



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
DECEMBER 10, 2007

**SUBJECT: APPROVE DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 2008
SERVICE CHANGES**

ACTION: APPROVE

RECOMMENDATION

Approve recommendation to hold a public hearing on February 11, 2008, 6:00 p.m. at the Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector offices, following the regular February Governance Council meeting. The purpose of the hearing is garner public comments regarding proposed significant service changes for June 2008 or later.

BACKGROUND

The Metro bus system implements major service changes twice each year, in December and June. The June service changes, which are normally implemented in late June, are the service changes that are initiated for fiscal year beginning July 1.

For fiscal year 2009, the Metro Bus system will be implementing five new Rapid Bus lines, and improving service on three more to bring them into compliance with Consent Decree minimums. Also, due to financial shortfalls, Metro will be reducing bus service by 315,000 annual bus hours, which is about 3.9% of the system's total 8.15 million annual bus hours. The plan is to cut 215,000 hours with the June 2008 service changes, and the remaining bus hour reductions targeted for December 2008.

In total, the five sectors will be proposing to implement five new Rapid Bus lines and improve service levels and/or add weekend service to three existing Rapid Bus lines to bring them into conformance with minimum Consent Decree service requirements.

System wide, a total of up to 20 low performing bus lines, and eight segments of routes are being proposed for canceled. In addition weekend service on five lines is also being recommended for cancellation.

In addition to the proposed creation, improvement and cancellation of bus summarized above, selected low ridership bus trips will be evaluated for elimination. Automated passenger counting equipment collects ridership data, on all Metro bus trips. This data will be used to identify and eliminate underutilized trips and to adjust service frequencies.

For Metro San Gabriel Valley, staff is proposing to implement a new Rapid Bus Line 762 (Pasadena – Maywood via Fair Oaks and Atlantic) and improve weekday service levels and add Saturday service to Rapid Bus Line 770 (El Monte – Downtown LA via Garvey & Chavez).

Metro San Gabriel Staff will also be proposing for public discussion the cancellation of five bus lines, the cancellation of weekend service on one line, and shortening the route of two bus lines.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

Metro is expected to undergo a significant budget shortfall in fiscal year 2009. Under Metro's 10-year forecast, the deficit is estimated to be approximately \$105 million. In order to address the shortfall and ensure a balanced budget, approximately 215,000 annual revenue service hours will need to be removed from the bus system in June of 2008. All Metro service sectors will need to identify and eliminate low performing bus service in their areas.

The reduction of 215,000 revenue hours of service should generate an annual marginal cost savings of about \$19 million. Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector will be reducing service by about 40,000 annual revenue hours, which is about 18.7% of the total system wide reductions. This service levels represent about 3.1% of Metro San Gabriel Valleys present 1.3 million hours of service operated.

The proposed service modifications will allow for the implementation of the new Rapid Bus service and still meet the requirements of a balanced budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed service modifications are consistent the Metro Transit Service Policies, the goals and objectives of the Metro Connections Program and meet the requirements of the Consent Decree.

For the San Gabriel Valley, staff is proposing major service changes to the following bus lines.

New or Improved Rapid Bus Lines

- **Line 762 (Pasadena – Maywood via Fair Oaks & Atlantic)** This new Metro Rapid Line will operate weekdays and Saturdays. The Consent Decree requires new Rapid Bus lines to operate at a prescribed minimum service levels. Thus Line 762 will provide 10 min. peak weekday period service and 20 min. off-peak and Saturday service. The spread of service is required to be from 5 am to 9 pm.

Due to the fact that contract for traffic signal control modifications must still be finalized with the 13 jurisdictions along the route of this line, little or no signal priority will be available by the time this Rapid Bus line must be implemented.

- **Line 361 (Pasadena – Artesia Blue Line Station Limited)** With the implementation of the new Rapid Line 762, this limited stop service is recommended to be cancelled.
- **Line 770 (El Monte – Downtown LA via Garvey Av & Chavez Av)** The Consent Decree mandates that this new service, to be implemented Dec. 16, 2007, must have improved service levels by July 1, 2008. The weekday minimum service levels are required to be 8 min. in the peak periods, and 10 min. in the off-peak periods. In addition, new Saturday service will be implemented. This service will operate every 15 minutes.

Cancel Low Performing Bus Lines

Cancel Entire Line -

- 175 (Silverlake – Hollywood via Fountain & Hyperion)
- 177 (Pasadena – JPL via Walnut & 210 Fwy.)
- 361 (Pasadena – Artesia Blue Line Sta. Limited)
- 256 (Altadena – Commerce via Hill & Eastern)
- 620 (Boyle Heights Shuttle)

Cancel Weekend Service -

- 201 (Glendale – Koreatown via Silverlake & Vermont)

Cancel Segment of Route -

- 201 (Glendale – Koreatown via Silverlake & Vermont) south of Beverly & Vermont
- 258 (Alhambra – Paramount via Fremont & Eastern) south of Garfield & Imperial

PUBLIC HEARING TIMELINE

Outlined below is the public hearing timeline and associated events leading to the successful implementation of approved service changes later this year. Key dates are highlighted for the reader.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
January 6 newspaper	Initial legal notice published in major metropolitan newspaper
Jan. 7-Jan. 25 stakeholders	Formal notification to cities, agencies, organizations & stakeholders
Jan. 29 placed on buses	Special Rider Alert & notices describing proposals placed on buses
Feb 11	San Gabriel Valley Council conducts public hearing
Feb 12- Mar. 4	Preparation of final staff report detailing findings and recommendations
Mar. 10	Council acts on staff recommendations
Mar. 30 modifications	MTA news release announcing approved service modifications
May 8	Governance Council receives staff update on June 2008 Service Program.
May 22	Metro Board acts on governance council approved Tier 1 changes
May 30	Cities, agencies, organizations and stakeholders receive final written notice of approved changes
June 16	Rider notices placed on all Metro buses/trains describing approved changes
June 29	Implement approved service program.

NEXT STEPS

Staff proposes to publish the public hearing notice in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, January 6, 2008. Publication of the legal notice will officially begin the public hearing process. Additional notification of the public hearing will follow later that month in other local and foreign language newspapers, and to specific stakeholders as described in the above timeline.

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