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**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 15, 2007**

**SUBJECT: CONSENT DECREE NEW SERVICE PLAN**

**ACTION: APPROVE PROPOSED EXCEPTION TO OPERATING  
REQUIREMENTS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the exception of Metro Rapid Bus Line 770- Garvey/Chavez from certain service parameters specified in the Consent Decree New Service Plan effective December 16, 2007.

**ISSUE**

The Consent Decree New Service Plan provides that upon recommendation of staff, the Board may approve an exception to specified service parameters for up to five Metro Rapid lines at any one time. On June 28, 2007, the Board approved four exceptions for Metro Rapid Bus Lines 703 (Lincoln), 704 (Santa Monica Blvd.), 705 (La Cienega/Vernon) and 714 (Beverly) from certain parameters in the Consent Decree New Service Plan. Staff is now requesting the Board approve a fifth exception for Metro Rapid Bus line 770.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended exception to the frequency and span of service parameters of the New Service Plan is consistent with the New Service Plan approved by the Special Master, and is required for cost effective and efficient operation of this bus route.

**OPTIONS**

The Board may choose not to exclude Metro Rapid line 770- Garvey/Chavez from the New Service Plan parameters. This action is not recommended as it would increase program costs beyond current budgeted levels, and yield less efficient service in the impacted corridor.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The proposed exception to the New Service Plan service parameters is within the current budget for this program. If the exception, as allowed under the Special Master's Order, is not approved by the Board, the financial impact on the current and future budgets will be an additional \$3.0 million annually.

## DISCUSSION

The 1996 Consent Decree included a requirement to implement a plan to provide additional bus service designed to improve access by the transit-dependent to countywide educational, employment and health centers. The New Service Plan approved by the Special Master in his November 30, 2005 New Service Plan Order (Order), is intended to fulfill that requirement. The Order required that for at least one year of actual operations on each current and proposed Metro Rapid Line, Metro establish and maintain specified service parameters, including service frequencies and span of service. For example, minimum service requirements include operation of service from 5:00am to 9:00pm on days when service is provided, and headways no wider than 10 minutes during peak periods and 20 minutes at all other times, or the headways outlined in the plan if they are more frequent. The Order also provided that upon recommendation of staff, the Board may approve an exception to the specified service parameters for up to five Metro Rapid lines at any one time.

Although the Consent Decree expired on October 29, 2006, the court retained jurisdiction over implementation of the New Service Plan until November 30, 2010. This is because the New Service Plan was to last five years, but it was not implemented until November 30, 2005. Since the New Service Plan was implemented, Metro has excepted up to five lines from the specified service parameters as allowed under the Order. For each line previously excepted from the service parameters, passenger demand was insufficient to justify more service.

Exceptions to the required service parameters which were approved in June 2007 include:

Line 703 – Lincoln (operated by Santa Monica)

Weekday peak period service every 15 minutes. No off-peak or weekend service. The exceptions are for less than 10 minute peak frequency and the lack of off-peak service.

Line 704 – Santa Monica Blvd.

Weekday peak period service every 7 minutes and off-peak service every 15 minutes. Saturday service every 12 minutes, and Sunday service every 15 minutes. The exceptions are for less than planned 4-5 minute weekday peak service, less than planned 10 minute weekday off-peak service, and less than planned 10 minute service on Saturdays and Sundays.

Line 705 – La Cienega/Vernon

Weekday peak period service every 13 minutes and off-peak service every 20 minutes. No weekend service. The exception is for less than 10 minute peak frequency.

Line 714 – Beverly

Weekday peak period service every 16 minutes. No off-peak or weekend service. The exceptions are for less than 10 minute peak frequency and the lack of off-peak service.

The requested exception for December 2007 is:

Line 770 – Garvey / Chavez

To be implemented with 12 minute peak and 15 minute off-peak service on weekdays. Service will operate until shortly after 7:00pm. The exceptions are for less than planned 8 minute peak service, less than planned 10 minute off-peak service, less than required span of service, and lack of planned Saturday operation.

Each of the above lines, operating under the exceptions to the New Service Plan service parameters, nevertheless maintains better than average load factor compliance (Line 770 is not yet in operation).

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The requested exception to the New Service Program requirements will become effective with the Service Change program on December 16, 2007.

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