

**Metro**Los Angeles County
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metro.net**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
JUNE 21, 2007****SUBJECT: CONSENT DECREE NEW SERVICE PLAN****ACTION: APPROVE PROPOSED EXCEPTIONS TO OPERATING
REQUIREMENTS****RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the staff recommendation to except, effective June 24, 2007, the following Metro Rapid bus lines from certain service parameters specified in the Consent Decree New Service Plan:

- Line 703 – Lincoln (operated by Santa Monica)
- Line 704 – Santa Monica Blvd.
- Line 705 – La Cienega / Vernon
- Line 714 – Beverly

ISSUE

This is to recommend that certain corridors be excepted, as allowed under the Special Master's New Service Plan Order, from the frequency and span of service requirements specified in the New Service Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended exceptions to the frequency and span of service parameters of the New Service Plan are consistent with the New Service Plan approved by the Special Master, and are required for cost effective and efficient operation of these bus routes.

OPTIONS

The Board may choose not to exclude one or more of the recommended Metro Rapid lines from the New Service Plan parameters. This would increase program costs beyond current budgeted levels, and yield less efficient service in the impacted corridor(s).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed exceptions to the New Service Plan service parameters are included in the FY08 proposed budget. If the exceptions, as allowed under the Special Master's Order,

are not approved by the Board, the financial impact on the FY08 budget will be \$7.5 million.

BACKGROUND

The 1996 Consent Decree included a requirement to implement a plan to provide additional bus service designed to improve access by the transit-dependent to countywide educational, employment and health centers. The New Service Plan approved by the Special Master in his November 30, 2005 New Service Plan Order (Order), is intended to fulfill that requirement. The Order required that for at least one year of actual operations on each current and proposed Metro Rapid Line, Metro establish and maintain specified service parameters, including service frequencies and span of service. For example, minimum service requirements include operation of service from 5:00am to 9:00pm on days when service is provided, and headways no wider than 10 minutes during peak periods and 20 minutes at all other times, or the headways outlined in the plan if they are more frequent. The Order also provided that upon recommendation of staff, the Board may approve an exception to the specified service parameters for up to five Metro Rapid lines at any one time.

Although the Consent Decree expired on October 29, 2006, the court retained jurisdiction over implementation of the New Service Plan until November 30, 2010. This is because the New Service Plan was to last five years, but it was not implemented until November 30, 2005. Since the New Service Plan was implemented, Metro has excepted five lines from the specified service parameters as allowed under the Order. For each line previously excepted from the service parameters, passenger demand was insufficient to justify more service.

Exceptions to the required service parameters which have previously been implemented include:

Line 703 – Lincoln (operated by Santa Monica)

Weekday peak period service every 15 minutes. No off-peak or weekend service. The exceptions are for less than 10 minute peak frequency and the lack of off-peak service.

Line 705 – La Cienega/Vernon

Weekday peak period service every 13 minutes and off-peak service every 20 minutes. No weekend service. The exception is for less than 10 minute peak frequency.

Line 714 – Beverly

Weekday peak period service every 16 minutes. No off-peak or weekend service. The exceptions are for less than 10 minute peak frequency and the lack of off-peak service.

Line 751 – Soto

Weekday peak period service every 11 minutes and off-peak service every 12 minutes. Saturday service every 19 minutes. No Sunday/Holiday service. The exception is for less than 10 minute peak frequency.

Line 780 – Hollywood/Glendale/Pasadena

Weekday peak period service meets minimum requirements as of the December 2006 Service Change. No weekend service is operated. The exception is available for future use with another Rapid line.

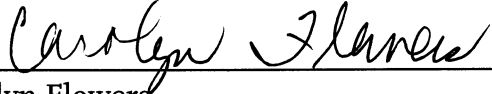
Each of the above lines, operating under the exceptions to the New Service Plan service parameters, nevertheless maintained better than average load factor compliance.

In June 2007 Metro will start operation of Rapid Line 704 (Santa Monica Blvd.). Initial service levels will provide a seven-minute peak frequency and 15 minute service at all other times. Since this is less frequent service than had been proposed in the adopted New Service Plan (the Plan proposed 4-5 minute peak service and 10 minute service at all other times), an exception is recommended for this line. Since Line 780 will operate within the service parameters of the Order, it will no longer need to operate under an exception. Therefore, the exception used for Line 780 will now be used for Line 704. The exception currently used for Line 751 will become available for future use when service is added to that route as part of the June 2007 Service Change.

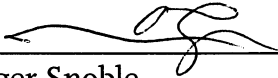
NEXT STEPS

The exceptions to the New Service Program requirements will become effective with the Service Change program on June 24, 2007.

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