



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Douglas Schulze, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Sirls, Transit Manager
Art Vela, Director of Public Works

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2024-18, Approving an Updated Service Plan for Banning Connect Transit Services

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council adopt Resolution 2024-18.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Banning, under the management of the Department of Public Works, owns and operates the Banning Connect Transit System which includes the operation of Fixed -Route services that serve between Banning and Cabazon. Additionally, the Dial-A-Ride division offers curb-to-curb transit services to ADA, elderly and disabled citizens residing within the City of Banning.

Transit dependent residents of the San Gorgonio Pass area rely heavily on the public transit system and Banning Connect will continue to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible while providing the highest level of customer service. In support of the transit operations, and to maintain safe, efficient, and reliable services, it is necessary to modify current bus schedules to improve system reliability.

To meet demand, staff proposes to revise the current service as follows:

- Restoring hourly service to Cabazon from 6:15 AM to 5:45 PM on Route 1.
- Routes 5 and 6 will be combined into one route with two buses simultaneously running the route and rebranded as the “Banning Circulator” instead of the “5/6 Combo”.
- The Banning Circulator will run seven days a week instead of just on weekends.
- Addition of hourly service to the new Atwell community on the Banning Circulator and Dial-A-Ride.

Current Fiscal Year 2023/2024 fixed route revenue service hours are expected to remain the same. If approved, the modifications will take effect February 20, 2024.

Once the changes are made, staff will observe ridership volumes to ensure that the proposed changes are meeting the community’s needs.

JUSTIFICATION:

In an effort to improve system reliability, the rebranding of the Route 5/6 Combo and a subsequent service change is warranted. The residents of Cabazon have been increasingly asking that hourly service be restored since the onset of the pandemic. Secondly, there is a need to add fixed route and DAR service in the Atwell Community to ensure that Banning’s newest residents have access to public transportation and critical services such as grocery store trips and doctor appointments. These

associated schedule changes are necessary in order to provide and maintain equitable, efficient, safe and reliable transit services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no anticipated fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt Resolution 2024-18 as presented.
2. Adopt Resolution 2024-18 with modifications.
3. Do not adopt Resolution 2024-18 and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution 2024-18.docx](#)
2. [Banning Circulator .pdf](#)
3. [Route 1 Schedule.pdf](#)