

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

Meeting Date: 6/13/11		Item Number: <u>A-1</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Proposed Summer Schedule Modifications and Continuation of Existing Schedule for the Non-Summer Period on Culver CityBus Lines 3 and 4 Related to Direct Service into West Los Angeles College			
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 (06/08/11);(Email) West Los Angeles College Stakeholder Email List (06/01/2011 and 6/7/2011); and (Meeting) West Los Angeles College Staff (05/10/2011, 05/26/2011, and 06/01/2011).			
Department Approval: Art A. Ida (06/02/11)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (06/08/11)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (06/08/11)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (06/08/11)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council approve the proposed summer schedule modifications and the continuation of the existing schedule for the non-summer period 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. After receiving complaints from the Lakeside Villas neighborhood related to noise impacts from Line 3 and Line 4 buses servicing WLAC, the City Council directed staff to reduce the direct bus service into WLAC. On March 7, 2011, the City Council approved the proposed schedule modifications to Lines 3 and 4, and the schedule modifications were subsequently implemented starting March 28, 2011. At the time of approval, the City Council directed staff to come back to the City Council with a recommendation on the summer service as well as an end-of-semester review on the implemented schedule modifications.			

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

DISCUSSION:

Staff has met on several occasions with staff from WLAC to obtain WLAC's input on this subject. On May 10, 2011, WLAC proposed that Culver CityBus run service Mondays through Thursdays from 7am to 7pm. For Fridays, WLAC proposed to eliminate scheduled service but requested that bus operators ask passengers whether they need to go up into campus. Service on Saturdays would be eliminated for the summer, and currently there is no service into WLAC on Sundays.

On May 26, 2011, staff met again with WLAC and proposed further reduction to WLAC's proposal. WLAC was agreeable to staff's recommendations as described below.

In accordance with the City Council's direction to make recommendations regarding the summer service and provide an end-of-semester review on the implemented schedule modifications, staff is providing the following review/recommendations:

Direct Service to WLAC during the Summer

Due to budget cuts, WLAC will not offer for-credit classes during Summer 2011. However, according to WLAC, it anticipates at least 5,000 students will seek services from the Administrative Office, Counseling, Financial Aid, and other departments throughout the summer. It further anticipates approximately 4,000 students will attend the Westside Extension classes. Given the lower number of potential bus riders, staff is recommending that the service be reduced to the following:

Line 3

Monday to Thursday: Direct service to WLAC will be available during the period of approximately 9am to 3pm and will continue to run every 40 minutes.

Friday: Direct service to WLAC will be eliminated.

Saturday: Direct service to WLAC will be eliminated.

Sunday: Line 3 currently does not offer Sunday service into WLAC

Line 4

Monday to Thursday: Direct service to WLAC will be available from approximately 9am to 3pm and will continue to run hourly.

Friday: Direct service to WLAC will be eliminated.

Saturday and Sunday: There is no modification proposed to Line 4 weekend service as it is a weekday-only service.

The proposed schedule modifications will reduce the average total *daily trips* (both Line 3 and Line 4 in the aggregate) to the following:

: reduced from 65 trips to 34 trips (48% reduction in trips);

City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report

Friday: reduced from 31 trips to 0 trip (100% reduction in trips); and,

Saturday: reduced from 14 trips to 0 trips (100% reduction in trips).

Sunday: There is no service into WLAC on Sundays.

The total number of *Weekly Trips* is reduced from 305 trips to 136 trips (55% reduction in trips).

Staff feels that this reduced service will adequately meet the needs of bus patrons who need direct service to WLAC while further reducing the potential noise impacts to the Lakeside Villas residents. If approved, the proposed summer schedule modifications will be effective on June 20, 2011 to allow for proper noticing and change in printed schedules. The last day of the proposed summer service will be August 4, 2011.

Review of the Schedule Modifications Implemented on March 28, 2011

Since the implementation of the schedule modifications on March 28, 2011, staff has not observed (nor have there been any reports of) any overcrowding situations on Lines 3 and 4 buses. Staff monitored and analyzed the boardings/alightings at the WLAC campus stop as well as stops surrounding WLAC. The analysis shows that there is approximate 28% (Mondays through Thursdays) and 38% (Fridays) increase in average daily boardings/alightings at the surrounding stops and approximately 46% (Mondays through Thursdays) and 84% (Fridays) decrease in average daily boardings/alightings at the WLAC campus stop. Most notably, the daily average boarding/alighting associated with trips to/from WLAC for Monday to Thursday has decreased from approximately 1084 to approximately 694. The daily average boardings/alightings associated with trips to/from WLAC for Fridays has decreased from approximately 132 to approximately 84. These numbers show, in general, a 36% loss in ridership associated with trips to/from WLAC. Assuming that the demand to access the campus remained constant, this suggests that some bus patrons have chosen other means of transportation to access the campus.

At this point, due to the short duration of the monitoring, staff is recommending that the existing schedule be maintained after the summer. Staff will continue to monitor the ridership and, if need be, will return to the City Council for consideration of further schedule modifications.

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 connects 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

City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report

riders, and public transit will play an even more important role in improving the region's mobility.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed summer schedule modifications will not create a significant fiscal impact to the City. The reduction in direct bus service to WLAC during the summer will not add to the cost of operations or result in operational cost reductions. Ridership on Lines 3 and 4 during the summer may 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 reduction in ridership is anticipated to be negligible.

Ridership on Lines 3 and 4 since the implementation of schedule modifications on March 28, 2011 has been negatively impacted by 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 negligible. As noted earlier, the longer-term impacts will need to be monitored.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Approve the proposed summer schedule modifications to Culver CityBus Line 3 and 4 Service into WLAC effective on June 20, 2011; and,

Approve resumption of the current Culver CityBus Lines 3 and 4 service into WLAC in August 8, 2011.