTA holds a public hearing when changes to bus service impacting 25 percent of the transit service route miles or the transit revenue vehicle miles are considered, in conformance with federal public hearing requirements in Title 49, United States Code (USC) and public hearing guidelines adopted by the Board in August 2003 through the MTA Administrative Code.

Proposed changes to Westside/Central Lines 58 and 218 would modify weekend service and weekday service operated between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm. If adopted, these changes would be implemented October 26, 2003 or later.

Under the MTA Service Sector structure, Governance Councils are responsible for conducting public hearings for lines operating within their sector boundaries. Since the Westside/Central Governance Council is not in place, Board action is required to adopt these service changes.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The purpose of the public hearing was to receive public testimony on major service changes proposed for Lines 58 and 218, operating in the Metro Westside/Central service area. In accordance with the MTA Transit Service Policy recommended for Board adoption this month, staff is proposing to modify poorly performing bus lines and focus agency resources where they will provide the greatest mobility.

## **OPTIONS**

The Board of Directors may choose to either: 1) modify and adopt any subset of the proposals; or 2) take no action. These options are not recommended as they could result in high operating costs and failure to achieve optimal savings anticipated in the FY 2004 budget. Staff's recommendations consider and acknowledge input received from the public.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The recommended service changes to Lines 58 and 218 would result in a net reduction of 6,000 revenue service hours, resulting in a net savings of \$268,000 this fiscal year (Attachment C). The savings from the service reductions has been assumed in the FY04 budget.

Staff will continue to review additional operating efficiencies and service modifications to ensure FY 2004 budget targets are met.

## **BACKGROUND**

The MTA is proposing to implement modifications primarily to contract lines and several MTA directly operated services. These service changes are necessary to improve the efficiency of bus operations and to operate within the FY 2004 budget.

The lines under consideration have very low ridership, require high public subsidy to maintain and are among the worst performing lines in the system. The proposed service adjustments to these lines would reduce or eliminate service during the most unproductive time periods or days of the week and will result in a more prudent use of limited taxpayer subsidy for the system.

These changes were included in the September 2003 Notice of Public Hearing published in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, August 3. Legal notice was also provided in numerous local area newspapers throughout the service area, including foreign language publications. Specific publication dates are on file with the Board Secretary's Office. Approximately 300,000 public hearing brochures were distributed on board buses and trains throughout the MTA system in advance of the public hearing.

Public hearings were conducted earlier this month in each of the five Sectors. The governing boards of the Gateway Cities, San Gabriel Valley, South Bay and San Fernando Valley sectors presided over the public hearing in their respective area. However, the Westside Sector Public Hearing was presided over by an MTA General Manager appointed as the hearing officer. The public hearing for Westside/Central was held at the MTA Headquarters Building in the Gateway Plaza Conference Room on September 11, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. The comment period was extended to September 19, 2003 to receive additional feedback.

### **Results of the September 11, 2003 Public Hearing**

Approximately 30 individuals attended the Metro Westside/Central public hearing held at the MTA Headquarters Building. Fourteen respondents provided verbal testimony on various

service change proposals. A total of 12 individuals provided 23 comments on Line 58 via oral and written testimony, email and telephone calls systemwide. Six individuals provided public comment on Line 218 at the public hearing held on September 3 at the Metro San Fernando Valley Governance Council meeting. A total of 32 individuals provided 63 comments on Line 218 via oral, written testimony, email and telephone call calls systemwide. The majority of comments were opposed to the service change proposals on Lines 58 and 218 (Attachment B).

### Summary of Public Comment

The following summary reflects the public comments received through Thursday, September 18, 2003. The public comment period for service changes in all sectors was extended to September 19, 2003. If staff receives additional comments on September 19 that impact the public comment summary, they will be reflected in a revised report.

