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**WESTSIDE/CENTRAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
March 12, 2008**

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Approve the findings of the Public Hearing conducted on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 regarding proposed service changes for June 2008 or later (Attachment C).
- B. Adopt the June 2008 Revised Service Program as outlined in this report.

ISSUE

On February 13, 2008 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 2008 Service Change Program is intended to improve service quality by eliminating non-productive service, and decreasing travel time through the implementation of Metro Rapid service.

OPTIONS

The alternatives for the Governance Council to consider in lieu of approving staff's recommendations include:

- 1) Maintain the status quo and do nothing; or
- 2) Adopt a different subset of the proposals

Staff does not recommend either alternative since the proposals are designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of bus operations within the sector and to ensure a balanced budget for next fiscal year.

Should the Governance Council reject all or part of the staff recommendations, some planned improvements may need to be deferred or withdrawn in order to ensure a balanced budget for next fiscal year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff is recommending a program that can be implemented within the FY 2009 operating budget. Attachment D outlines the revenue service hour and ridership impacts associated with the proposed changes.

BACKGROUND

The June 2008 Service Change Program includes modification of late night service on four routes, cancellation of two routes, and implementation of one new Rapid service on Pico Bl.

In an effort to move forward with projects that will improve service quality and increase operating efficiencies, staff proposes to initiate the service changes contained in the public hearing program in late June of 2008. The proposed Westside/Central changes are consistent with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA) Metro Connections Program and the Consent Decree's New Service Plan. The changes proposed are part of a system-wide service improvement program designed to complete implementation of the Board approved Metro Rapid Expansion Program, and elimination of low performing service to offset this implementation. Additionally, all services will be reviewed to identify opportunities to improve capacity utilization.

Public Outreach Process

On December 11, 2008 the 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 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. 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 13, 2008, at the La Cienega Tennis Center in Beverly Hills.

Summary of Public Comment

Approximately eighteen people attended the public hearing and fourteen individuals gave oral testimony regarding the proposals. Ten individuals gave oral testimony at the system-wide hearing conducted on February 9, and thirteen provided written comments. Comments were received from 37 individuals by the close of the public comment period on February 14, 2008.

Fifty two comments opposed the discontinuation of late night/owl service on Routes 10, 14, 37 and 38. Twenty one or almost 40% of those opposed, supported discontinuation with or without modification. Line 220 had 11 against and eight in support. Line 730 had seven in favor with 3 opposing.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS TO SERVICE CHANGE PROPOSALS

Considering public input of the proposals presented at the public hearing, staff recommends some revisions to the original service change program.

Route 10: Original Proposal: Cancel late night and owl service. Propose service to operate from 4:00am to 11:00pm.

Revised Proposal: Cancel owl service. Propose service to operate from 4:00am to approximately 12:30am.

Route 14: Original Proposal: Cancel late night and owl service. Propose service to operate from 4:00am to 11:00pm.

Revised Proposal: Cancel owl service. Propose service to operate from 4:00am to midnight.

Route 37: Original Proposal: Cancel late night and owl service. Propose service to operate from 4:00am to 11:00pm.

Revised Proposal: Cancel owl service. Propose service to operate from 4:00am to midnight.

Route 38: Original Proposal: Cancel late night and owl service. Propose service to operate from 4:00am to 11:00pm.

Staff Proposal: Approve as proposed.

Route 220: Original Proposal: Cancel service due to low ridership.

Staff Proposal: Approve as proposed.

Route 330: Original Proposal: Replace service on Line 330 with new Metro Rapid Line 730.

Staff Proposal: Approve as proposed.

Route 730: Implement new Pico Rapid service from Downtown LA to Pico/Rimpau.

Staff Proposal: Approve as proposed.

NEXT STEPS

With approval from the Sector Governance Council, staff will implement all changes effective June 29, 2008 or later.

Attachment A: Public Hearing Notice ([CLICK HERE](#))

Attachment B: Maps of Service Proposals ([CLICK HERE](#))

Attachment C: Summary of Public Comments and Staff Response ([CLICK HERE](#))

Attachment D: Revenue Service Hour and Ridership Impacts ([CLICK HERE](#))

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