



GATEWAY CITIES GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
May 12, 2005

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED SERVICE MODIFICATIONS TO METRO
LINE 270**

**ACTION: APPROVE FINDINGS OF AUGUST 12, 2004 PUBLIC HEARING
FOR LINES 270 AND 275, AND ADOPT REVISED SERVICE PLAN**

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Approve results of public hearing conducted Thursday, August 12, 2004 concerning proposed service modifications to Metro Lines 270 and 275; and
- B. Adopt staff's Revised Service Plan as outlined below:
 - o Approve Revised Service Plan for Line 270;
 - o Withdraw Proposal to Modify Line 275

BACKGROUND

On August 12, 2004 the Gateway Cities Governance Council held a public hearing to receive testimony on major service modifications under consideration for five bus lines operating in the Gateway Service Sector. The lines proposed for modification included Local Lines 265, 270, 275 and Limited-stop Line 362. The remaining service, Express Line 576, was proposed for cancellation.

Following the public hearing staff prepared a detailed report summarizing the public comment received on each line. The report, which included all written and verbal testimony received on these matters, was presented to the Governance Council on September 9, 2004 for consideration along with a recommended service plan for each line. At that time the recommended service plans for Lines 265, 362 and 576 were approved by the Governance Council. These changes were subsequently implemented on December 19th of last year.

At staff's request, the Governance Council postponed a decision on Lines 270 and 275 until the Spring of 2005 to allow additional time to review these service proposals with Norwalk Transit, which expressed particular concern about the route change proposed for Line 270. The main issue involved potential duplication of service along a 2.8 mile segment of Imperial Highway, and its possible impact on Norwalk Transit Line 4. Staff from MTA and Norwalk have conducted a number of joint meetings since last Fall to discuss this matter. A compromise plan was eventually reached late last month that resolved the concerns raised by Norwalk Transit, and simultaneously addressed MTA's need to improve service on this line.

The revised service plan for this line, which is detailed in the following sections of this report, is recommended for approved by the Council this month in order to be implemented in June of this year. It is necessary to restructure this line if it is to remain a viable service. Line 270 is currently classified as an under-performer based on the Line Performance Index, a performance guide, contained in MTA's Board-adopted Transit Service Policies. A marginally passing grade under the Index requires that a bus line achieve an efficiency factor of .60 or higher. Lines failing to meet or exceed the minimum threshold are subject to cancellation if they cannot be improved by restructuring or other means. Line 270 is currently performing at the .53 level or 13% below the minimum acceptable standard. Corrective action must be taken to improve its effectiveness, which we are attempting to achieve via the proposed route modification.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Potential alternatives to the staff recommendation for Line 270 were identified for consideration by the Council, including:

- Maintain the status quo operation and not adopt the revised service plan for Line 270; or
- Adopt a variation of the proposed service plan

Neither alternative is recommended because both would result in maintaining an inefficient use of existing resources, and/or prevent needed improvements from being made to the bus system. The new routing is designed to stimulate ridership by improving regional transit connections to several major generators in the Gateway Cities area.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommended service plan for Line 270 simply reconfigures the current routing for this line, and can be implemented at no increase in the current operating cost.

SUMMARY OF AUGUST 12, 2004 PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

Line 270

Eight written and/or verbal comments were received from the community concerning the proposed service change to Line 270. Of this total four respondents supported the original staff routing outright. Three others, including the City of Whittier, suggested only minor revisions to ensure service to the Whittier Transit Center and other destinations within the city. One respondent requested later trips on weekends over the segment of Line 270 to be assumed by Norwalk Line 1.

Norwalk Transit expressed particular concern about the alleged duplication of this line with its Line 4 along a portion of Imperial Highway. They opposed this change due to duplication of its service along Imperial Highway. Their concern has subsequently been resolved under the Revised Service Plan for this line

Line 275

Six written and verbal responses were received from the public on this proposal. Most of these comments opposed the proposed routing along Broadway. They requested the existing route either be maintained, or modified to operate closer to downtown Whittier than staff originally proposed.

REVISED SERVICE PLAN BASED ON PUBLIC COMMENT

Based upon the community feedback received during the public review of these service proposals, staff proposes to modify the original service concept for both lines to reflect issues raised at the August public hearing. The Revised Service Plan is discussed below. Route maps for each line are illustrated in Attachment A.

Line 270

Staff recommends the Governance Council approve the revised proposal for this line, which was modified to reflect public comment. The revised routing incorporates suggested changes from the City of Whittier to operate on Penn St rather than Mar Vista Ave. It also acknowledges public support to serve the Presbyterian Hospital in Whittier, and addresses Norwalk Transit concerns about duplicate service along a 2.8 mile segment of Imperial Highway.