The majority of the comments focused on Line 218 (Cedars Sinai Medical Center - Laurel Canyon Boulevard) and the staff proposal to cancel weekend service and weekday service between the hours of 9:00 and 3:00pm. Weekday peak hour service will continue to be provided. The majority of the concern was for the lack of viable alternate service linking the San Fernando Valley with the Hollywood, Park La Brea/Fairfax areas. Without this service, patrons would be required to transfer three or four times in order to access destinations such as Farmer's Market and Cedars Sinai Medical Center. In addition, there is no alternate service available along the Laurel Canyon Boulevard segment of the line. Suggestions were received to reduce service levels or raise the fares on this line rather than cancel weekend and midday weekday service.

The remaining comments pertained to the Line 58 (Alameda Street - Los Angeles Street). Service is proposed to be canceled on weekends, weekdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm, early mornings and evenings. Weekday peak hour service will continue to be provided. There is no alternate service provided along Los Angeles St. between 1<sup>st</sup> St. and Washington Blvd. However, respondents could use a combination of other MTA buses to complete their trips. It should be noted that travel time could be increased due to the need to travel on multiple bus lines.

### Summary of Revisions to Service Change Proposals

In consideration of the lack of alternative service between the San Fernando Valley and the Hollywood area, staff is withdrawing its proposal to reduce weekday service on Line 218. In addition, Line 218 weekend service will be retained but operated less frequently. Trips currently provided every 30 minutes will be scheduled every 45 minutes. Also, lightly patronized night trips will be removed from weekend and weekday schedules to improve efficiency.

### Impact on Ridership

The recommended FY 2004 service change proposal to retain Line 218 weekday service will impact some patrons by the cancellation of late night trips seven days a week. Approximately 693 patrons on Saturday and 686 patrons on Sunday accessing weekend service will be impacted

by widening weekend headways from 30 to 45 minutes. The waiting time for these patrons will be increased by an average of about seven minutes.

The recommendation to cancel Line 58 (Alameda – Los Angeles St.) weekend service would impact approximately 232 patrons on Saturday and 129 patrons on Sunday. These patrons would be required to utilize alternate service and in some cases ride two or more buses to complete their trips. Most patrons would be impacted by longer travel times and in some cases a transfer fee.

Approximately 100 patrons utilize Line 58 services on weekdays from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Like Saturday and Sunday patrons, they also will be required to utilize alternate service and possibly two or more buses to complete their trips.

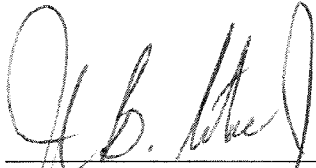
### **NEXT STEPS**

Staff is proposing to implement the recommended service modifications described in the report by October 26, 2003 or later.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Notice of Public Hearing
- B. Summary of Comments/Staff Response for September 11, 2003 Public Hearing
- C. Estimated Revenue Hours Savings
- D. Maps of Lines 58 and 218

Prepared by: James McElroy, General Manager – Metro Westside / Central  
Michael Brewer, Service Development Manager – Metro San Fernando Valley



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John B. Catoe, Jr.  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



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Roger Snoble  
Chief Executive Officer



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority**  
**Gateway Cities Service Sector**

The MTA's Service Sector Governing Councils will hold a series of public hearings in September 2003. The purpose of the upcoming public hearings is to receive public comment on proposed changes to MTA bus service operating in those areas. The public hearings will be held at the locations and times shown at the end of this notice. Approved changes will become effective on October 26, 2003 or later.

These 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.

The affected bus lines and service proposals under consideration are listed below. Also shown is the service sector(s) the line operates in. Adjustments to these services are recommended to be implemented because they carry few passengers and require a high public subsidy to operate.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO MTA CONTRACT SERVICE**

LINE	LINE NAME	SECTOR	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE
58	Alameda St-Los Angeles St	WS / GW	Cancel all weekend service; cancel mid day, early evening, and early morning trips on weekdays. Weekday peak hour service is not affected.
96	Los Angeles-Burbank-Sherman Oaks	SFV	Operate hourly service on weekends, and during the midday on weekdays.
125	Rosecrans Ave	SB / GW	Operate hourly service on weekend and during the midday on weekdays. Service from Norwalk Station to La Mirada canceled and assumed by Norwalk Transit Line 5.
128	Alondra Bl	SB / GW	Cancel midday service on weekdays.
130	Artesia Bl	SB / GW	End route at Cerritos Mall. Discontinue service east of Cerritos to Fullerton.
167	Plummer St-Coldwater Cyn Ave	SFV	Cancel Saturday and Sunday service.

