



**GATEWAY CITIES GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
JULY 13, 2006**

SUBJECT: LINE 612

ACTION: CANCEL ROUTE TO SHERIFF DETENTION CENTER

RECOMMENDATION

Cancel detour route to Los Angeles County Regional Detention Center, and resume regular route via Imperial Highway.

ISSUE

Background

On March 25 of this year staff detoured the route of Line 612 to serve a newly reactivated detention center, located in the City of Lynwood. The detour was made at the request of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which requested that bus service be established along Alameda St to serve the newly opened facility. At that time, the westbound route of this line was modified to operate via Alameda St, and a bus stop was established near the entrance of the detention facility. Attachment A illustrates the route modification made to this line.

Shortly after the detour was implemented, drivers of the line reported three problems. Some claimed that released inmates attempting to board the bus were showing their prison wristbands and claiming they were entitled to ride free under an alleged fare agreement between the Sheriff's Department and MTA. Drivers also reported that the new bus stop was seldom used and that few trips stopped there. It was also reported the detour has increased the length of the line and made it harder to maintain the schedule.

Staff provided the Governance Council with updates on these matters at the regular council meetings in April and May. At that time, it was learned that MTA had no special fare agreement with the Sheriff Department, and that released inmates are required to pay the regular bus fare. Sheriff staff now communicates this information prior to releasing inmates so there is no confusion about fare payment.

Unlike the fare issue, complaints of low ridership and schedule problems were not fully addressed during the April/May period due to incomplete operating information. The Governance Council directed staff to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the ridership at the detention center bus stop, and to assess the impact of the detour on the lines' current running time. A report outlining the findings and recommendations was to be submitted to the Governance Council for consideration at its regular scheduled meeting in July.

Ridership Update

Passenger activity at the detention center bus stop has been closely monitored over the past 30 days. The data collected includes passenger boarding and alighting activity for all scheduled trips by time of day, and day of the week. Based upon this information it appears that very few riders use the new bus stop at the detention center. The current numbers show only 5 boardings and 7 alightings between the hours of 5 am and 11:30 pm. By comparison, the former stop served by this line on Imperial Highway at Alameda St averaged 9 boardings and 13 alightings per weekday. This indicates a loss of riders at that location in addition to inconveniencing others that now have to walk up to/from Imperial Hwy.

On-Time Performance

On-time performance was also monitored closely during this period to assess the impact of the detour on the current schedule. Although most trips did not appear to be adversely impacted by the reroute, some running time problems were noted for trips operated during the weekday rush hours. This problem can be corrected either by eliminating the detour and resuming the former route via Imperial Highway, or by adding more resources to the line to ensure schedule reliability. The latter option would require either another bus or a reduction in service frequency and neither is recommended.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval from the Council, staff will discontinue the detour and resume the lines' regular route effective Monday, July 31, 2006. Staff will prepare and distribute a rider notice advising patrons of the Council's action the week of July 24. The notice will identify the availability of nearby replacement service on Imperial Highway, including Line 612, which will resume service along that corridor.

ATTACHMENT

[A: Line 612 Map](#)

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