

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 19, 2006**

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO METRO BUS SERVICE

ACTION: APPROVE PROPOSED CHANGES TO TIER 1 BUS SERVICE

RECOMMENDATION

Approve service changes to Tier 1 bus lines scheduled to be implemented in December 2006.

ISSUE

The existing Service Sector Governance Council By-laws and Policy state that service changes to Tier 1 bus lines must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors prior to implementation. The Sector Governance Councils have reviewed and approved proposed service changes for December 2006 (Attachment A), and staff is seeking Board approval in order for the proposed changes to be implemented as scheduled.

DISCUSSION

In preparation for the December 2006 Service Changes, the Metro Service Sectors have developed proposed modifications (Attachment A) to bus lines operating within their service area. Consistent with Federal requirements and agency policy, the proposals have been reviewed by the public during hearings held the week of August 14, 2006 and have subsequently been approved by their respective Governance Councils.

OPTIONS

The Board may decide to approve a subset or none of the recommended changes. However, this is not recommended as the proposals have been reviewed and approved by the Sector Governance Councils, and would have a negative impact on the FY 07 Operating Budget.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed changes are consistent with the Metro FY 2007 Operating Budget. If not implemented as presented there would be an increase in annual operating costs. The impact would vary according to the specific proposals that were not approved.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The review process was conducted in accordance with the Service Sector Governance Council Bylaws and Policy, and ensures that the proposed service changes are consistent with Metro's Operating Budget, agency plans, agency policy and federal requirements.

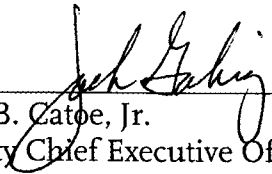
NEXT STEPS

With Board approval, the service changes will be effective December 17, 2006. Staff will notify customers with on-board brochures describing service changes. Also, new timetables with schedule and route modifications will be available on Metro buses in early December.

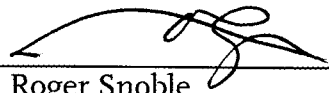
ATTACHMENT

- A. Tier 1 Bus Service Changes Proposed for December 2006
- B. Impact Analysis

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for 

John B. Catoe, Jr.
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT A
SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO TIER 1 AND RAPID PROPOSED FOR THE DECEMBER 2006 SHAKE-UP

LINE NUMBER	LINE NAME	DAY	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SECTOR			
85	Verdugo Rd	ALL	Separate service from Line 28 (W. Olympic Bl.). Operate service only between Verdugo Rd & Eagle Rock Bl to Glendale College and renumber to Line 685. Service to downtown L.A. would continue to be provided by Metro Line 84
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SECTOR			
94/394	L.A.-San Fernando Local/Limited	ALL	Operate as two separate lines: Line 94A via regular route from Olive View Medical Center to Sun Valley, then via Lankershim Bl to North Hollywood Station and extend from North Hollywood Station to Universal City Station and renumber to Line 224. Line 94B via regular route from Sun Valley and to Downtown Los Angeles; Retain original branch route of Line 94 between Sylmar Station and downtown L.A. Cancel Line 394 and reallocate resources to new Metro Rapid Line 794 in June 2008 or later.
152 new 153	Fallbrook Av-Roscoe Bl-Vineland Av-Burbank	DX	Retain existing route along Fallbrook Av to Ventura Bl to new eastern terminal at North Hollywood Station and approve branch route 153 via San Fernando Rd. instead of Glenoaks Bl between Tuxford St. and Sunland Blvd.
156	Panorama City-North Hollywood-Hollywood	ALL	Retain existing route, except for a minor reroute of a one-half mile segment from Lankershim Blvd to Vineland Ave. Operate Line 156 Owl Service as a separate line and renumber as Line 656.
166	Northhoff St. - Lankershim Bl	ALL	Shorten line in Sun Valley at Glenoaks Bl. And Branford St. and convert selected trips to provide proposed new Line 364 limited stop service along same alignment; Cancel Sun Valley to Universal City Station segment and replace Lankershim Bl.
240	Reseda Bl-Ventura Bl	ALL	Retain existing route on Ventura Blvd., to Universal City Station and reallocate resources to new Metro Rapid Line 741 on weekdays only.
363 (Branch Route of Line 353)			
NEW 364	Topanga Canyon Bl-Sherman Way-Victory Bl-North Hollywood Station	DX	Reroute service to Sherman way and Lankershim Bl between Van Nuys and North Hollywood Station. Segments along Van Nuys Bl, Victory Bl., Laurel Canyon Bl and Oxnard St., cancelled.
NEW 741	Northhoff St. Limited Reseda Bl., Metro Rapid	DX	Operate new limited stop service along shortened Line 166 (See Line 166).
CAUWAY CREEK SECTOR			
53	Central Ave.	DX	Operate new Metro Rapid service along Reseda Bl between Northridge and Tarzana on weekdays only. (See Line 240).
55		DX	Operate new limited-stop Line 350 between downtown Los Angeles & Avalon Station.
SOUTHERN SECTOR			
111	Florence Av	ALL	Operate new limited-stop Line 355 between downtown Los Angeles & Firestone Station.
204	Vermont Av	ALL	Cancel service between Norwalk Green Line Station and Whitwood Mall and replace with new shuttle or extension of an existing line. Deploy high capacity articulated buses and reschedule service levels to maintain the existing seating capacity, widening headways by approximately 30%.