**ATTACHMENT A**

LINE	LINE NAME	SECTOR	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE (Contract Lines Continued)
177	LaCanada-Pasadena-Monrovia-Duarte	SGV	Cancel service between Old Town Pasadena and Jet Propulsion Laboratory; replaced by Glendale Bee Line.
218	Cedars Sinai Medical Ctr- Laurel Cyn	SFV / WS	Cancel Saturday and Sunday service, and midday service on weekdays.
225	LAX-Palos Verdes Peninsula-San Pedro	SB	Cancel weekday and Saturday service
226	Palos Verdes -Palos Verdes Drive West	SB	Cancel weekday and Saturday service
254	Willowbrook-Huntington Park-City Terrace	SB / GW / SGV	Cancel Saturday and Sunday service
256	Eastern Ave-Avenue 64-Hill Ave	SB / SGV	Operate hourly service during midday on weekdays
270	Monrovia-El Monte-Norwalk	SGV / GW	Cancel Sunday service
608	Crenshaw Connection	SB	Cancel weekday and Saturday service
625	Aviation Station Shuttle-City Bus Center	SB	Cancel weekday service
626	Mariposa -Nash Station Shuttle	SB	Cancel weekday service
646	City Nightline	SB	Cancel weekday, Saturday and Sunday service

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO OTHER MTA LINES**

LINE	LINE NAME	SECTOR	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE
250	Boyle-State	SGV	Cancel weekday, Saturday and Sunday service
253	Euclid-Evergreen	SGV	Cancel weekday, Saturday and Sunday service
471	Puente Hills-Whittwood-Brea Malls	SGV	Cancel weekday, Saturday and Sunday service
620	Boyle Heights Shuttle	SGV	Add early morning service on weekdays beginning at 6 am
751	Soto Rapid Bus	SGV	Establish new rapid bus line along Soto Street Corridor

**ATTACHMENT A**

Additional details about these proposals will be available for public inspection after August 18, 2003. To obtain this information contact the address listed below, or visit your nearest MTA customer relations center. Information can also be accessed at: [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net).

These proposals may be approved in whole or in part at a date following the public hearing. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the upcoming hearing and provide testimony on these matters. Persons unable to attend the hearing may submit written testimony through September 11, 2003. All written testimony should be transmitted to the Gateway Cities Sector for inclusion in the public record.

**Correspondence should be addressed to:**

LACMTA  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932  
Attn: Gateway Cities Service Sector  
September 2003  
Public Hearing For Contract Lines and Other Service Changes

**Comments can also be sent via:**

- o e-mail to: [customerrelations@mta.net](mailto:customerrelations@mta.net)
- o Facsimile at: 213-922-9594.

**LOCATION AND DATE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BY SERVICE SECTOR**

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SECTOR (SGV)**

San Gabriel Valley Sector Office (Next to El Monte Station)  
3369 Santa Anita Ave  
El Monte, CA 91731  
**Tuesday, September 2, 2003**  
**6:00 pm**

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SECTOR (SFV)**

Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd  
Van Nuys, CA 91401  
**Wednesday, September 3, 2003**  
**6:30 pm**

**SOUTH BAY SECTOR (SB)**

Carson Community Center  
801 East Carson Street  
Carson, CA 90745

**WESTSIDE CENTRAL SECTOR (WS)**

MTA Headquarters Building  
One Gateway Plaza  
Gateway Plaza Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**GATEWAY CITIES SECTOR (GW)**

Progress Park  
15500 Downey Ave.  
Paramount, CA 90809



**ATTACHMENT A**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2003  
6:00 pm**

**Los Angeles CA 90012  
Thursday, September 11, 2003  
6:00 pm**

**Thursday, September 11, 2003  
6 :00 pm**



# ATTACHMENT B

Summary of Comments/Staff Response for September 11, 2003 Public Hearing – Metro Westside Central

## OVERVIEW

On Thursday, September 11, 2003 staff conducted a public hearing to receive public testimony on major service changes to several contract lines and other MTA services. The public hearing was held in the MTA Board Room and was conducted by David Armijo, the appointed hearing officer for the event. Metro Westside/Central has jurisdiction over Line 58 and 218 but comments were received on other lines contained in the hearing notice.

