



**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
APRIL 21, 2005**

SUBJECT: METRO RAPID IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

**ACTION: APPROVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULES FOR FAIRFAX AND
NORTH SEPULVEDA METRO RAPID CORRIDORS**

RECOMMENDATION

- A) Approve implementing Metro Rapid service on Fairfax Avenue in June 2005 by operating it as a separate line between Hollywood & Vine and West Los Angeles Transit Center (Line 717); and
- B) Approve rescheduling of the North Sepulveda Metro Rapid from June 2005 to June 2006 at the latest, with a goal of implementing the service as early as December 2005 if additional resources are identified.

ISSUE

The Metro Rapid Five-Year Implementation Plan includes the Hollywood-Fairfax-Pasadena Metro Rapid corridor for implementation in FY 2006 operating between West Los Angeles Transit Center (WLATC) and Pasadena City College. This implementation was rescheduled for an earlier opening date to December 2004. However, staff did not implement the Fairfax Avenue portion of the route at that time (WLATC to Hollywood & Vine) due to customer service and service sector concerns.

At its December 2004 meeting, the Board directed staff to (1) add the implementation of the Fairfax Metro Rapid service into the service changes for June 2005 and, (2) return to the Operations Committee, with a recommendation on how to implement Rapid Bus service south on Fairfax to WLATC as originally planned.

The North Sepulveda Metro Rapid corridor was scheduled for implementation in June 2005 as a peak-hour operation only. After conferring with the Service Sector, staff is recommending that its implementation be rescheduled until June 2006 at the latest in order to have sufficient resources to operate a full span of service. This service could operate as early as December 2005 if resources are identified.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Metro Rapid Program offers a new and high quality transit mode that provides faster travel opportunities for customers. The Metro Rapid Program is an integral part of the 2001 Long Range Transportation Plan and the 2003 Short Range Transportation Plan.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

North Sepulveda Metro Rapid

The alternative is to implement the North Sepulveda Metro Rapid in June 2005 as originally planned. This is not recommended since postponing implementation will result in significantly improved Metro Rapid service along this corridor.

Fairfax Metro Rapid

The alternative is to operate service on Fairfax Avenue by extending the current Hollywood/Pasadena Metro Rapid (Line 780) from Hollywood & Vine to WLATC as originally adopted in the Metro Rapid Five-Year Implementation Plan. This is not recommended at this time as staff intends to analyze the Fairfax Metro Rapid's (Line 717) performance after implementation to determine if this alternative should be implemented in December 2005.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Adoption of the recommended actions will not impact Metro's FY 2005 or FY 2006 budgets. Both the Fairfax and North Sepulveda Metro Rapid corridors were previously adopted by the Board, and the operating and capital costs associated with each corridor have been programmed and will not increase by approving the recommendations.

BACKGROUND

In September 2002, the Board adopted the Metro Rapid Five-Year Implementation Plan that identified 24 Metro Rapid expansion corridors for implementation through FY 2008 with a phased approach. In August 2003, the Board adopted the Short Range Transportation Plan (SRTP) that approved two additional Metro Rapid corridors for implementation: the North Sepulveda and Reseda Metro Rapids in the San Fernando Valley.

Fairfax Metro Rapid

The Metro Rapid Five-Year Implementation Plan included the Hollywood-Fairfax-Pasadena Metro Rapid for implementation in FY 2006, operating between WLATC and Pasadena City College. This implementation date was later rescheduled for an earlier opening date in December 2004. However, staff did not implement the Fairfax Avenue portion of the route at that time (WLATC to Hollywood & Vine) due to customer service and service sector concerns. These concerns included combining two existing lines into one long line, the

differences in service frequency between the two corridors, and the heavy congestion on Fairfax Avenue.

At the December 2004 Board meeting, staff was directed to return to the Operations Committee with a recommendation on how to implement Rapid Bus service south on Fairfax to WLATC as originally planned. Staff initiated an evaluation of the Fairfax and Hollywood/Pasadena corridors in January 2004. Bus travel times were measured along both corridors and evaluated in terms of on-time consistency. Passenger surveys were also conducted to determine the percent of patrons transferring between the Fairfax and Hollywood/Pasadena corridors. Staff will conduct additional analysis on the Fairfax Metro Rapid's performance through September of this year to determine if an extension of the existing Hollywood/Pasadena line should be implemented in December 2005.

North Sepulveda Metro Rapid

The North Sepulveda Metro Rapid is an element of the Board-adopted SRTP. This Metro Rapid corridor was a recommended transit improvement in the San Fernando Valley North-South Transit Corridor Study. It will operate on Sepulveda Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley between Ventura Boulevard and the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station. Originally planned for implementation in June 2005, the San Fernando Valley Sector staff requests rescheduling this corridor until June 2006 at the latest. This rescheduling will allow staff to implement the corridor with significantly improved service. It is possible that the North Sepulveda Metro Rapid will be implemented as early as December 2005 if additional resources are identified. For this reason, staff will make every effort to identify these resources with the intent to implement this service prior to June 2006.

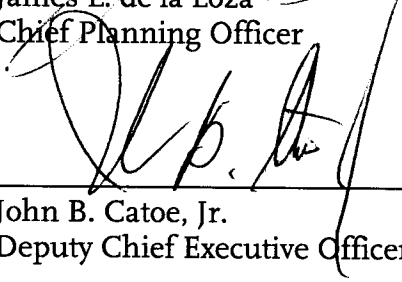
NEXT STEPS

Staff will implement new Metro Rapid corridors consistent with the Board-adopted implementation schedule. In addition, staff will report back to the Board on the findings of the Fairfax Metro Rapid analysis as well as the implementation schedule for North Sepulveda.

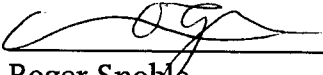
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