

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 2/28/11		Item Number: <u>A-1</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Schedule Modifications to Culver CityBus Lines 3 and 4 Related to Direct Service into West Los Angeles College Effective on March 28, 2011			
Contact Person/Dept.: Art A. Ida/Transportation Director		Phone Number: (310) 253-6545	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☐	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒ Date: _____			
Public Notification: (Email) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (03/04/2011);(Email) West Los Angeles College Stakeholder Email List (03/04/2011); and (Meeting) West Los Angeles College Staff (03/01/2011).			
Department Approval: Art A. Ida (03/02/2011)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (03/03/11)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (03/03/11)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (03/04/11)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council approve schedule modifications to Culver CityBus Lines 3 and 4 related to direct service into West Los Angeles College (WLAC). <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Culver CityBus operates seven bus lines which provide approximately 5 million passenger trips annually on the Westside of Los Angeles County. Culver CityBus Lines 3 and 4 currently provide direct transit service to WLAC. Except for the temporarily-discontinued service to WLAC in summer, 2010, the service has been in operation since the mid-1980s. Lines 3 and 4 have approximately 700 combined daily average boardings/alighting at the WLAC campus stop. The discontinuation of service in summer, 2010 was the result of a request in May, 2010 from former WLAC President Mark Rocha, who requested that direct Line 3 and 4 services be discontinued under the condition that WLAC would provide connecting shuttle service between the campus and existing bus stops outside of campus. Direct transit service was discontinued on June 9, 2010. On July 27, 2010, WLAC sent the City a letter requesting reinstatement of direct transit service. WLAC further informed staff that WLAC no longer had funding to operate the connecting shuttle. In order to minimize the impact to students, staff, and visitors to the campus, the City resumed direct transit service to the campus in August, 2010.			

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Since the reinstatement of direct transit service to WLAC, the City received complaints from the Lakeside Villas neighborhood (Lakeside Villas) on noise impacts from Line 3 and Line 4 buses going in and out of WLAC. At the September 27, 2010 City Council Meeting, the City Council directed staff to address these complaints. Subsequently, staff evaluated potential alternatives to address the issue and received the City Council's direction to move forward with the alternative of reducing direct bus service into WLAC to lessen the noise impact to Lakeside Villas residents. The City Council further directed staff to recommend schedule modifications necessary to attain the reduction in direct bus service to WLAC.

Existing Line 3 and 4 Service into West Los Angeles College

Line 3 is a north-south route that connects Century City with the Culver City Transit center. It runs seven days a week and services WLAC from Monday to Saturday. Line 4 is an east-west weekday-only route that connects the West Los Angeles Transit Center to the Culver City Transit Center. The existing Line 3 and 4 service has a combined total of 122 scheduled weekday trips into WLAC, with service before 7am on an as-needed basis. A "trip" is defined as the movement of one bus that goes into the campus, picks up / drops off passengers, and leaves the campus to continue along its designated route. Line 3 has a total of 96 trips into WLAC during the weekday (with the frequency of once every 20 minutes per route direction) and 67 trips on Saturday (with the frequency of once every 30 minutes per route direction). Line 4 has a total of 25 trips into WLAC during weekday only (with the frequency of once an hour per route direction).

DISCUSSION:

In accordance with the City Council's direction to look at options for addressing community concerns about noise, staff is recommending the following schedule modifications to the direct Lines 3 and 4 services to WLAC:

Direct Weekday Service

Line 3

From Monday to Thursday, direct Line 3 service to WLAC will commence after 7 am and will run every 40 minutes instead of every 20 minutes from approximately 7:30am to 5pm and will run hourly instead of every 20-30 minutes from approximately 5pm to 10pm; existing scheduled direct service from 5:49am to 7am and the last trip at 10:30pm will be eliminated.

On Fridays, direct Line 3 service will commence after 7am and will run hourly instead of every 20-30 minutes from approximately 7:10am to 2pm; existing scheduled direct service from approximately 5:49am to 7am and approximately 2pm to 10:30pm will be eliminated.

Line 4

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From Monday to Thursday, direct Line 4 service to WLAC will commence after 7am and will maintain the existing headway of one hour until approximately 6pm. On Fridays, direct Line 4 service will commence after 7am and will maintain the existing headway of one hour until approximately 2pm; existing scheduled direct service from approximately 2pm to 6pm will be eliminated.

Direct Weekend Service

Line 3

On Saturdays, direct Line 3 service to WLAC will commence after 7am and will run hourly instead of every 30 minutes from approximately 7:50am to 2pm. Existing scheduled direct service from approximately 6am to 7am and from approximately 2pm to 10:30pm will be eliminated. There is currently no direct Line 3 service on Sundays and holidays.

Line 4

There is no modification proposed to Line 4 as it is a weekday-only service.

Reduction in Direct Transit Trips to Campus

The proposed schedule modifications will reduce the following average total *daily trips* to the following:

- Monday to Thursday – reduced from 121 trips to 63 trips (48% reduction in trips)
- Friday – reduced from 121 trips to 31 trips (74% reduction in trips)
- Saturday – reduced from 66 to 14 trips (79% reduction in trips)

The total number of *Weekly Trips* is reduced from 671 to 297 trips (a 56% reduction in trips).

The proposed modifications will reduce the noise impacts to Lakeside Villas while maintaining direct transit service that will continue to serve the needs of bus patrons. Operation efficiency, ease of understanding for bus patrons, night-time safety, existing ridership patterns and overcrowding situation were also taken into consideration in the recommended schedule modifications. In evaluating the appropriate schedule modifications, staff also looked at the feasibility of concentrating more direct service during hours that may have higher demand and provide less service during hours of lower demand. Staff determined that, due to operational difficulty, the availability of classes throughout the day, and the need to maintain basic service to the campus, the direct service to WLAC should maintain a somewhat consistent headway throughout the day and should not have long gaps in service. The recommended modifications, through maintaining a somewhat consistent schedule, will allow for some ease of operation by bus operators and will make it easier to understand and remember for bus patrons. Staff also had a

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meeting with WLAC during which WLAC staff discussed their suggested reductions in direct transit service to the campus. Staff considered their suggestions and incorporated some of their input into staff's recommendation.

Should the City Council approve the recommended schedule modifications, to allow adequate notice to be provided to transit patrons, the proposed implementation date for schedule modifications will be on March 28, 2011.

It is worthwhile to note that demand for direct transit service to WLAC is likely to increase in future years. The increasing cost of college education at four-year universities, (which may lead to higher demand at community colleges), increasing gas prices, and the opening of the Exposition Light Rail Line that connect Culver City westward to Santa Monica and eastward to downtown Los Angeles may all bring additional students to WLAC, a portion of whom will become Culver CityBus riders. The existing Line 3 service has already been experiencing some overcrowding in the morning. The proposed reduction in direct service to WLAC may lead to more overcrowding and an increase in complaints from bus patrons. Staff will continue to monitor the demand on direct service to WLAC.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed schedule modifications will not create a significant fiscal impact to the City. The reduction in direct bus service to WLAC will not add to the cost of operations or result in operational cost reductions. Ridership on Lines 3 and 4 may, initially, be negatively impacted due to the reduction in direct service to WLAC, which would impact the amount of transit funding the City receives annually. However, the initial reduction in ridership is anticipated to be negligible. As noted above, the longer-term impacts will need to be monitored,

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Approve the proposed schedule modifications to Culver CityBus Line 3 and 4 Service into WLAC effective on March 28, 2011.