Approximately 30 individuals attended the public hearing for Metro Westside/Central. Fourteen individuals provided public comment at the meeting pertaining to Lines 58 and 218, as well as other lines contained in the hearing notice. A total of 12 individuals provided 23 comments on Line 58 via oral and written testimony, telephone calls and email messages systemwide.

Six individuals provided public testimony on Line 218 at the September 3 public hearing held at the Metro San Fernando Valley Governance Council. A total of 32 individuals provided 63 comments on Line 218 via oral and written testimony, telephone calls and email messages systemwide. A brief summary of the comments received and the staff response is provided below.

LINE #	LINE NAME	MTA PROPOSAL	NUMBER OF COMMENTS	SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ISSUES	STAFF RESPONSE
58	Alameda Street – Los Angeles Street	Cancel weekend service; Cancel midday, early morning and evening trips on weekdays. Weekday peak hour service not affected.	Support: 1 (Sunday only) Conditional Support: 1 (Reduce service) Oppose: 8 (midday) Oppose 9 (weekend) Other 4 (keep Alameda St. segment, restructure with Dash)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposes proposal.</li> <li>• Need service all days to ensure access to Garment District, Greyhound Bus Station and other nearby areas.</li> <li>• Provides connections with other bus and rail lines in LACBD.</li> <li>• Maintain service and operate every 45 minutes during off peak and weekends.</li> <li>• Advertise service; schedules not available.</li> </ul>	<p>Staff recommends canceling weekend service, early morning and late evening trips on weekdays as originally proposed due to low demand.</p> <p>Based on concern for travel between Metro Red Line and Garment District, staff recommends adopting revisions to hearing notice proposal by maintaining midday weekday service and modifying the route to consolidate service along Alameda Street.</p> <p><u>Impact on Ridership (March 2003 data)</u> Approximately, 232 Saturday, 129 Sunday and 100 weekday patrons riders will be affected by the proposed change. Patrons would be required to utilize alternate service and may have to access two or three buses.</p>



## ATTACHMENT B

Summary of Comments/Staff Response for September 11, 2003 Public Hearing – Metro Westside Central

LINE #	LINE NAME	MTA PROPOSAL	NUMBER OF COMMENTS	SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ISSUES	STAFF RESPONSE
218	Cedars Sinai Medical Center – Laurel Canyon Boulevard	Cancel midday weekday, Saturday and Sunday service.	Support: 1 (Sunday only) Conditional Support: 2 (reduce service) Oppose: 26 (midday) Oppose: 29 (Saturday, Sunday) Modify: 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposes proposal.</li> <li>• No replacement service along Laurel Canyon Blvd.</li> <li>• Alternate service between SFV to Hollywood/Fairfax areas requires transfer to Metro Red Line and two buses or three buses</li> <li>• Reduce service frequency instead of canceling.</li> <li>• Increase fares to improve subsidy.</li> <li>• Need service for work, shopping, recreation and access to Cedars Sinai Medical Center.</li> <li>• Market service</li> <li>• Add more canyon stops</li> <li>• Consider Dash replacement, if canceled</li> </ul>	<p>Based on passenger comments, staff recommends adopting revisions to hearing notice to 1) maintain midday weekday service; 2) maintain weekend service but reduce service to operate every 45 minutes; and 3) cancel late night trips on weekdays and weekends.</p> <p>In conjunction with the proposed service changes, staff will evaluate the impacts of increasing the current \$.50 fare to improve productivity of the line. The January 2004 fare change does not impact this line.</p> <p><u>Impact on Ridership (March 2003 data)</u>            Some patrons impacted by cancellation of late night trips seven days a week. Weekend service frequency will be reduced from every 30 minutes to 45 minutes for 693 patrons on Saturday and 686 patrons on Sunday.</p> <p>The Consent Decree does not prohibit the MTA from managing the bus system to ensure efficient and effective operations. Resources removed from unproductive route segments, low performing lines and duplicated routes can be taken to minimize impacts to riders affected by the staff proposals. Staff proposes to schedule meetings with the BRU to help mitigate concerns expressed about the service change program.</p>
Consent Decree				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus Riders Union preliminary evaluation of MTA's service change program for contract and other MTA services suggests these changes will pose hardships on the transit dependent population countrywide and contradict the mandates of the Consent Decree</li> </ul>	