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New Lines:

Line 364 (Nordhoff St. Limited) – Operate new limited stop service along shortened Line 166. There will be no change in revenue service hours. Passenger impacts 640 eastbound and 445 westbound transfers at Glenoaks and Osborne.

741 Metro Rapid (Reseda Blvd.) – Operate new Metro Rapid service along Reseda Blvd., between Northridge and Tarzana on weekdays only. Adds 6 peak buses and adds 86 revenue service hours.

Bus lines converting to high capacity bus operation are:

Line 233 (Van Nuys) – Convert from 40' bus operation to articulated bus operation. Decreases peak seats by 212 and decreases 16 revenue service hours.

Line 204 (Vermont)- Convert from 40' bus operation to articulated bus operation. Increases weekday PM peak seats by 37 and decreases service by 17 weekday revenue service hours (preliminary estimate).

Other schedule changes are:

San Gabriel Valley Sector:

Line 85 (Verdugo Rd. Silver Lake Blvd. Glendale) – Separate service from Line 28 (W. Olympic Blvd.). Operate service only between Verdugo Rd & Eagle Rock Blvd., to Glendale College and renumber to Line 685. Service to downtown L.A. would continue to be provided by Metro Line 84. Adds no net revenue service hours.

San Fernando Valley Sector:

Line 94-394 (L.A. San Fernando Local/Limited) - Operate as two separate lines: Line 94A via regular route from Olive View Medical Center to Sun Valley, then via Lankershim Bl. to North Hollywood Station and extend from North Hollywood Station to Universal City Station and renumber to Line 224. Line 94B via regular route from Sun Valley to Downtown Los Angeles; Retain original branch route of Line 94 between Sylmar Station and downtown LA. Cancel Line 394 and reallocate resources to new Metro Rapid Line 794 in June 2008 or later. Passenger impact is 1,379 northbound and 1,331 southbound transfers at San Fernando Road and Lankershim Bl. However, these same passengers have the option of riding branch route 394 trips along San Fernando Road with little or no impact. In addition, patrons originating on San Fernando Road will have direct access to the Metro Red and Orange Line services. As a result of this change, an increase of 10 revenue service hours is planned.

Line 152 new 153 (Fallbrook Ave-Roscoe Blvd. Vineland Ave. Burbank)- Retain existing route along Fallbrook Av to Ventura Blvd., to new eastern terminal at N. Hollywood Station and approve branch route 153 via S. Fernando Rd. instead of Glenoaks Blvd., between Tuxford St. and Sunland Blvd. Passenger impact is 125 northbound and 127 southbound will have slightly longer wait times for Line 152

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service. However, a much larger number of passengers will have direct access to Metrolink commuter train service.

Line 156 Panorama City- N. Hollywood-Hollywood - Retain existing route, except for a minor reroute of a one-half mile segment from Lankershim Blvd to Vineland Ave. Operate Line 156 Owl Service as a separate line and renumber as Line 656. There is no Passenger impact.

Line 166 (Nordhoff St. Lankershim Blvd.) - Shorten line in Sun Valley at Glenoaks Bl. and Branford St. and convert selected trips to provide proposed new Line 364 limited stop service along same alignment; Cancel Sun Valley to Universal City Station segment and replace Lankershim Bl. Segment. The change impacts approximately 670 eastbound and 445 westbound passengers as they will be required to transfers at Glenoaks and Osborne. However, these same passengers have the option of riding a new and faster limited stop Line 364 route traveling along Nordhoff St. As a result of this change, a decrease of 60 revenue service hours is planned.

Line 240 Reseda Blvd.-Ventura Blvd. - Retain existing route on Ventura Blvd., to Universal City Station and reallocate resources to new Metro Rapid Line 741 on weekdays only. An unspecified number of Line 240 passenger will have slightly longer times however, these passengers and more may benefit from the faster more frequent Metro Rapid service (Line 741) added to Reseda Blvd. As a result of this change, a decrease of 23 revenue service hours is planned.

Line 363 (Branch Route of Line 353) - Reroute service to Sherman way and Lankershim Bl between Van Nuys and North Hollywood Station. Segments along Van Nuys Bl, Victory Bl., Laurel Canyon Bl and Oxnard St., cancelled. Approximately 242 eastbound and 161 westbound passengers will be required to transfer to alternate service. However, a larger number of patrons with origins and destinations on Sherman Way will benefit from the faster more frequent limited stop bus service. There will be no change in revenue service hours resulting from this change.

Gateway Cities Sector:

Line 53 Central Ave - Operate new limited-stop Line 350 between downtown Los Angeles & Avalon Station. Passenger impact is minimal no additional service hours or buses being added.

Line 55 Compton Ave. - Operate new limited-stop Line 355 between downtown Los Angeles & Firestone Station. Passenger impact is minimal no additional service hours or buses being added.

South Bay Sector:

Line 111 Florence Ave. - Cancel service between Norwalk Green Line Station and Whitwood Mall and replace with new shuttle or extension of an existing line. Passenger impact is 690 average weekday; however, since service to Whittwood Mall

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will be replaced by an extension of Line 121, many passengers will simply board Line 121 instead of Line 111 and will therefore not be impacted. Approximately 140 passengers are expected to incur an additional transfer. The change reduces service by 0.5 revenue service hours (preliminary estimate).

Line 204 Vermont Ave. - Deploy high capacity articulated buses and reschedule service levels to maintain the existing seating capacity, widening headways by approximately 30%. Passenger impact is potentially felt by all 30,000 average weekday passengers due to the wider headways. The change to higher capacity buses reduces service by 17 weekday revenue service hours (preliminary estimate).

