



Metro

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
APRIL 19, 2007**

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 June 2007.

ISSUE

The existing Service Sector Governance Council Policy states 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 June 2007 (See Attachment A), and staff is seeking board approval in order to implement changes as scheduled.

DISCUSSION

In preparation for the June 2007 Service Change, the Metro Service Sectors have developed proposed modifications to bus lines operating within their service area. The June 2007 Service Changes represent the first phase of Metro Connections implementation. Key themes of the program are attracting new riders by providing faster service and improving efficiency by reducing service in those corridors where there is low ridership and/or duplicative service. The changes being proposed for June 2007 include modifications to 12 of Metro's Tier 1 bus routes, as summarized below:

- Implementing Metro Rapid service on Long Beach and Santa Monica Boulevard;
- Implementing Metro Rapid Express service along Hawthorne and Wilshire Boulevard;
- Reducing or restructuring service due to low ridership and/or service duplication on six routes (20/21: Wilshire Boulevard, 4/304: Santa Monica, 60/360: Long Beach, 710: Cresnhaw/Rossmore; 720: Wilshire, and 751: Soto) and
- Minor routing changes on two other services (10/11: Melrose and 3/316: Third Street)

Consistent with Federal requirements and agency policy, the proposals have been reviewed by the public during hearings held the week of February 05, 2007 and have subsequently been approved by their respective Governance Council with the exception of Lines 20/21 Wilshire Blvd. – UCLA Santa Monica. Staff recommendations on Line 20/21 had a majority of the Council in favor of the proposed changes. The conflict is one council member who lives close to Wilshire Boulevard who was encouraged to abstain from voting after consulting Metro's Ethic Department. Due to this potential conflict the Council fell short by one on the total votes required to approve, therefore, no action was taken and the proposal was deferred to the Board for final decision.

OPTIONS

The Board may decide to either approve a subset of the recommended changes or not approve the recommended service 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 FY07 Operating Budget.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed changes have been included in the FY08 budget proposal that will be presented to the Board for approval and are consistent with the FY07 Ten-Year Forecast. If not implemented as presented, there would be an increase in annual operating costs or an offsetting reduction would be required elsewhere to mitigate budget impact. The impact would vary according to the specific proposals that were not approved.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

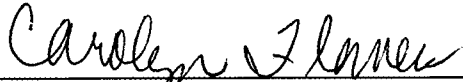
NEXT STEPS

With Board approval, the service changes will be effective June 24, 2007. 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 June.

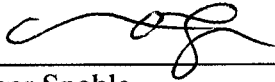
ATTACHMENT

A. Tier 1 Bus Service Changes Proposed for June 2007

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Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SECTOR			Description of Change
Line No.	Line Name	Type	
751	Soto St. Rapid Bus	Rapid Tier 1	Cancel route south of Long Beach Bl. & Palm Pl. due to duplication with new Rapid Line 760. Improve peak period service frequencies to 10 minutes.
SOUTHBAY SECTOR			Description of Change
Line No.	Line Name	Type	
710	Crenshaw - Vine Metro Rapid	Rapid Tier 1	Cancel service north of Wilshire Bl. on Rossmore Av. and Vine St. and reroute to new northern terminal at Wilshire-Western Metro Red Line Station. Alternative service to Hollywood via Line 210 (Vine-Crenshaw Local) or Line 757 (Western Metro Rapid)
940	Hawthorne	Rapid Tier 1	Implement new Rapid Express service between South Bay Transit Center and Patsaouras Transit Plaza
GATEWAY CITIES SECTOR			Description of Change
Line No.	Line Name	Type	
60/360	Long Beach-downtown Los Angeles-via Long Beach Bl & Santa Fe Av	Local Tier 1	Restructure line due to start-up of new Rapid Bus Line 760. Line 60 to operate between Artesia Blue Line Station and downtown Los Angeles. Service south of Artesia Bl proposed to be replaced by Long Beach Transit Line 51.Owl service continued to Long Beach Mall by Metro or Long Beach Transit. Limited- stop Line 360 discontinued.
New 760	Downtown Los Angeles-Long Beach Bl Rapid Bus	Rapid Tier 1	Operate new rapid bus line over route of local Line 60 seven days a week. South terminal to be established at the Artesia Blue Line Station.
WESTSIDE CENTRAL SECTOR			Description of Change
Line No.	Line Name	Type	
4-304	Santa Monica Blvd.	Local Tier 1	Replace Line 304 service with new Rapid Line 704. Discontinue Line 304. Alternative local service available via Santa Monica Line 1. Metro will retain evening and owl service to Santa Monica on Line 4.
10/11/48	Melrose Ave.- Virgil Ave. - Vermont Ave. - Temple St. - San Pedro St.	Local Tier 1	Consolidate Lines 10 and 11 to simplify service. Discontinue Line 11. Alternative service available via Metro Lines 14/714 on Beverly Blvd. and 204/754 on Vermont Avenue.
16-316	W. 3rd St.	Local Tier 1	Extend Line 316 limited stop service area to La Brea Ave. Shorten route of Lines 16 & 316 in downtown L.A. at 6th St. and Maple Ave. Alternative service available on 5th/6th Streets between Maple and Central Avenues via Metro Lines 18, 53, and 62. Alternative service on 3rd/4th Streets via Montebello Line 40.
20-21	Wilshire Blvd. - UCLA - Santa Monica	Local Tier 1	Shorten Line 20 service at Wilshire Blvd. and Veteran Ave. Discontinue Line 21. Alternative service on Wilshire available via Santa Monica Line 2, Metro Rapid Line 720 and Metro Rapid Express Line 920. Alternative service on Westwood Blvd. available via Santa Monica Lines 1, 2, 3, 8, 12, Super 12, and Culver City Line 6. Metro will retain late evening and owl service to Santa Monica on Line 20.
New 704	Santa Monica Blvd. Metro Rapid	Rapid Tier 1	Implement new Rapid service on Santa Monica Blvd.
720	Wilshire - Whittier	Rapid Tier 1	Implement short turns in Westwood and Downtown Los Angeles.
920	Wilshire Express	Rapid Tier 1	Implement new Rapid Express service between Wilshire/Vermont Red Line station and downtown Santa Monica