### IMPACT STATEMENT

The following section summarizes the potential rider impacts that are estimated to result from this change. The impacts have been grouped into four category's: (1) social, (2) economic, (3) environmental and (4) energy. A general assessment of the impact was provided for each category.



## ATTACHMENT B

Summary of Comments/Staff Response for September 11, 2003 Public Hearing – Metro Westside Central

### Social

The staff proposal for Line 58 is estimated to impact about 361 weekend riders and 100 weekday, midday riders. Some patrons traveling from Chinatown to destinations south of First St may have to transfer to another line or walk to complete their trip. Travel options during these times include Dash B between Chinatown and First Street; Lines 40, 42, 340 between Union Station and First and Alameda Street; and Line 53 on Central, nearby Washington Station to Fifth Street.

Line 218 is proposed to have weekend service reduced from 30 minutes to 45 minutes. This will affect approximately 700 patrons on Saturday and 700 on Sunday. Average wait for these patrons will be about seven minutes. Some patrons traveling on early morning or late night trips may have no alternate service available, and may have to use other lines to complete their trip. These early morning and late night trips affect only a few riders.

### Economic

The service proposals for these lines will have minimal impact to riders since most of the weekday patrons will continue to have access to service during times of greatest demand. Impacted cash patrons on Lines 58 and 218 may have to transfer to complete their trip, slightly increasing their fares by \$.25 or \$.50. Patrons riding Line 218 already have a low fare of \$.50 compared to the \$1.35 base fare charged on MTA operated services. The \$.50 fare has been in place for approximately 5 years, when this shuttle line was initiated as part of a pilot program. The January 2004 fare change does not impact Line 218.

### Environmental

These changes will have no significant impact on the air and noise quality in the region. Most impacted riders will continue to have access to alternative bus service, albeit a short walk or wait may be required. A few existing riders accessing early morning or late night trips may opt to use their private automobiles in lieu of public transit.

