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METRO WESTSIDE/CENTRAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
March 14, 2007

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES TO MTA WESTSIDE/CENTRAL
SECTOR SERVICES**

**ACTION: APPROVE FINDINGS OF PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT
SERVICE CHANGE PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Approve the findings of the Public Hearing conducted on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 regarding proposed service changes for June 2007 or later (Attachment A).
- B. Adopt the June 2007 Service Change Program as outlined in this report.

ISSUE

On February 14, 2007 the Westside/Central Service Sector conducted a public hearing to consider public input before coming to the Governance Council with final recommendations for significant changes to the bus system. After considering public input, the June 2007 Service Change Program is intended to improve service quality by eliminating duplicative services, reducing route lengths, simplifying routes, eliminating non-productive service, and decreasing travel time through the implementation of Metro Rapid and Rapid Express services.

OPTIONS

The options to the staff recommendations are to either 1) adopt the June Service Change Program; or 2) modify and adopt any subset of the proposals. Staff recommends adoption of the program to improve efficiency of bus operations within the sector, and to ensure a balanced budget for next fiscal year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff is recommending a program that can be implemented within the FY 2008 operating budget. Attachment B outlines the revenue service hour and ridership impacts associated with the proposed changes.

BACKGROUND

The June 2007 Service Change Program affects eight current routes and includes two new routes. One limited stop route will be replaced by Metro Rapid service, two routes will be shortened, two routes will be consolidated, limited stop service on one route will be expanded, service level on one route will be adjusted, service on one route will be discontinued, and one new Rapid Express route will be implemented.

Public Outreach Process

On January 10, 2007 the Metro Westside/Central Sector Governance Council approved a Notice of Public Hearing detailing proposed modifications to sector bus lines. The legal hearing notice was published in area newspapers the dates of which are on file with the MTA Board Secretary's Office.

Prior to the public hearing, notice of the hearing was electronically sent out to a sector community database of over 100 maintained by Community Relations. MTA Media Relations issued a press release on the hearing. Take One brochures were printed for placement on buses and rail lines. The information was also posted on Metro's main website and service sector websites.

The public hearing followed on February 14, 2007, at the La Cienega Tennis Center in Beverly Hills.

Summary of Public Comment

Approximately 21 people attended the public hearing. In total, comments were received from 36 individuals by the close of the public record on February 14, 2007. Ten individuals gave oral testimony at Westside/Central Sector; four individuals gave oral testimony at San Fernando Valley Sector; and twenty-two provided written comments.

Fifteen comments supported the recommendations on Routes 16-316, 304, 704, and 920 (Rapid Express) without opposition. One comment supported and three comments opposed the consolidation of Routes 10 and 11. Two comments supported and eight opposed the Route 720 short-line at Westwood. A total of three comments supported, and thirteen comments opposed each of the Route 20-21 recommendations.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS TO SERVICE CHANGE PROPOSALS

Considering public input and review of the proposals presented at the public hearing, staff recommends no changes to the original service program.

Route 11 **Original Proposal:** Consolidate Routes 10 and 11. Discontinue Route 11.

- Route **16-316** **Original Proposal:** Extend limited stop service area to La Brea. Shorten route in downtown L.A. at 6th Street and Maple Avenue.
- Route **20-21** **Original Proposal:** Shorten route 20 in the Westwood area and discontinue Route 21.
- Route **304** **Original Proposal:** Replace limited-stop service with Metro Rapid 704.
- Route **704** **Original Proposal:** Implement new Rapid service on Santa Monica Boulevard, replacing limited-stop Route 304 as previously approved by the MTA Board.
- Route **720** **Original Proposal:** Implement short turns in Westwood and downtown L. A.
- Route **920** **Original Proposal:** Implement Rapid Express service between Wilshire/Vermont Red Line Station and Santa Monica as previously approved by the MTA Board.

NEXT STEPS

With approval from the Sector Governance Council, staff will implement all changes effective June 24, 2007 or later.

[Attachment A: Summary of Public Comments and Staff Response](#)

[Attachment B: Revenue Service Hour and Ridership Impacts](#)

[Attachment C: Maps of Service Proposals](#)

[Attachment D: Public Hearing Notice](#)

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