

**METRO SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
JANUARY 6, 2004**

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 2004 SERVICE CHANGES
PROPOSED FOR LINES OPERATING IN THE SAN
GABRIEL VALLEY SECTOR**

**ACTION: SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR PROPOSED JUNE 2004
SERVICE CHANGES**

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Authorize staff to conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, February 3, 2004 to receive public comment on the following service change proposals (Attachment A):
- Line 376 (Valley Boulevard) New Limited Service
 - Line 350 (Soto Street Limited) Cancel Line, to be replaced by Soto St. Rapid Bus
 - Line 751 (Soto Street) New Rapid Bus Service
 - Line 484 (LA-El Monte-La Puente-Pomona) Cancel line segment east of Cal Poly
 - Line 490 (LA-El Monte-Baldwin Park-Covina-Walnut-Pomona-Brea Mall) Cancel line segment between Cal Poly and Brea Mall
 - New Shuttle Line 684 (Pomona-Brea Mall via Cal Poly Pomona) Establish new shuttle to replace discontinued segments of Lines 484 and 490.
- B. Approve for publication the Notice of Public Hearing (Attachment B)

ISSUE

In compliance with federal public hearing requirements and adopted MTA policy, the Governance Council is required to conduct public hearings whenever major changes in bus service are proposed to be implemented. As part of the process, the Council is required to solicit and consider public input on these matters prior to taking action on changes of this magnitude. The changes proposed for implementation in the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector meet these requirements. The public hearing is the initial step in meeting the overall requirement.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed changes are necessary to improve the efficiency of bus operations within the sector, and to ensure a balanced budget for next fiscal year. All of the changes contained in this program have been evaluated to ensure coordination with the principles outlined in the proposed Los Angeles County Mobility Enhancement Project (Hub and Spoke Improvement Plan).

In an effort to move forward with projects that will improve service quality and increase operating efficiencies, staff is proposing to initiate the service changes contained in the public hearing program as early as June 27, 2004. These changes will focus on improving transit travel speeds in selected corridors and restructuring service to improve operating efficiencies.

BACKGROUND

The Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector was established in July 2002. Since inception, service changes have been focused on Consent Decree compliance, establishing new limited services, restructuring service to provide direct access to the Pasadena Gold Line and improving service coordination with other transit operators. To further those efforts and to maximize the usability and effectiveness of transit resources, the bus system must be modified to provide quality transit access and to improve the overall efficiency of services operating within the San Gabriel Valley.

The proposed San Gabriel Valley Sector changes that are being proposed are in full compliance of the adopted Long Range Transit Plan and are consistent with the guiding principles outlined in the proposed Los Angeles County Mobility Enhancement Project (Hub and Spoke Improvement Plan).

Summary of Staff Proposals

The proposed service plan is comprised of several elements. They include: new limited service along Valley Boulevard, the cancellation of limited stop service along the Soto Street corridor, new Rapid Bus replacement service along Soto Street, restructuring two routes in the City of Pomona, and new shuttle service between Brea Mall in Orange County and the City of Pomona. A brief description of the individual proposals is contained in the following:

- Establish new limited stop service along Valley Boulevard between the Lincoln Heights area of Los Angeles and the City of Rosemead. Since the initiation of the SGV Sector in July 2002, five new limited stop lines have been established in the SGV Sector. The proposed Limited Line 376 would operate between El Monte Sta. and downtown LA over the route of Line 76 (Valley Bl.). If implemented, this new service would provide expedited transit service through the cities of Alhambra, El Monte, Rosemead, and San Gabriel.
- Establish new Rapid Bus Line 751 along Soto Street between Cypress Park and the City of Huntington Park. Cancel Limited Line 350 (Soto Street Limited). The Soto Street Rapid bus would be the eighth rapid bus implemented by MTA and the first to be operated by the SGV Sector.
- Discontinue Line 484 route segment between Cal Poly Pomona and the Pomona Transit Center.
- Discontinue Line 490 route segment between Cal Poly Pomona and the Brea Mall.
- Establish new shuttle Line 684 to serve discontinued route segments of Lines 484 and 490. The length of Lines 484 and 490 (38.0 & 43.0 miles respectively) makes them the longest lines in the MTA system. As the result of these very long routes the on-time performance of these lines, particularly on the eastern route segments, are very poor.

The proposals are shown in more detail as part of Attachment A.

NEXT STEPS

Following the public hearing, staff will return to the Governance Council with a report summarizing all public comments received, and recommended changes to the plan, if any, based on these comments. In the meantime, discussions will continue with stakeholders and other operators. An outreach plan will be developed and implemented to ensure adherence to guidelines established for implementing both major and minor service changes.

Attachment A: Maps of Service Proposals

Attachment B: Public Hearing Notice

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