



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

**38**

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

**SUBJECT: NEW SERVICE PLAN**

**ACTION: APPROVE PROPOSED EXCEPTION TO OPERATING REQUIREMENTS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the exception of Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines Rapid 7 (Pico Blvd.) from service parameters specified in the New Service Plan effective August 18, 2008.

**ISSUE**

The New Service Plan provides that upon recommendation of staff, the Board may approve an exception to specified service parameters for up to five Metro Rapid lines at any one time. On August 18, 2008, Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines (Big Blue Bus) began operation of their Pico Rapid 7 service from Santa Monica to the Pico/Rimpau terminal. Staff is now requesting the Board approve an exception for the Big Blue Bus Pico Rapid 7 service.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended exception to the frequency and span of service parameters of the New Service Plan is consistent with the New Service Plan approved by the Special Master, and is required for cost effective and efficient operation of this bus route.

**OPTIONS**

The Board may choose not to exclude the Big Blue Bus Pico Rapid 7 service from the New Service Plan parameters. This action is not recommended as it would not comply with the New Service Plan, and yields less efficient service in the impacted corridor.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There are no funds included in the FY09 budget to assist Big Blue Bus with implementation of their Rapid services. No additional funding is required.

## **DISCUSSION**

The New Service Plan, approved by the Special Master in his November 30, 2005 New Service Plan Order (Order), is intended to improve access by the transit-dependent to countywide educational, employment and health centers. The Order required that for at least one year of actual operations on each current and proposed Metro Rapid Line, we establish and maintain specified service parameters, including service frequencies and span of service. Minimum service requirements include operation of service from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. 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.

The court retains jurisdiction over implementation of the New Service Plan until November 30, 2010 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, we have excepted up to 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.

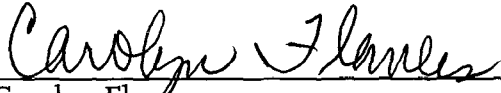
The Board has approved exceptions to the required service parameters in June 2007 and November 2007. In June 2007, exceptions were applied to the Lincoln Rapid 3 (operated by Big Blue Bus), Line 704 – Santa Monica, Line 705 – La Cienega/Vernon, and Line 714 – Beverly. In December 2007, an exception was applied to Line 770 – Garvey/Chavez.

As of the June 2008 service change, Metro Rapid lines 705, 714, and 770 were brought into compliance with the New Service Plan service parameters, and exceptions no longer are required for these lines. The Big Blue Bus Pico Rapid service needs the requested exception as its span of service is during the peak periods only and does not comply with the 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. requirement of the New Service Plan. Also, Pico operates with a headway of up to 20 minutes in the peak periods which does not meet the New Service Plan headway requirement of ten minutes in the peak periods.

## **NEXT STEPS**

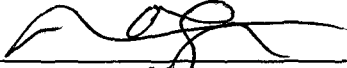
The requested exception to the New Service Program requirements will become effective upon Board approval.

Prepared by: Steve Fox, Program Manager  
Ed Muncy, Director, Service Planning  
Conan Cheung, DEO, Service Planning & Development



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Carolyn Flowers  
Chief Operations Officer



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Roger Snoble  
Chief Executive Officer

