

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

To: Clarence W. Marsella, General Manager
From: Tony McCaulay, AGM of Customer Services
Date: June 22, 2005
Subject: Approval of August 2005 Service Changes

Date
GM
Board Meeting Date June 28, 2005
ACTION X DISCUSSION INFO

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended by the Operations Committee that the Board of Directors approve the August 21, 2005 Service Change package as revised and summarized on Attachment A resulting in a net annual cost of approximately \$613,400, and, further, to authorize the General Manager to execute contract amendments as necessary for private operators whose service is impacted by these changes.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the Board policy on service changes, plans for the August 21, 2005 service changes are included herein (Attachment A). The primary objectives are to: (1) to conduct system maintenance – which includes service increases to address overloads and normal maintenance; and (2) to implement selected service improvements.

DISCUSSION

Funding for increased system service hours in the 2005 budget has been set at 0.0% for fixed route service, instead of the more typical 2.5% of total annual hours (3-4% annualized). This is due to the continuing economic situation and the consequent decline in sales tax receipts. Accordingly, it has been necessary to balance requisite system maintenance (running time issues, non-functional interlines, overloads, etc. - normally around 1.5% of annual hours, dependent upon the metropolitan area's growth rate) with appropriate service efficiencies.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

DATE	LOCATION	PUBLIC ATTENDANCE
June 8, 2005	Downtown Denver RTD Administrative Offices	7
June 8, 2005	Golden Golden Recreation Center	1
June 9, 2005	Boulder Boulder Public Library	20

DATE	LOCATION	PUBLIC ATTENDANCE
June 9, 2005	Littleton Littleton City Hall	2
June 13, 2005	Aurora Heather Gardens	62
June 14, 2005	Stapleton Stapleton Redevelopment Building	3
June 15, 2005	Stapleton Stapleton Redevelopment Building	5

Public Hearing Results

The public hearings were attended by a total of 100 members of the general public. Please see Attachment B for a summary of public hearing comments.

Proposed Revisions to original August 2005 Service Change Proposal

1. The Route 205 proposal for a small route change has been removed.
2. Routes 35X and CS/CV/CX have been added to Normal Maintenance for minor changes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2005 RTD cost from the August service changes would be approximately \$219,600. JARC (Jobs Access Reverse Commute) funding would cover approximately \$155,280 of this amount. The annualized cost of the August 2005 service changes would be approximately \$613,400, of which JARC would fund approximately \$433,750 in 2006. Due to savings made available via the May 2005 service changes, funding is available in the 2005 budget for the proposed August 2005 service changes.

SUMMARY OF SERVICE CHANGES – AUGUST 2005

I. SERVICE EFFICIENCIES

Route 0Ltd – South Broadway

The 4:59 p.m. and 5:06 p.m. trips from Civic Center Station to I-25 & Broadway will be merged into a 5:04 p.m. trip due to low ridership and congestion issues in the station. Based on observations and customer suggestions, this will better meet the needs of customers who would use this trip as a connection to the existing and future Light Rail service at I-25 & Broadway.

Route 35 – Hampden Crosstown

The Route 35 will be truncated at Nine Mile park-n-Ride eliminating its routing through the Heather Garden's Community. The Aurora call-n-Ride will replace the Route 35 service in Heather Gardens offering weekday service from 5:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on a half-hourly basis.

Route 67 – Littleton/Coal Mine Crosstown

Weeknight trips will be discontinued as follows: 9:07 p.m. eastbound from Littleton/Downtown Station, 8:44 p.m. and 9:29 p.m. westbound from Southglenn Mall. Checks found days with no riders on these trips; customers have switched to more direct service on parallel Route 66.

Route 90X – Nine Mile/Meadowood Express

Schedule adjustments and change the trip that currently starts at Hampden Circle/Hampden at 6:36 a.m. to instead, start at Nine Mile at 7:02 a.m. (there would still be a trip from Hampden Circle/Hampden at 6:34 a.m.).

Route DD – Boulder/Colorado Boulevard

Discontinue the following three morning southbound trips from Boulder: 4:58 a.m. (10 passengers), 6:15 a.m. (14 passengers), and 6:41 a.m. (17 passengers). Discontinue the following three northbound afternoon trips from Evans/Albion: 4:16 p.m. (10 passengers), 4:45 p.m. (21 passengers), 6:02 p.m. (6 passengers). Route DD will still provide 5 morning southbound and 6 afternoon northbound trips serving Colorado Boulevard. The resources from this service efficiency will be utilized to create the new Route DM (see Service Enhancements). Discontinue the 8:27 a.m. northbound reverse commute trip (2 passengers).

Route LX – Longmont/Denver Express

Discontinue exception stop at Highway 52/115th Street, due to no use.

II. MIXED SERVICE EFFICIENCIES/SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Route 17 - Jeffco

At the request of Jefferson County officials, the turnaround loop through the Human Services Building parking lot will be replaced by use of the traffic circle on

Illinois Street north of the building. Stops will be located to provide an acceptable sidewalk for building access.

