

JUNE 10, 2005

SUBJECT: FY 2006 SERVICE CHANGES

ACTION: SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZE THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Schedule a public hearing for Wednesday, August 10, 2005 at 6 PM to receive public comment on Fiscal Year 2006 service changes; and
- B. Authorize the Publication of the Notice of Intent (Attachment A).

ISSUE

In a continued effort to provide new and improved services to our customers, staff proposes a preliminary list of major service changes that will require public review prior to implementation. Generally a major change impacts 25% or more of the route miles or revenue miles of an existing bus route. As a courtesy to our riders we attempt to allow public review on minor service changes as well to ensure the broadest opportunity for input to all Metro South Bay service changes. The service changes, if approved by the Council in September 2005, would go into effect December 18, 2005 or later.

Both the MTA and the Federal Transit Administration require Metro South Bay to follow specific guidelines prior to implementation of major service changes. The process includes a formal public hearing and we must provide advance notice of the hearing date and the subject matter. We propose to hold the public hearing on Wednesday, August 10 at 6 PM at a site to be determined in the South Bay.

OPTIONS

As options to the staff recommendations, the Governance Council may decide to schedule the public hearing for another date or not to hold a public hearing at all. This is not recommended because public review is an essential component of the service change process, and without a public hearing we would not retain the option of making major service changes in FY 06.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The MTA Board Secretary's Office will ensure publication of the hearing notice in newspapers and has the funds to do so. The Metro South Bay budget includes funds to prepare for and conduct the hearing.

BACKGROUND

The public hearing process allows the sector staff and Council members an opportunity to receive public comment on proposed service changes. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the public hearing, or to submit comments in writing before and/or during the hearing. After the public comment period closes in mid-August, staff will prepare a written summary of comments and recommend specific service changes for approval by the Council in September 2005. If the Council approves the proposed changes, we will then move forward with the final stages of the schedule making process leading up to implementation of the service changes on December 18, 2005 or later.

Summary of Proposed Service Changes

Line 110 (Gage Av. – Centinela Av. – Fox Hills Mall): evaluate weekday extension to Jefferson Bl. and E.A. Way at Playa Vista, consider extending weekend service as well.

Line 111 (Florence Av.): cancel route segment east of Norwalk Green Line Station to Whitwood Mall; consider operating as separate line or combining with another line (Gateway Cities Sector proposal).

Line 127 (Compton Bl. – Bellflower Bl.): consider reroute to Cerritos Mall, eliminating service on Bellflower Bl. to Downey (Gateway Cities Sector proposal).

Line 220 (Robertson Bl. – Culver Bl. – LAX): cancel all service (Westside/Central Sector proposal).

Line 439 (L.A. – LAX – Redondo Beach): cancel the route segment south of the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Transit Center to Redondo Beach; continue to operate service north of LAX to Union Station and downtown Los Angeles.

Line 442 (L.A. – Manchester Av. – Hawthorne Bl. Express): cancel all service and reallocate resources to areas with higher demand.

Line 444 (LA – W. Torrance – Rolling Hills – Rancho Palos Verdes Express): consider short-line operation between Rancho Palos Verdes and the Artesia Transit Center and implement limited stop service between Pacific Coast Highway and Artesia Transit Center.

Line 450X (Artesia Transit Center -- 7th/Metro Express): evaluate performance, make adjustments as necessary, and approve permanent operation if justified.

Line 710 (Crenshaw Rapid): consider implementation of new Saturday service.

Line 711 (Florence Av. Rapid): reaffirm extension to LAX Transit Center via Century Bl.

Line 754 (Vermont Rapid): with assignment of new high capacity articulated buses, reschedule the service to maintain the existing seating capacity, widening headways by approximately 30%.

Line 757 (Western Rapid): implement new Rapid service on Western Av. with articulated buses.

NEXT STEPS

With approval from the Governance Council, staff will collaborate with the other Metro service sectors to make final revisions to the draft hearing notice. Some items on the draft notice may need modification due to issues arising at other Sector Council meetings or due to the Consent Decree. The MTA Board Secretary will publish the hearing notice in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, July 10. The notice will also appear in newspapers throughout Los Angeles County, including foreign language newspapers. Notices will also be placed on all buses and trains.

Attachment A: Draft Notice of Public Hearing

Prepared by: Scott Greene
Transportation Planning Manager

Madeline Van Leuvan
Service Development Manager

Dana M. Coffey
General Manager

ATTACHMENT A

Draft NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
South Bay Sector

The Metro South Bay Service Sector will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 10, 2005 from 6 PM to 8 PM at the _____ . The purpose of the upcoming public hearing is to receive public comments on proposed changes to Metro bus services operating in the South Bay and other portions of Los Angeles County. Approved changes will be in effect December 18, 2005 or later. The hearing will be 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 Board of Directors in 1993, as amended.

The affected bus lines and service proposals under consideration are listed below. These service changes are proposed to improve service quality, to use resources wisely, and to consider new services.

LINE	LINE NAME	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE
110	Gage Av. – Centinela Av. – Fox Hills Mall	Evaluate weekday extension to Playa Vista, consider extending weekend service
111	Florence Av.	Restructure route east of Norwalk Green Line Station; consider operating as separate line or combining with another line.
127	Compton Bl. – Bellflower Bl.	Reroute to Cerritos Mall and cancel service on Bellflower Bl. to Downey.
220	Robertson Bl. – Culver Bl. – LAX	Cancel all service.
439	LA – LAX – Redondo Beach Express	Cancel all service south of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Transit Center.

LINE	LINE NAME	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE (continued)
442	LA – Manchester Ave. – Hawthorne Blvd. Express	Cancel service, alternate service available on Metro Rapid Line 740, Metro Green Line, Line 315, and the Harbor Transitway.
444	LA – W. Torrance – Rolling Hills – Rancho Palos Verdes Express	Consider additional short-line operation between Rancho Palos Verdes and the Artesia Transit Center; and implement limited stop service between Pacific Coast Highway and Artesia Transit Center.
450X	Artesia Transit Center – 7 th /Metro Express	Evaluate performance, make adjustments as necessary, and approve permanent operation if justified.
710	Crenshaw Rapid	Implement new Saturday service.
711	Florence Rapid	Reaffirm extension to LAX Transit Center via Century Bl.
754	Vermont Rapid	Assign 60' buses and reschedule service to reflect higher-capacity buses.
757	Western Rapid	Implement new Rapid service on Western Av. with 60' buses

Metro South Bay will have additional details about these proposals available for public review in July 2005. To obtain this information, please contact the address listed below or visit metro.net. These proposals may be approved in whole or in part at a date following the public hearing. We encourage members of the public to attend the August 10 public hearing and provide comment on these proposals. Persons unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments through August 10, 2005. Please send, email, or FAX all written comments to Metro South Bay for inclusion in the public record.

Correspondence sent by August 10, 2005 should be addressed to:

Metro South Bay
 Attn: Dec 2005 Service Changes
 680 Knox Street, Suite 150
 Torrance, CA 90502

FAX number (310) 225-6011

E-mail comments by August 10, 2005. Please title emails "Dec 2005 Service Changes" and send to:

customerrelations@metro.net

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

DATE:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2005
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

LOCATION:

To be Determined