

| Agenda Item No. | Board Meeting Date | Open/Closed Session | Information/Action Item | Issue Date |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 16 | 10/27/14 | Open | Action | 10/21/14 |

Subject: Setting a Public Hearing on Service Changes for January 26, 2015

ISSUE

Setting a Public Hearing on Service Changes for January 26, 2015.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 14-10-_____, Setting a Public Hearing on Service Changes for January 26, 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

DISCUSSION

Over the past year, staff has been exploring options for the cost-neutral restoration of Route 8 in South Sacramento, as well as for restoration of Route 28 service to the Rancho Cordova library. Informational updates on each of these projects have been provided under separate agenda items. Both projects have reached stages where it appears that a feasible solution will be successfully developed; however, the solution will entail a major service change, and, according to RT’s official definitions, will trigger more formal public review and Board approval requirements. The attached resolution would begin this process by setting a date for a public hearing on the combined changes and directing staff to prepare a Title VI analysis on the combined changes.

Approval Requirements – RT’s public review and Board approval process for a major change requires Board approval, a public hearing, a Title VI analysis, a 30-day review period, and potentially an environmental analysis. Altogether, the lead time for a major service change is approximately six months from beginning of the formal public review process to the effective date. This *excludes* time spent beforehand developing and evaluating alternatives, vetting alternatives internally and with the stakeholders, and preparing all public materials.

Timeline – Major service changes must generally be scheduled around RT’s fixed operator bidding schedule, which calls for four annual schedule changes beginning in January, April, June, and September. Staff recommends both Route 8 and Route 28 changes be combined into one service change package to become effective coincident with the opening of the Blue Line to Cosumnes River College light rail extension in September 2015. Attachment 1 provides a tentative timeline. More detailed information on the work completed to date on Route 8 and Route 28 is provided under separate agenda items.

There are several reasons for combining the changes into one package and waiting until September 2015 to make the changes effective. First, as major service changes, both sets of

Approved:

Presented:

Final 10/22/14

General Manager/CEO

AGM of Planning & Transit System Development

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changes would require their own Title VI and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analyses, 30-day review periods, etc. Combining the two packages into one not only streamlines the administrative process, but is also more consistent with federal guidance on Title VI, which recommends that recipients consider aggregate effects of multiple service changes. Second, the opening of the Blue Line extension is a key part of staff’s recommended changes with regard to the former Route 8. Without the Blue Line extension, the proposed solution, which involves changes to Route 65, would be infeasible, because it would leave Route 65 without a connection to light rail. Third, the Blue Line extension will necessitate adjustments to train times on the Blue Line, and consequentially, on the Gold Line, the Green Line, and many connecting bus routes as well. The task of preparing these systemwide adjustments will be in progress for approximately the next eight months. This process can have a major impact on system efficiency, schedule reliability, connection timing, etc. Major changes implemented between now and September 2015 would tend to disrupt this process and are therefore to be avoided.

In terms of timing alone, the June 2015 schedule change would still be possible to meet, but for the aforementioned reasons, staff suggests targeting the September 2015 schedule change instead. To meet the April 2015 schedule change, all materials for public review, including the full plan, as well as Title VI, and CEQA documents based on that plan, would have had to have been ready for release to the public for review on today’s date. Given the number of key unknowns, many of which have become resolved only recently, this timeline was, in the view of staff, unachievable, and in light of the other aforementioned reasons for waiting until September 2015, not advisable.

South Line Integration - By selecting September 2015 as the effective date, the proposed bus service changes would essentially become part of a combined bus/rail service change package for the Blue Line to CRC light rail extension. The Title VI equity analysis for the bus changes would actually be prepared as an amendment to the Title VI equity analysis on the Blue Line extension adopted by the Board on September 8, 2014. The amended Title VI equity analysis would consider the effects of the Blue Line extension, Route 8, and Route 28 in aggregate.

Next Steps – The attached resolution would set a hearing for January 26, 2015. Over the next two months, staff will revise and finalize recommendations for both Route 8 and Route 28 based on input from the Board, stakeholders, and further internal review. On or about January 5, 2015, staff would release the recommended changes, as well as the combined Title VI equity analysis, for public review. Per RT policy, staff would publicize the proposed service changes and solicit public comments via notices in all vehicles, at major stations, on RT’s web page, in RT’s passenger newsletter, and via email blasts, with key information translated into major non-English languages. Staff would also continue to meet and present the proposed changes to interested representatives from any affected neighborhoods or groups, as well as RT’s Mobility Advisory Council.

**PROPOSED TIMELINE
FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 SERVICE CHANGES**

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Release Plans for 30-Day Review | January 5, 2015 |
| Public Hearing | January 26, 2015 |
| Close Comment Period | February 4, 2015 |
| Final Approval | February 23, 2015 |
| Changes Become Effective | September 6, 2015 |

RESOLUTION NO. 14-10-_____

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:

October 27, 2014

**SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON SERVICE CHANGES
FOR JANUARY 26, 2015**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, a public hearing is set for January 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Regional Transit Auditorium to receive public testimony regarding bus service changes, including, but not limited to Routes 28, 61, and 65, as well as the potential creation of a new bus route; and

THAT, in accordance with Resolution No. 13-08-0125, prior to the public hearing, the General Manager/CEO, or his designee, shall furnish a plan describing the proposed changes and a Title VI equity analysis of the proposed changes via Regional Transit's web site; and

THAT, in accordance with Resolution No. 13-08-0125, Regional Transit will publicize the public hearing and accept public comments for a period of at least 30 calendar days from the release of public materials.

PHILLIP R. SERNA, Chair

A T T E S T:

MICHAEL R. WILEY, Secretary

By: _____
Cindy Brooks, Assistant Secretary