Major generators served by the new route include Presbyterian Hospital and Whittier College in the City of Whittier. The recommended routing would maintain service to the Whittier Transit Center and the I-605 Metro Green Line Station.

Line 275

Staff recommends the original proposal to reroute this line to serve the West Whittier area be withdrawn from further consideration. This action is necessary to: (1) address concerns expressed by the community to maintain service to downtown Whittier; and (2) the inability to safely operate other routing alternatives due to the narrowness of local streets in the area. The line is recommended to continue to operate its current route, maintaining service to downtown Whittier and the Whittier Transit Center as requested by the public.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Most riders of Line 270 (93% or 1988 riders) are not affected by the proposed modification to this line and will continue their travel patterns like they do today. A minority of riders, estimated to be about 7% or 150 boardings, may be impacted in some way by this change in route.

For example, riders traveling along the East Broadway segment (69) may need to ride Montebello Bus Line 10 (Whittier Blvd) or Line 50 (Washington Blvd) and transfer to Line 270 to continue their trip. A small number of riders currently boarding along East Broadway between Magnolia and Pickering St (11) can access Line 270 directly by walking about 500 feet north to

Beverly Blvd. Similarly, riders now traveling along Comstock St (76) can continue to access Line 270 by walking one to two blocks to Greenleaf Ave.

The new routing proposed for Line 270 will provide riders and residents served by the line with new travel opportunities they do not have today. Direct service will be provided to Whittier College, Whittier City Hall and the Presbyterian Hospital. New service will also be established on several local streets in the Cities of Whittier and Santa Fe Springs. Along with expanding access to new travel destinations, the route will continue to provide direct service to the Whittier Transit Center and the I-605 Metro Green Line Station in the City of Norwalk.

The new route also eliminates a troublesome “double-looping” movement the line currently operates in downtown Whittier. This circuitous route has resulted in excessive bus operations along Comstock Ave, slowed service for many riders due, in part, to the many turns required to operate it, and aggravated local residents residing along that street. The revised routing eliminates all of these problems by operating on wider streets in the area.

Attachment B is chart that identifies the type of impact some riders may incur from this service change. Also shown is a mitigation plan identifying travel options for affected riders. Attachment C shows the current service profiles for all carriers that operate in the affected area.

NEXT STEPS

With approval from the Sector Governance Council, staff will implement the recommended change to Line 270 effective June 26, 2005. Notice of this action will be distributed to local news outlets and placed on Metro buses as soon as possible.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Attachment A: Line Maps 270 and 275
- Attachment B: Line 270 Impact Statement
- Attachment C: Service Profile For Replacement Carriers

