



ITEM ID: 2024-188-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: May 3, 2024

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2024

TO: Executive Committee

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 11 weekday trains to 15 weekday trains and service was doubled on weekends. This rail schedule service expansion is subject to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Title VI guidelines that require transit agencies to conduct a service equity analysis and public outreach effort for major service changes.

Recommendation

It is recommended the Committee recommend the Board:

1. Receive public feedback and the results of the Title VI equity analysis;
2. Hold a Public Hearing on May 24, 2024.

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 new 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 Station (LAUS). The service will enable Metrolink to operate more hourly mid-day and evening service to and from LAUS.

Discussion

The AVL schedule expansion represents 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. It will offer residents, businesses, and visitors a new commuting option to travel to various leisure, education, healthcare, and other destinations.

Equity Analysis

As 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 addition of the AVL service will result in any disparate impacts for minority populations or pose any disproportionate burden for low-income populations. Because the AVL service will utilize Metrolink's existing fare structure with no change in fares proposed, no fare equity analysis is required.

Based on Metrolink's Title VI policies, service change proposals are determined to have a Disparate Impact or Disproportionate Burden if the adverse impacts experienced by minority or low-income riders are at least 5% higher than the adverse impacts experienced by nonminority or non-low-income riders. Conversely, if the cumulative benefits associated with the service change that accrue to non-minority or non-low-income riders are 5% greater than the cumulative benefits that accrue to minority or low-income riders, then that change would be determined to have a Disparate Impact or Disproportionate Burden.

Results of the AVL Service Equity Analysis (Attachment A) find that there is neither a Disparate Impact on minority riders nor a Disproportionate Burden on low-income riders. The service change results in a slightly higher share of beneficial impacts for both minority riders and for low-income riders. Because the service change is determined not to have a Disparate Impact on minority riders nor a Disproportionate Burden on low-income riders, no mitigations are required.

Results of Public Outreach

As a result of the AVL service expansion a Title VI effort is necessary. Title VI requires an analysis and a public outreach effort to ensure that our new planned service does not create a disparate impact on Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and identified disadvantaged communities. On March 29, 2024, the Metrolink Board authorized the beginning of the public outreach period under Title VI.

In addition to hosting a public outreach meeting for community participation on April 18, 2024, the activities identified below have been planned and implemented to encourage public participation.

Public Outreach Activities include:

- A notice regarding the public hearing was submitted on April 9, 2024 and published in approved LEP newspapers. Notices were printed in five adjudicated general circulation papers (one for each county) and 11 foreign language papers.
- The creation of a website for e-comments which includes a comment and survey component was launched on March 29, 2024. As of April 19, more than 40 comments had been received and more comments are expected in the coming weeks. Almost without exception, comments indicated supporting the AVL service expansion.
- English/Spanish public meeting was scheduled for and completed on April 18, 2024. A recording of the meeting will be made available through the website until May 10, 2024.
- Social media notices were posted regarding the public meeting and encouraging public comments.
- Changeable message boards at Metrolink stations included message regarding the public meeting from April 11-18.
- Meeting notices were posted on the Nextdoor website. As of April 19, our Nextdoor post had over 36,000 views.
- Meeting and public comment notices were sent to 115 Community Based Organizations.
- A media advisory regarding the meeting and public comments was distributed.

Budget Impact

Title VI study and outreach costs are included in the Adopted Operating Budget for FY2023-24.

Next Steps

On May 24, 2024 the Board will receive Title VI equity analysis and summary of public comment and hold the Public Hearing.

Prepared by: Sylvia Novoa, Public Affairs Manager, Government & Community Relations
Henning Eichler, Senior Manager, Market Insights and Analytics, Customer Experience
Tom Schamber, Title VI Officer, Grants Funding & Reporting
David Huang, Planning Manager I

Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer
Don Filippi, Chief Operating Officer

Attachment(s)

Attachment A - Title VI Service Equity Analysis for AVL
Presentation - Title VI Public Outreach for AVL Schedule Expansion