



**METRO GATEWAY CITIES GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
MAY 13, 2004**

SUBJECT: LINE 254 SERVICE DETOUR

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

BACKGROUND

MTA Line 254 is a contracted bus line operated by First Transit. The line operates from the USC Medical Center in Boyle Heights to the Imperial-Wilmington Station. Service is provided Monday through Saturday about every 60 minutes for most trips. The route is very circuitous and serves a number of streets.

Earlier this year staff received a request from Supervisor Molina's Office to consider removing the route of Line 254 from Fir Ave in the Walnut Park area. This request was made on behalf of officials at Graham Elementary School and local residents who were concerned about traffic congestion along that neighborhood street and its potential impact on the safety of the children who attend the school.

In follow-up discussions with the school principal and other officials, it was reported that traffic congestion is an on-going problem since the school is open year round. Fir Ave is generally narrow and heavy traffic congestion occurs during the morning and afternoon arrival and dismissal times. Much of the congestion is due to parents double parking in the roadway when they cannot pull into the curb. Although efforts have been made by the school and police to correct this situation the problem continues to date.

Staff has investigated this matter and considered alternative routings for this line. Based on our analysis we propose to detour the service away from the school and surrounding streets effective May 23rd. At that time the route would be realigned to provide new service along portions of Nadeua St and Maie Ave, before rejoining the regular route at Firestone Blvd as it continues southbound to Wilmington-Imperial Station.

Service is proposed to be discontinued along Crocket St, 83rd St, Fir Ave and Firestone Blvd as a result of this change. About 75 weekday boardings are affected at five bus stops. Riders at these stops would continue to have access to Line 254 at either Nadeau St and Crocket St, or at Firestone Blvd at Maie Ave. While most would have a short walk of one-two blocks, about 35 boardings now occurring along Firestone Blvd may need to ride Line 115 and transfer to Line 254 at Maie Ave. Attachment A illustrates the current route and the proposed detour route to be implemented on May 23. The detour route is proposed to become permanent with the December Shakeup.

BUDGET IMPACT

There is no impact on the budget as a result of this change. The modification can be made within existing resources for this line.

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

Bus Riders

Notices have been prepared and distributed to riders of this line informing them of the proposed change in route. The notice provided riders instructions on how to comment on this proposed change should they wish to do so. It also contained information on how they can continue to ride Line 254, and a map showing the current and proposed routing. Attachment B is a sample of the rider notice that was issued to passengers of this line.

Others receiving written notice of this proposed service change include the cities served by the line and various organizations, agencies and elected officials having an interest in the matter. Attachment C is a sample of the written correspondence sent to these entities. Notification was sent to the following:

Elected Officials in Gateway Cities (sent to city councilmembers and city manager)

- Huntington Park
- Los Angeles City (also sent to LADOT)
- Lynwood
- Vernon
- Supervisor Gloria Molina
- Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke
- Supervisor Don Knabe
- MTA Director Bea Proo

Agencies/Organizations

- Gateway Cities Council of Governments
- San Gabriel Valley Sector
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Graham Elementary School

ATTACHMENTS

- A [Map Line 254](#)
- B [Rider Notice](#)
- C [Letter to Cities/Agencies/Officials](#)

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