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**Home** 

Viewpoint

Classified Ads

**Archives** 

#### Metro.net (web)

- Resources ▶ Safety
- ▶ <u>Pressroom</u> (web)
- ▶ CEO Hotline
- ▶ Metro Projects
- ▶ Facts at a Glance (web)
- **▶** Archives
- ▶ Events Calendar
- Research Center/ Library
- ▶ Metro Cafe (pdf)
- ▶ Metro Classifieds
- ▶ Retirement Round-up

#### Metro Info

- Strategic Plan (pdf)
- Org Chart (pdf)
- ▶ Policies
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Help Desk
- ▶ Intranet Policy

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# Valley Governance Council Begins Review of Proposed Service Changes

Goal is to improve service and Metro Orange Line connections

## By RICK JAGER

(Jan. 19, 2005) Beginning a public process that will reshape Metro Bus service in the San Fernando Valley, the service sector's Governance Council has begun a detailed review of proposed bus service changes in connection with the opening of the Metro Orange Line.

"With the opening of the transitway, we are looking at the most extensive restructuring of Metro Bus service in the Valley in many years," said Governance Council Chairman Coby King. "I hope that many members of the public will attend our upcoming public hearing so that we can make the most informed decisions on how to improve bus service in the Valley."

The 14-mile Metro Orange Line will connect Warner Center and the North Hollywood Metro Red Line station. Existing Metro Bus service will be restructured to take full advantage of the transitway.

Twelve lines are proposed for route, schedule or stop modifications; three lines are proposed for cancellation with resources reallocated to implement three new lines. The affected lines 150, 154, 156, 161, 168, 183, 230, 234, 236, 240, 243, 245, 418, 426 and 761.

New weekday service is proposed for Study Line S-1 between Northridge and Westwood; Study Line S-643, the Pierce College Shuttle to the DeSoto and Winnetka Orange Line stations; and new Line 734 between the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station and Sherman Oaks.

#### Improve service to Orange Line

The purpose of the service modifications is to improve service and connections to the Metro Orange Line, reduce service duplication and improve service efficiency.

The proposals were presented at the Governance Council's Jan. 12 meeting.

"We wanted to give our council members a chance to look at a number of options and get their input as well as public testimony, " said General Manager Richard Hunt. "It will help the council make well-informed decisions and help us refine our recommendations for the public hearing."

A public hearing on the proposed service changes will be held Wednesday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marvin Braude Constituent Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. in Van Nuys. The Council's decision on a final package of service change proposals will come at their meeting on March 23.

"These choices are never easy," said King. "But in this tough budget environment, we have to make the right decisions to ensure the best service for the entire San Fernando Valley. The more options we have to do that, the better we can perform our job for citizens and stakeholders."

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