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METRO WESTSIDE/CENTRAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

February 7, 2006

SUBJECT: JUNE 2006 SERVICE CHANGES REQUIRED BY CONSENT DECREE

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this report on June 2006 service changes required by Consent Decree.

ISSUE

On November 30, 2005 the Special Master issued an order in which he conditionally accepted the MTA New Service Plan.

The Special Master directed that Metro modify one proposal related to the levels of bus service established for the Metro Rapid program. For at least one year of actual operation on each current and proposed Metro Rapid bus route, Metro must operate the following service parameters:

- The minimum service frequency during weekday peak periods will be 10 minutes;
- The minimum service frequency during weekday off-peak periods will be 20 minutes;
- The weekday span of service will be at least from 5 a.m. – 9 p.m.;
- Weekend service frequency will be consistent with the service levels described in the Metro Implementation Plan submitted September 30, 2005;
- Service levels during any period will not be increased above the levels described in the Metro Implementation Plan submitted September 30, 2005.

For current Metro Rapid lines, the one-year period begins no later than the start of FY07. For proposed Metro Rapid lines, the one-year period begins when the line begins operation.

Metro Rapid service levels may be adjusted after one year of operation if a review of objective performance criteria (such as boardings per hour, total ridership, or other performance criteria) indicate a need to modify service levels.

Based on objective performance criteria, the Metro Board may approve an exception to these requirements for up to 5 Metro Rapid lines at any one time. In this exception, the Board may adjust service levels or delay the one-year implementation of required service levels.

Any exception must consider whether the Metro Rapid route is in compliance with load factor targets.

SUMMARY OF SERVICE CHANGES

- Line 704 – Establish Metro Rapid Service on Santa Monica Boulevard. Line 704 would replace the current 304 trips. Line 704 will be one of the five Metro Rapid lines proposed for exemption from the span and frequency parameters.
- Line 714 – Span of service will be adjusted to meet the 5 am. – 9 p.m. service parameter. A partial exemption will be proposed on mid-day service.
- Line 717 – Service will be adjusted to meet the span and frequency service parameters.
- Line 720 – Eliminate short-turns at Wilshire and Westwood Boulevards, and 6th and Main Streets.
- Line 4/304 – Alternate Line 4 trips will be extended to Santa Monica. Line 704 will replace route 304 trips. The proposed exemption on Line 704 also applies to service frequencies on the related local service.

This information is subject to change based on continuing budget discussions.

The remaining proposals from the December 2005 program are the proposed shortening of Line 20 to Wilshire and Westwood Boulevards and elimination of Route 21. Staff withdraws these recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will implement the above changes effective June 25, 2006. When the above proposals are fully finalized, staff will bring the information back to the Governance Council.

David Armijo
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