### Energy

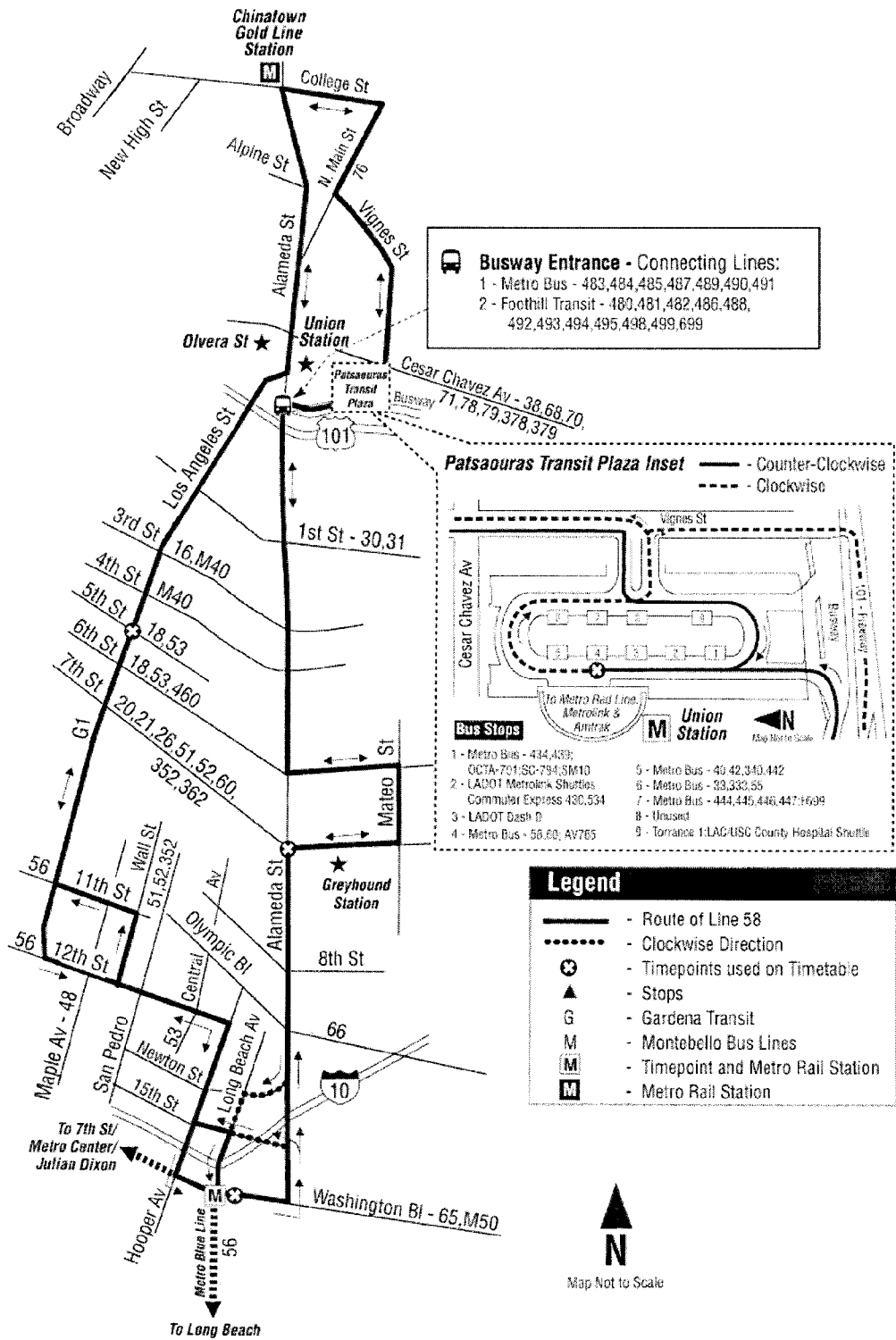
The staff proposals for these lines will have no negative impact on energy use in the region. The current levels of gasoline consumption, for example, are not expected to be impacted since most affected riders will continue to have access to other bus lines.