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ATTACHMENT A

MAPS FOR METRO LINES 270 AND 275

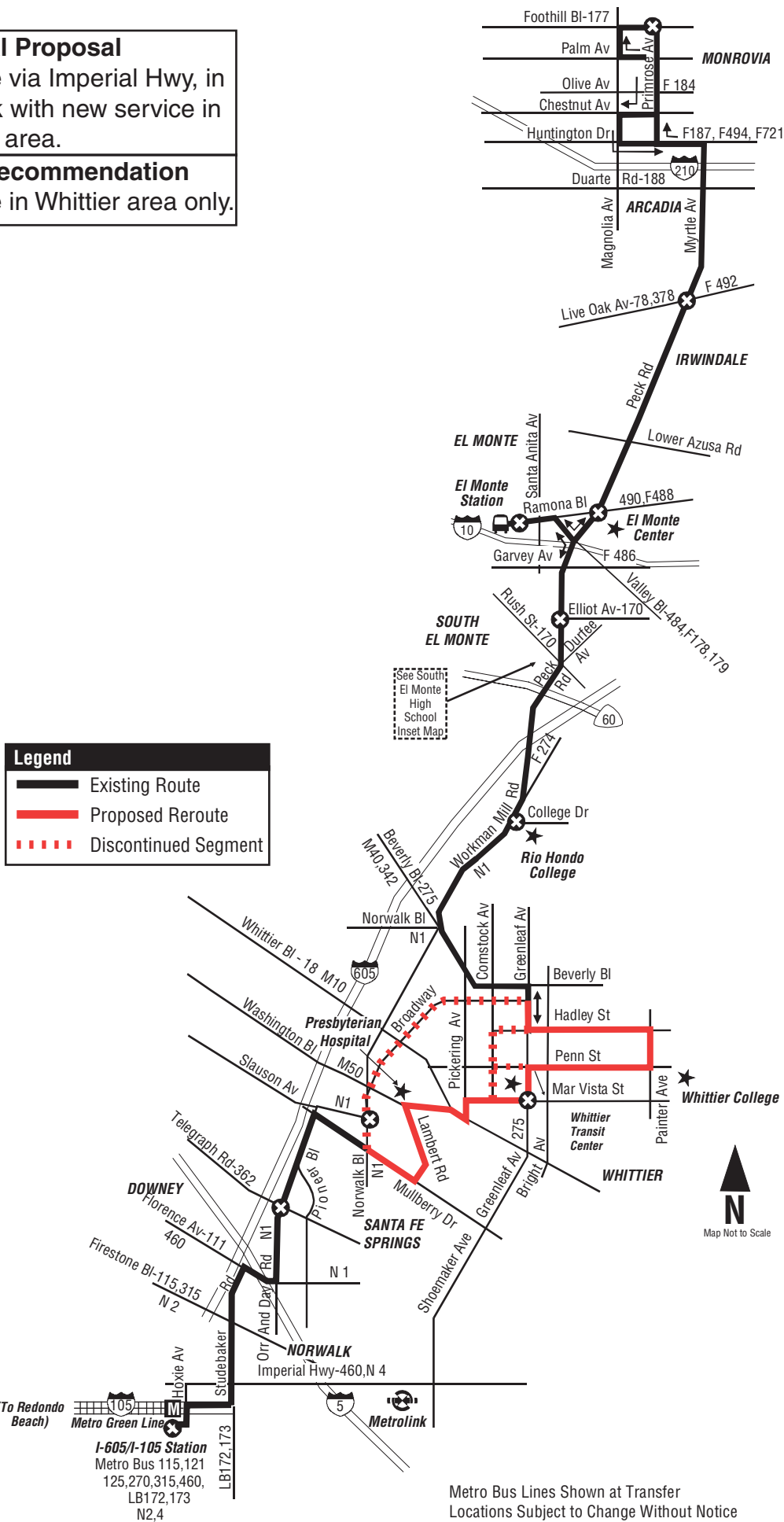
Line 270

Original Proposal

Reroute via Imperial Hwy, in Norwalk with new service in Whittier area.

Final Recommendation

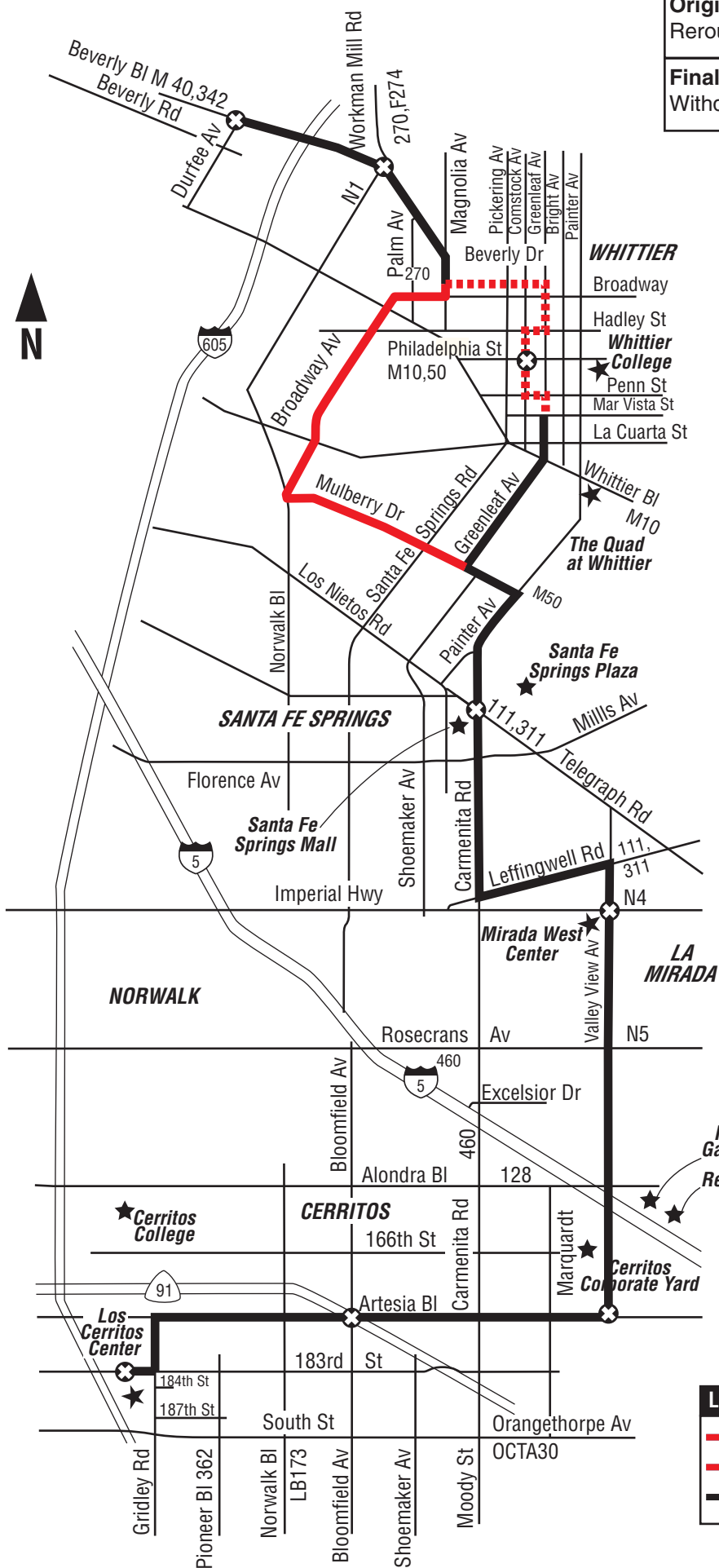
Reroute in Whittier area only.



