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Bus Service, Rail Service Changes on Committee Agendas

- Finance and Budget, Construction committee meetings cancelled

(Oct. 9, 2007) The Operations Committee will consider a proposed plan for bus service improvements and will hear a report on a plan to provide consistent 7 ½-minute headways on the Metro Gold Line.

**Item 24, Tier 1 Bus Service Changes.** With the intention of attracting new riders by providing faster, more efficient bus service, the staff is recommending to the Operations Committee a series of changes in Tier 1 bus service.

Slated to be implemented effective Dec. 16, 2007, the proposed changes include two new Metro Rapids on Olympic Boulevard between Downtown LA and Century City, and along Garvey and Cesar Chaves avenues between Downtown LA and El Monte. The plan calls for reducing, restructuring or canceling service due to low ridership or service duplication on eight routes, implementation of two local lines and minor restructuring or terminal changes on two other lines.

The proposed changes were presented at public hearings in August and have been approved by the affected Governance Councils.

**Item 27, Gold Line Service Improvements.** Metro Rail officials are planning to eliminate the weekday express service instituted on the Metro Gold Line in February 2006, according to a plan outlined in a report to the Operations Committee.

To offset the change, which would be implemented Dec. 16, 2007, the plan also calls for increasing peak-period headways on the rail line to 7 ½ minutes, and non-peak and weekend headways to 12 minutes.

The benefits of the express service were mixed, the report said. Express riders gained an average time savings of approximately two minutes, but some skipped stations had large transit and business-oriented developments that generated passengers who also wanted express service.

Replacing express service with local trains operating at 7 ½-minute headways will provide service eight times during peak hours for all 13 Gold Line stations, and a total of 28 additional station stops during a single peak period.

October Committee Meetings

**Wednesday, October 17**  
1 p.m. – Planning and Programming  
Cancelled – Finance and Budget  
3 p.m. – Ad Hoc Congestion Pricing Committee

**Thursday, October 18**  
9 a.m. – Executive Management and Audit  
Cancelled – Construction  
12 noon – Operations

**Wednesday, October 24**  
12:30 p.m. – Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee

**Thursday, October 25**  
9:30 a.m. – Full Board Meeting

Implementing a consistent 7 1/2 –minute weekday headway will provide better frequency for all stations, the report said, and will eliminate customer confusion about train service while reducing the impact on automobile traffic at grade crossings on the 13.7-mile line.

Operating at 12-minute headways in off-peak periods – as is the practice on Metro’s other rail lines – will improve connections from the Gold Line to the subway, reducing overall trip time, according to the report.

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