



ITEM ID: 2025-143-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: February 21, 2025

MEETING DATE: February 28, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: Title VI Public Hearing for October 2024 Schedule Change

Issue

In October 2024, the Authority launched a systemwide schedule change which offers increased frequency, better connections, and more service during weekdays. In January 2025, the Authority adjusted the schedules for the San Bernardino, Ventura, and Arrow Lines to address on-time performance challenges and align services across multiple lines. 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 systemwide schedule change launched in October 2024, as adjusted in January 2025.

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 that the schedule change launched in October 2024, as adjusted in January 2025, meet Title VI equity requirements.

Background

As a recipient of Federal funding, the Authority is required to conduct public outreach for all major service changes. During the public outreach, staff will seek public feedback on the continuation of the schedule change launched in October 2024, as adjusted in January 2025.

Discussion

On October 21, 2024 the Authority launched a systemwide schedule change which offers increased frequency, better connections, and more service during weekdays. The new schedule focused on service growth in the current markets Metrolink serves by:

- Leveling train schedules to serve off-peak markets, thus enabling Metrolink to serve customers throughout the day; and
- Improving transfer opportunities between Lines at L.A. Union Station.

On January 27, 2025, the Authority adjusted its train schedules on the San Bernardino, Ventura, and Arrow Lines to improve service reliability and align services across multiple lines. These adjustments ensure better operational flow and more dependable service across our network, enhancing customer experience for Metrolink riders.

Service Plan

On October 21, 2024, the Authority launched a systemwide schedule change which resulted in 32 new weekday trains, for a new total of 178 weekday trains spread across the day, providing more mid-day options and service into the evening. All 178 trains also operate five car-sets. On January 27, 2025, the Authority adjusted the train schedules for the San Bernardino, Ventura, and Arrow Lines to address on-time performance issues, as well as enhance train connections between lines. Taken together, the new schedule promotes optimized transfer opportunities through “pulse” scheduling across the system. The number of connections available throughout the day has increased by more than 300%, with more than 225 daily connections (up from 67) through L.A. Union Station, and most customers will experience wait periods of just 10-20 minutes.

Public Participation Plan

After initiating the public comment period, staff will notify the community of the schedule expansion. We will encourage the public to provide comments by distributing a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) news release, creating a webpage with the attached survey, and launching electronic blasts (E- blast), social media, and changeable message boards with relevant project information. The staff will hold a virtual bilingual community workshop on March 26, 2025 to explain the schedule expansion; we will 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 Metrolink 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 service will result in disparate impacts for minority populations or pose a disproportionate burden to low-income populations.

Staff is now seeking approval from the Board to initiate the Title VI equity analysis and public outreach for the service expansion.

Budget Impact

Title VI study and outreach costs are included in the Adopted Operating Budget for FY2024-25.

Next Steps

The full results of the service equity analysis will be presented to the Board together with the results of the public outreach effort during the April Board meeting.

Suggested project timeline of activities includes:

- Board approval of the initiation of the Public Outreach process: February 28, 2025
- Creation of e-comment and survey on Metrolink website: February 28, 2025
- Public Meeting regarding the schedule expansion: March 26, 2025
- E-comments due by April 15, 2025
- Staff presents result of public outreach and equity analysis to the Board: April 25, 2025

The above dates are subject to change.

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Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

Attachment(s)

[Presentation - Title VI Analysis and Public Outreach for Oct Schedule Change](#)