



Metro

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**GATEWAY CITES GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
DECEMBER 13, 2007**

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED JUNE 2008 SERVICE CHANGES

**ACTION: APPROVE PUBLIC HEARING DATE(S), AND PUBLICATION OF
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LISTING POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS TO
GATEWAY CITIES BUS LINES EFFECTIVE JUNE 2008 OR LATER**

BACKGROUND

Effective with the June 2008 Shake-up, staff proposes to make service changes to thirteen existing bus lines operated by the Gateway Cities sector. One new service is also proposed to be established. Collectively, these changes are considered to be major service modifications as defined by federal public hearing guidelines and Metro policy. As such, the Governance Council is required to hold a public hearing, and to solicit and consider public input on these matters before approving changes of this magnitude.

The following sections of this report identify the affected bus lines and the type of service modifications to undergo public review. Also discussed are recommended and optional public hearing dates for the Governance Council to consider in soliciting public input on these matters. Finally, a project timeline is also discussed, which outlines the various steps to be taken by staff over the next few months to ensure compliance with the public hearing process.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

Metro is required under the Consent Decree to implement the remaining elements of the New Service Program by June 2008. In keeping with this deadline, five new rapid bus lines will need to be implemented throughout the system. In addition, service on three existing rapid lines will need to be expanded in order to comply with the terms of the federal court order.

All Metro service sectors will need to identify and eliminate low performing bus service in their areas to offset the cost to implement the balance of the Rapid Bus Program, which is estimated to require 175,000 annual revenue hours. This action is necessary because the agency does not have funds to pay for the increased service hours. Specifically, the Gateway Cities Sector is required to implement new Rapid Bus Line 753 along Central Av, and to add service to existing Rapid Bus Line 705 to bring it into full conformance with the program. Collectively, approximately 30,000 annual revenue service hours are required to achieve the target for this sector.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed service adjustments for next June are consistent with the goals and objectives of Metro's Board-adopted Transit Service Policy by ensuring that bus service provided throughout the County of Los Angeles is cost effective, thus ensuring a prudent use of taxpayer subsidies. Moreover, this action also complies with Metro's mandate to implement the New Service Plan as required by the Consent Decree.

SERVICE PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Attachment A describes the proposed service changes that are being considered for the Gateway Cities Sector next June. The list includes several low performing and duplicated bus routes that are proposed to be restructured or canceled altogether. The list also contains new Rapid Bus Line 753, which is proposed to be established along Central Ave, and existing Rapid Bus Line 705, which is proposed to operate more service.

It is important to note that the service proposals listed in the Attachment will be combined with service proposals from other service sectors into one public hearing notice to ensure coordination of the service change program. The combined notice will list the respective public hearing dates, times and locations for each sector.

The initial publication of the legal notice is planned for Sunday, January 6, 2008 in the Los Angeles Times. Following the initial printing, the notice will be reprinted in newspapers throughout Los Angeles County, including foreign language newspapers. Notice will also be placed on all Metro buses and trains informing riders of the proposed changes to the bus system, and how they can comment on them.

Public hearings are recommended to be held within each service sector during the first two weeks of February. Specifically, each sector governance council is recommended to hold their public hearings on the same day as their regular monthly meeting, either before or after the meeting. This schedule will allow for additional public hearings to be held within this timeframe should one or more sectors choose to hold more than one public hearing.

Staff plans to return to the Governance Council in January with more details of the service proposals to be discussed at the February public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE(S)

Staff recommends the Gateway Cities Governance Council schedule its public hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2008 to receive community input on the service proposals. The hearing is proposed to be held at "The Gas Company" in the City of Downey following the regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Governance Council. The suggested time to conduct the public hearing is 4 pm.

Additionally, staff has identified three alternative dates in February for the Governance Council to consider should members wish to hold a second public hearing that month. Details of these dates, times and locations are shown in the table below:

**Table 1
Potential Public Hearing Locations & Tentative Schedule**

Date	Day	Time	Location	City	Status
Feb 12	Tues	6:00 PM	Girls Clubhouse	South Gate	Optional
Feb 13	Wed	6:00 PM	Clearwater Building	Paramount	Optional
Feb 14	Thur	4:00 PM	The Gas Company	Downey	Recommended
Feb 16	Sat	10:00 AM	To Be Determined	Huntington Park	Optional

PUBLIC HEARING TIMELINE

Outlined below is the public hearing timeline and associated events leading to the implementation of approved service changes later this year. Key dates are highlighted in bold for the reader.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Key Event</u>
Dec 13	Governance Council receives staff report requesting public hearing along with preliminary review of proposed service adjustments for June 2008.
Jan 6	Legal notice published in major metropolitan newspaper
Jan 10	Council receives additional details on service proposals for June
Jan 7-Feb 8	Formal notification to cities, agencies, organizations and stakeholders
Jan 21	Special rider notices describing proposals placed on buses/trains
Feb 14	Governance Council conducts public hearing
Feb 15-27	Preparation of final staff report detailing findings and recommendations
March 13	Governance Council acts on staff recommendations
April 24	Metro Board acts on governance council approved Tier 1 changes
March 17	Metro news release announcing approved service modifications
May 8	Governance Council receives staff update on June 2008 Service Program.
May 30	Cities, agencies, organizations and stakeholders receive final written notice of approved changes
June 16	Rider notices placed on all Metro buses/trains describing approved changes
June 29	Implement approved service program.

NEXT STEPS

Staff proposes to publish the public hearing notice in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, January 6, 2008. Publication of the legal notice will officially begin the public hearing process. Additional notification of the public hearing will follow later that month in other local and foreign language newspapers, and to specific stakeholders as described in the above timeline.

ATTACHMENT

A. Major Service Proposals June 2008

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ATTACHMENT A

GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE PROPOSALS JUNE 2008

LINES PROPOSED FOR RESTRUCTURING

Line 26-51

Consolidate Owl trips on Avalon/San Pedro BIs to provide two-way service, and remove one-way Owl trips from Central Av.

Line 53

Restructure service in conjunction with implementation of new Rapid Bus Line 753 along Central Av corridor. Route to be modified to serve Imperial Station and removed from Avalon Station. Cancel one-way Owl service on Central Av and consolidate trips on Avalon/San Pedro BIs.

Line 60

Owl service south of Artesia Bl to Long Beach and west of Long Beach Bl to Compton Station to be discontinued due to low ridership.

Line 62

Service south of Rosecrans Ave to Hawaiian Gardens to be discontinued due to low ridership. Norwalk Transit may assume service along discontinued segment, including service to Hawaiian Gardens.

Line 105

Eliminate route segment east of Pacific Bl due to duplication with Line 611.

LINES PROPOSED FOR CANCELATION

Line 102

Cancel Sunday service due to low ridership

Line 121

Cancel Sunday service due to low ridership

Line 265

Cancel Sunday service due to low ridership

Line 612

Cancel Sunday service due to low ridership

ATTACHMENT A

GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE PROPOSALS JUNE 2008...Continued

LINES PROPOSED FOR CANCELATION (Continued)

Line 127

Service to be discontinued due to low productivity.

Line 254

Service to be discontinued due to low productivity and excessive duplication.

Line 350

Limited-stop service to be incorporated into new Rapid Bus Line 753.

RAPID BUS LINES TO BE ESTABLISHED/ENHANCED

Line 705

Enhance weekday service on this line as required by Consent Decree.

Line 753

Establish new Rapid Bus line service along route of local Line 53. Both lines to serve Imperial Station.