**ATTACHMENT C**

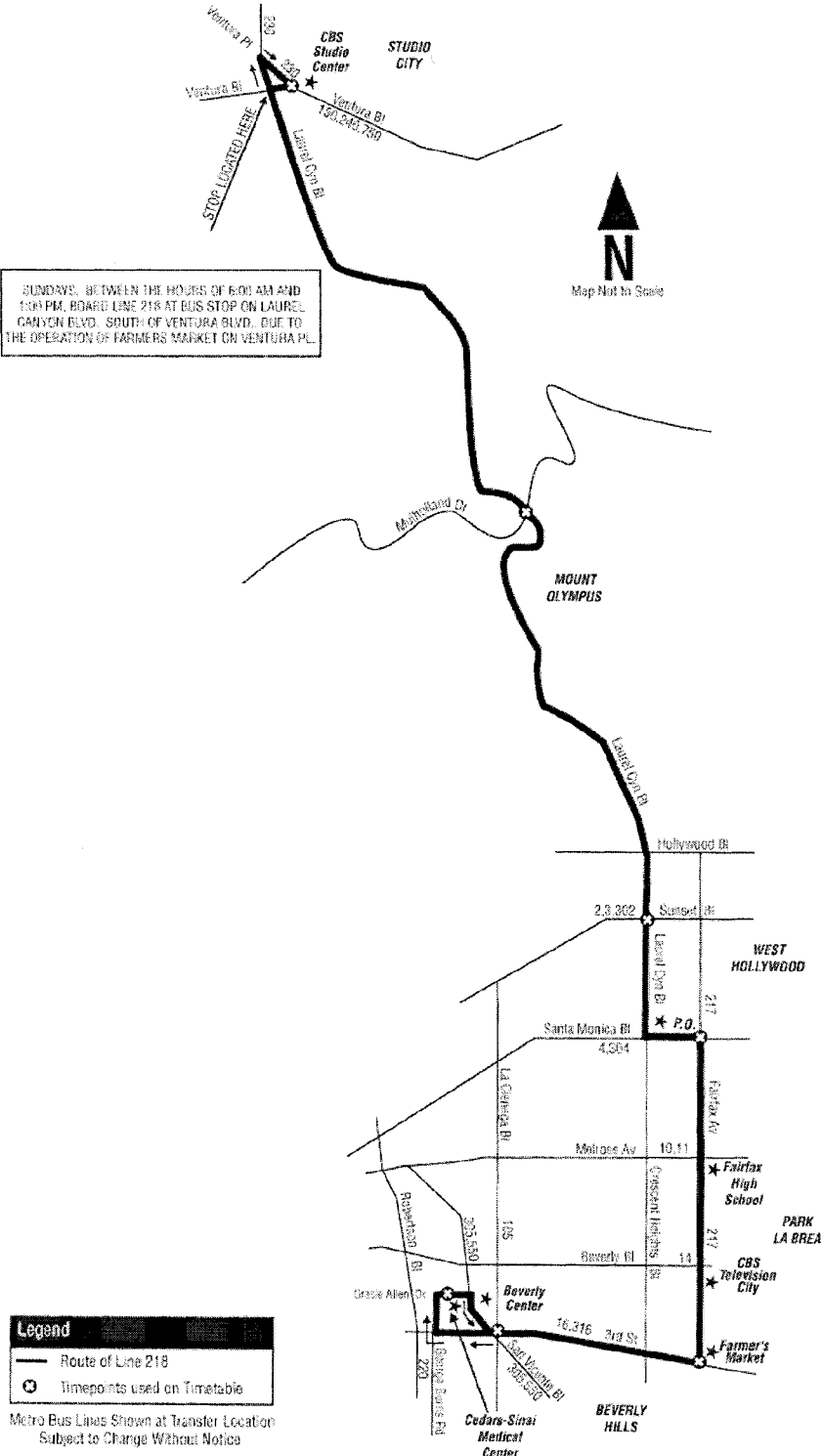
**ESTIMATED REVENUE HOURS SAVINGS  
METRO WESTSIDE/CENTRAL**

LINE	EST. REVENUE HOUR SAVINGS			EST. REV. HRS. IN FY 04	EST. COST SAVINGS IN FY 04	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES
	DAILY	SAT.	SUN. ANNUAL			
58	12	44	44	7,911	\$ 216,160	Cancel weekend service Cancel early morning/late evening trips on weekdays Consolidate route to operate on Alameda Street
218	2	12	12	1,830	\$ 51,753	Retain midday service levels Cancel late night trips seven days a week Reduce weekend service to operate every 45 minutes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>9,741</b>	<b>\$ 267,913</b>	

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
 Operated for LACMTA by MV Transportation  
**LINE 58**



LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
 Operated for LACMTA by Transportation Concepts, Inc.  
**LINE 218**



SUNDAYS, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 AM AND 1:00 PM, BOARD LINE 218 AT BUS STOP ON LAUREL CANYON BLVD. SOUTH OF VENTURA BLVD. DUE TO THE OPERATION OF FARMERS MARKET ON VENTURA PL.

**Legend**

- Route of Line 218
- Timepoints used on Timetable

Metro Bus Lines Shown at Transfer Location  
 Subject to Change Without Notice