

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2004

SUBJECT: ROUTE MODIFICATIONS IN SAN PEDRO

ACTION: APPROVE ROUTE MODIFICATIONS FOR LINES 205, 447, AND 550 TO BE IMPLEMENTED OCTOBER 24, 2004

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following proposed route modifications for Line 205, Line 447, and Line 550 for implementation October 24, 2004 or later:

- Line 205 (San Pedro – Harbor City – Willowbrook) – new northbound route begins from new layover at 13th/Gaffey and operates one-way loop via westbound 13th St., Weymouth Ave., and eastbound 7th St. to Pacific Ave. and then regular northbound route; southbound route change removes the layover from 8th/Averill and establishes new southbound terminal at 13th/Gaffey.
- Line 447 (San Pedro – Wilmington – Carson – L.A. Express) – northbound from existing layover at 7th/Patton, operate one-way loop via west on 7th St., Weymouth Ave., and east on 13th St. to northbound Gaffey St., then regular route from 7th/Gaffey; no changes to southbound route.
- Line 550 (San Pedro – West Hollywood Express) – northbound from existing layover at 7th/Patton, operate one-way loop via west on 7th St., Weymouth Ave., and east on 13th St. to northbound Gaffey St. and regular route; no changes to southbound route.

ISSUE

These minor route modifications if approved will remove buses from Averill Avenue between 7th St. and 9th St. and implement one-way loop service on three bus lines. Residents have sought relief for the past five or six years from the imposition caused by buses either laying over or turning around via Averill Ave. The proposed route modifications, if approved, will remove 67 of 75 average weekday bus trips and all weekend bus trips from Averill Ave. Only eight bus trips, weekdays only on Lines 225/226 (Palos Verdes Peninsula), will continue to layover and operate on Averill Avenue with smaller vehicles.

OPTIONS

As options to the staff recommendation, the Sector Governance Council may take no action, or it may approve a phased approach to the route modifications by approving changes for one line only but not all three.

For example, the Council could approve Phase One route modifications to Line 205 (31 buses per weekday) and Line 447 (18 buses per weekday) as proposed but direct staff not to change Line 550 (25 buses per weekday). This compromise alternative would solve some of the Averill Ave. issues by removing the layover for Line 205 from Averill Avenue, while preserving the integrity of Line 550 to provide two-way service on 7th St between Weymouth Ave. and Gaffey St. In Phase Two of this option, the Council's action would direct staff to review service delivery in the Weymouth Corners area of San Pedro until June 2005 when Line 447 and Line 550 could be rerouted to terminate in the Central Business District (CBD) near 7th/Pacific. However, this is not recommended, as there is no guarantee that a suitable terminal could be found in the CBD by June 2005, a new shuttle with smaller vehicles would have to be implemented to provide service to Weymouth Corners, and a significant number of large transit buses would continue to use Averill Ave. in the interim.

In the long term, the concept of "right-sizing" the vehicle for the service holds promise for improving service in San Pedro. Smaller vehicles at most times of the day can accommodate the light passenger loads on the tail ends of these routes, the schedules could be regulated to provide improved frequencies of service, and the passenger cash fare could be reduced to 25 cents (if operated as a Community DASH). We will continue to explore this option for future implementation, perhaps tied to the opening of a sub regional transit center in San Pedro where a community shuttle could connect with the regional bus service.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are minimal financial impacts from the proposed route modifications as they can be accommodated within existing schedules.

BACKGROUND

The residents of Averill Avenue have been waiting for a solution to their issues that include noise and vibration from buses. Staff met a number of times in the past eight months with the residents. In June 2004, we successfully reduced the number of buses on Averill Ave. from 89 per weekday to 75, but this has not satisfied the residents who continue to endure impacts of large buses. We also met and/or discussed the issue with riders and other

interested parties, such as the San Pedro Peninsula Hospital administration, Councilwoman Janice Hahn's office, and Supervisor Don Knabe's office.

In general, the proposed route modifications will retain service to the schools, the hospital, and the Weymouth Corners retail district of San Pedro while minimizing impacts to existing riders. All streets would retain two-way service except a 0.25-mile segment of 13th St. between Pacific and Gaffey that would be served westbound only by Line 205. Other streets retain two-way service albeit provided by two different bus lines, i.e. 7th St. served by Line 205 eastbound and Lines 447/550 westbound, Weymouth Ave. served by Line 205 northbound and Lines 447/550 southbound, and 13th St. served by Lines 447/550 eastbound and Line 205 westbound. Gaffey St. between 7th and 19th Streets would continue to be served both directions by DASH San Pedro.

NEXT STEPS

With approval from the Sector Governance Council, staff will implement the recommended changes to Lines 205, 447, and 550 effective October 24, 2004 or later. We will print and distribute Service Change Notices to help explain the route modifications and one-way loop service to the riders. In the longer term, we will work with the City of Los Angeles and other Metro departments to identify a suitable location for a sub regional transit center in San Pedro.

Attachment A: Map of Proposed Changes
Attachment B: Estimated Impacts to Riders

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