



ITEM ID: 2024-139-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: March 22, 2024

MEETING DATE: March 29, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer
Donald Filippi, Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: Title VI Public Hearing for Antelope Valley Line Schedule Expansion

Issue

In October 2023, Antelope Valley Line (AVL) passenger train service increased from 22 weekday trains to 30 weekday trains and service was doubled on the weekends. Federal rail service guidelines require transit agencies to conduct a service equity analysis and public outreach effort for a major service change which remains in effect for more than six months.

Recommendation

Executive Committee recommended (5-0) that the Board approve the initiation of the Title VI public comment process for the continuation of the AVL schedule expansion.

Strategic Commitment

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Advancing Key Regional Goals:** We will grow the role of regional rail in addressing climate change, air quality, and other pressing issues by advancing toward zero emissions, making rail a compelling alternative to single-occupant automobiles, and advancing equity-focused opportunities for all communities throughout Southern California. The public outreach and equity analysis ensure the expanded AVL service meets Title VI equity requirements.

Background

The AVL schedule expansion increased existing AVL service by eight inbound and outbound trains from LA Union Stations (LAUS). The service will enable Metrolink to operate more hourly mid-day and evening service to and from LAUS.

Discussion

The AVL schedule expansion is consistent with Metrolink's goal of providing hourly service throughout the day. The new AVL schedule will integrate conveniently with other modes of transportation in the corridor, such as auto, bus, and bicycle. The increased service will offer residents, businesses, and visitors a new commuting option to travel to various leisure, education, and healthcare destinations.

Service Plan

The new schedule allows for 15 weekday round trips between LAUS and the Lancaster and Via Princessa Stations. Service hours are from 4:11 AM to 1:53 AM. Train 200 (departing at 3:41 AM from Lancaster to LAUS) is canceled. Three new trains, 226, 234 and 238, will operate between Lancaster and LAUS. Two new trains, 216 and 220, have been added between Via Princessa and LAUS. Two new trains, 217 and 235, have been added between LAUS and Lancaster. Two new trains, 211 and 215, have been added between LAUS and Via Princessa. The new Vista Canyon Station was opened in October 2023.

Public Outreach Plan

After initiating the public comment period, staff will notify the community of the schedule expansion and encourage public comment by preparing a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) news release, creating a webpage with attached survey, launching electronic blasts (E-blast), texts, social media, and changeable message boards with relevant project information. The staff will hold a virtual bilingual community workshop in April 2024 to explain the schedule expansion and remind community members that their input is welcome and essential. All comments will be gathered and provided to the Board for review.

Equity Analysis

As the operator of the new AVL service, the Authority is required to conduct a service equity analysis in compliance with Federal Title VI requirements (FTA C 4702.1B). The equity analysis is intended to determine if the expansion of AVL service will result in disparate impacts for minority populations or pose a disproportionate burden to low-income populations. The full results of the service equity analysis will be presented to the Board together with the results of the public outreach effort.

Budget Impact

Title VI implementation costs are included in the Adopted Operating Budget for FY2023-24.

Next Steps

On May 24, 2024, staff will present the results of the Title VI equity analysis and public outreach.

Suggested project timeline of activities includes:

- Creation of e-comment and survey on Metrolink website: March 8, 2024
- Board approval of the initiation of the Public Outreach process: March 29, 2024
- Public Meeting regarding AVL Schedule Expansion: week of April 18, 2024
- Ad placement in LEP papers: week of April 22, 2024
- Creation and distribution of social media posts regarding public meetings and public hearings starting in April 2024
- Staff presents result of public outreach and equity analysis: May 10, 2024
- Board hearing: May 24, 2024
- Above dates are subject to change.

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Attachment(s)

[Presentation - AVL Title VI](#)