Line 275

Original Proposal
Reroute via Broadway, Mulberry.

Final Recommendation
Withdraw from consideration.



Legend	
	- Proposed New Segment Line 275
	- Discontinued Segment Line 275
	- Current Route Line 275

ATTACHMENT B

LINE 270 IMPACT STATEMENT

CURRENT TRAVEL PATTERN			BUS STOP	DAILY RIDERS	ESTIMATED PASSENGER IMPACTS					MITIGATION	
Travel From:	Travel To:	Travel via MTA Line	Affected Stops	Total Boardings	Riders Affected	Required To Walk	Estimated Walk Distance	Required Transfer	Added Cost	Recommended Replacement Line (s)	Suggested Location For Connection
I-605 Station	Broadway Corridor	270	11	80	80	40	0--500'	69	None	MTA 270 to (see note)	Five corners area (see note below)
	Comstock Ave in Whittier	270	4	76	76	76	500-1000'	0	None	MTA 270	Greenleaf & Hadley or Greenleaf & Penn
Total:			15	156	156	116	0-1000'	69			

Note:

About 80 passenger boardings occur today along the Broadway segment of Line 270. The major stops along this street are located at Broadway and Whittier and Broadway at Washington. Collectively, these two stops account for half of the impacted boardings. The staff recommendation is to have these patrons ride Montebello Line 10 or Line 50 and transfer to MTA Line 270 at the five points intersection where these lines converge. This travel pattern could be used by another 29 patrons who currently board Line 270 at stops located near the stops at Washington and Whittier. The remaining 11 or so patrons who board on east Broadway can access Line 270 by walking to Beverly Blvd, located about one block from Broadway.

**Gateway Cities Service Sector
May 2005**

ATTACHMENT C

SERVICE PROFILE FOR ALTERNATIVE BUS LINES

OPERATOR	DAY	APPROXIMATE HEADWAY (MINUTES)	APPROXIMATE SPAN OF SERVICE	MAJOR STREETS SERVED	FARES		
					Cash	Pass	I-A Transfer
METRO							
270	Mon- Sat	Weekdays 40" peak/ 60"base/ 60" night; 60" weekend (Sat Only)	Weekdays 5:30 am to 9 pm; 6 am to 8 pm Saturday	Workman Mill Rd, Peck Rd, Beverly Blvd, Greenleaf Ave, Painter Ave, Washington Blvd, Slauson Ave, Pioneer Blvd, Orr & Day Rd, Studebaker Rd	\$1.25	MTA	25 cents
275	Mon-Fri	Weekdays 60" all day; no weekends	6:00 am to 10:00 pm	Beverly Blvd, Greenleaf Ave, Comstock Ave	\$1.25	MTA	25 cents
NORWALK							
1	Mon-Sun	Weekdays 30"all day/50-60" night; 60" weekends	Weekdays 5:30 am to 10 pm; 9 am to 5 pm on weekends	Norwalk Blvd, Orr & Day Rd, Pioneer Ave	60 cents	No	25 cents
MONTEBELLO							
10	Mon-Sun	Weekdays 15-20" peak/20" base/30-60" night; 20 "all day/60" night on weekends	Weekdays 2:00 am to 11:55 pm; 4:00 am to 11:55 pm on weekends	Whittier Blvd	90 cents	No	25 cents
50	Mon-Sat	Weekdays 30"all day/60 night; 60" on weekends	Weekdays 4:00 am to 10:30 pm; 6:00 am to 10:00 pm weekends	Washington Blvd	90 cents	No	25 cents
OTHER							
Whittier Shuttle	Mon-Sat	60" all day Monday thru Saturday	Weekdays 6:00 am to 6:30 pm; 10 am to 6 pm weekends	Multiple Streets in Whittier	35 cents	No	25 cents
County Shuttle *	Mon-Sat	60" all day Monday thru Saturday	6:00 am to 8:00 pm; 9:00 am to 5 pm weekends	Multiple Streets in Whittier	25 cents	MTA Pass	No

Note

*County Shuttle proposed for implementation Summer 05. Portions of West Broadway to be served by new shuttle line.