

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

SUBJECT: FY 2007 SERVICE CHANGES

ACTION: APPROVE FINDINGS OF AUGUST 11, 2006 PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT BUS SERVICE CHANGES FOR LINES 111, 120/121, 204, AND 214 FOR IMPLEMENTATION DECEMBER 17, 2006 OR LATER

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Approve the findings of the August 11, 2006 Public Hearing as shown in Attachment A;
- B. Adopt the following specific Metro South Bay bus service changes for implementation in Fiscal Year 2007 effective December 17, 2006 or later:
 - Line 111 (Florence Av. – LAX) cancel segment from Norwalk Green Line Station to Whittwood Mall and replace with an extension of Line 121 (also for Gateway Cities Sector Governance Council review and approval).
 - Line 115/315 (Manchester – Firestone) – defer proposal to cancel limited Line 315 pending further study of proposed Line 715 Metro Rapid service.
 - Line 120/121 (Imperial Highway) – extend Line 121 from Norwalk Green Line Station to Whittwood Mall to replace Line 111 on a demonstration basis; reschedule Line 120 separately from Line 121 and transfer scheduling responsibility for Line 121 to the Gateway Cities Sector (also for Gateway Cities Sector Governance Council review and approval).
 - Line 204 (Vermont Av.) – reschedule service for high-capacity articulated buses with wider headways estimated to result in service every 7 to 8 minutes in peak periods.
 - Line 214 (Broadway – Main Loop) – cancel service on Broadway, continuing service on Main St. and extending route to Western Av. and Imperial Hwy. via 120th St. to serve L.A. Southwest College and DPSS.

Attachment B includes estimated impacts to riders, revenue hours, and peak buses for the above recommended changes.

ISSUE

Metro South Bay proposes these service changes to operate more efficiently, to gain new riders, and to improve service reliability. Shortening the route of Line 111 (Florence Av.) will reduce the complexities of service delivery allowing for more cost-effective service and improved on-time performance. The introduction of the new 60 foot high-capacity articulated buses to Line 204 (Vermont Av.) will improve efficiency. The extension of Line 214 (Broadway – Main Loop) to L.A. Southwest College will attract new riders destined not only to the college but also to the new Department of Public and Social Services (DPSS) facility at 120th and Western.

OPTIONS

As options to the staff recommendation, the Governance Council may approve the bus service changes as originally proposed, or it may approve a subset of the staff recommendation. Staff also offers these options for consideration:

- Line 111 (Florence Av. – LAX) cancel eastern segment and replace with extension of Line 125 (Rosecrans Av.) or Line 127 (Compton Bl. – Bellflower) instead of Line 121. Neither line is recommended for an extension as long route length would become an issue for Line 125 and Line 127 does not run on weekends.
- Line 214 (Broadway – Main Loop) do not cancel Broadway segment as originally proposed. This is not recommended as Broadway is just 0.25 miles from Main St. and many riders will still be able to reach their destinations with a short walk of ten minutes or less. Also the resources used to deliver the Broadway service are needed to provide the extension to Southwest College and DPSS via 120th St.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff's recommendations are consistent with the agency's Fiscal Year 07 budget. The impact from the cancellation of Line 111 eastern segment and replacement with an extension of Line 121 will be cost-neutral (the estimated net change in revenue service hours and subsequently expenditures is approximately zero). Similarly, the extension of Line 214 is cost-neutral with the cancellation of Broadway service. Implementation of high-capacity articulated buses on Vermont Av. is consistent with the approved budget.

DISCUSSION

Metro South Bay received over 30 comments either at the public hearings or through written correspondence. Six people provided verbal input at the August 11 public hearing, many with multiple comments. The proposal for Line 111 (Florence Av.) elicited nine comments – mostly seeking more information about the substitute service. Line 115/315/715 (Manchester - Firestone) also drew nine comments including suggestions for improved Rapid stop placements and requests for Rapid service east of Atlantic Av. The Line 214 proposal had six comments – two in support, one opposed, and three suggested modifications. Line 204 (Vermont Av.) elicited four comments, two in support of articulated buses but with the qualification that we address existing overcrowding on this heavily-used line.

Line 111 (Florence Av.) – many comments indicated a need for Metro to retain service from Norwalk to Whittier for the approximately 700 average weekday riders boarding in this segment. After some discussion with the Gateway Cities Sector, the proposal to extend Line 121 from Norwalk Green Line Station appears to be the most customer-friendly approach to retain service between Norwalk and Whittier and still allow for a shorter route on Line 111.

Line 115/315 (Manchester-Firestone) – some riders provided input that a Manchester-Firestone Rapid would be a welcome addition to this busy corridor. One comment identified the need for a Rapid stop at the Harbor Transitway Manchester Station. Other comments received indicated that the Rapid service would be more useful if operated east of Atlantic Av. to Lakewood Bl. or the Norwalk Green Line Station. These issues will be discussed internally, and there will also be an opportunity to seek further public input prior to implementation of Line 715 in December 2007.

Line 204 (Vermont Av.) – nobody opposed the use of articulated buses although there was some concern about a reduction in service levels due to existing overcrowding. The routine approach to building a new schedule attempts to identify and address existing overloads -- typically extra trips will be added in specific time periods.

Line 214 – the public input on Line 214 included some creative ideas including an extension from Main St. to the Avalon Green Line Station and a southern extension to Harbor College via Main St. in Carson. Although the extensions will be considered for future implementation they are not recommended at this time. Another comment focused on the need to improve customer information at the stops such as where and when the bus runs

NEXT STEPS

With approval from the Governance Council, staff will implement changes on December 17, 2006 or later on Lines 111 (Florence Av.), Lines 120/121 (Imperial Hwy.), Line 204 (Vermont Av.), and Line 214 (Broadway – Main Loop). No changes are recommended at this time to Line 115/315 (Manchester-Firestone).

[Attachment A: Findings of August 11, 2006 Public Hearing](#)

Attachment B: Estimated Impacts from Recommended Changes

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