Saturday service will be extended over the entire route to Applewood. At present, it only covers the segment from Lakewood Commons to Downtown Golden. The pattern of commercial and governmental development results in low productivity on Route 17, and the extension to Applewood would add shopping and other connections. On average on Saturdays for the year ending March 2005, buses of this route had 87 boardings (3.29 passengers per in-service hour). Service improvements will also include trips starting northbound half an hour to an hour earlier than at present, depending on the route segment. Results of the improvement will be analyzed and the service may be improved, discontinued or restructured, depending on the outcome and on resources available. (Also, interlined during hourly headway periods with Route 125 at Applewood, to share recovery.)

Route 20 – 20th Avenue

This service will be rerouted near the Stapleton area at 23rd Avenue – Quebec Street to cross Quebec Street and continue on 23rd Avenue to Syracuse Street and back to its current routing on Montview Boulevard. The new routing will alleviate on-time performance issues on the Route 20 caused by high traffic volumes at the intersection of Quebec Street and Montview Boulevard.

Route 27 – Yale Crosstown

A revised route between Englewood Station and the Federal/Evans hub. At present, buses of Route 27 loop at the Federal/Evans hub via Federal, Asbury, Clay, Evans and back to Federal. During peak hours, congestion on this route slows buses so that they cannot be scheduled for reliable connections at both the Englewood and Federal points. The new route for Route 27 buses at Federal/Evans will take them from northbound Federal via Warren, Clay, Evans and south onto Federal. Times at Englewood station and elsewhere will be adjusted as a result.

Route 52 – West 52nd Avenue/South Pearl

Route 72 – 72nd Avenue Crosstown

Restructuring of the weekday service west of Ward Road over West 64th Avenue. The change will simplify service information and respond to the needs identified with passenger counts. Route 52 trips on Indiana Street to West 68th Avenue/Joyce Street will be discontinued due to low ridership, resulting in the loss of service for 7 passenger-trips per day on 14 bus trips. Route 72 trips west of Ward Road will be replaced by extended Route 52 trips to Colorado Hwy 93, affecting 13 passenger-trips per day on 12 bus-trips. An additional eastbound trip will be added to Route 52, improving the frequency of service during the period from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. from every 45 to every 30 minutes. The 4:55 p.m. eastbound trip from Larimer/20th will be adjusted to depart at 4:51 p.m. and would be extended from Alameda Station to Evans/Albion. In addition, the 6:58 p.m. Route 52 Saturday trip from Evans/Albion will to be discontinued, due to low ridership (1 passenger on March 2004 check). This trip's counterpart on weeknights was discontinued previously for similar reasons.

Route 88 – Stapleton/Commerce City/Thornton

Reroute via 60th Avenue and Monaco Street, off of 62nd Avenue, Kearney Street, and 64th Avenue. Requested by City of Commerce City, in order to serve additional residential areas including new senior housing at 60th/Monaco. All current stops and customers remain with ¼ mile of service on Routes 48 and 88.

Route 105 – Havana Crosstown

Add 5 northbound and 5 southbound peak period trips onto the weekday service, thereby providing 15 minute frequencies in the peak periods in each direction. Additionally, Saturday and Sunday evening half-hour service frequency will be extended by the addition of two later p.m. trips in each direction. In addition, this service will be re-routed from Montview Boulevard to Central Park Boulevard to Martin Luther King Boulevard to Syracuse/Roslyn Street to the Stapleton Transfer Station. This removes Route 105 from Quebec Street between MLK Boulevard and Montview. It provides access to transit for new residents and commercial development along Central Park Boulevard. Route 73 – Quebec Crosstown/Technology Transfer will continue to provide service along Quebec Street.

III. SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Route 43 – Martin Luther King Boulevard/Gateway

The Route 43 will be extended from Airport Boulevard/40th Avenue park-n-Ride to a new terminal in the Wal-Mart Shopping Center lot located just west of Tower Road on Salida/34th Avenue. The shopping center is due to open in early September 2005.

Route 121 – Peoria Crosstown

The peak period service frequency will be extended in each direction with the addition of two trips in each direction during the late a.m. peak period. Two trips in the early p.m. peak will also be added in the northbound direction. Additionally, three evening trips in each direction, which currently end and begin at Nine Mile pnR, will be extended to Arapahoe park-n-Ride on weekdays. Saturday service will be increased by expanding the half-hour service frequency to begin earlier in the morning and end later in the evening. A total of five trips in each direction will be added to the Saturday service. Sunday service will have its current hourly service improved to half-hourly between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Route AA – Wagon Road

Add trip to relieve overloads on first morning eastbound trip. The first trip will be changed to depart Wagon Road at 3:34 a.m. The new trip will depart Wagon Road at 3:44 a.m.

Route AB – Boulder/DIA

Add trip from Boulder Station at 7:49 a.m. to DIA to alleviate overloads.

Aurora call-n-Ride

The RTD in cooperation with the city of Aurora will be establishing a new call-n-Ride. The call-n-Ride will operate Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. The base coverage area will be Alameda Parkway (on the east of I-225) to the north and Mississippi Avenue (on the west of I-225), Chambers Road on the east, Heather Gardens to Nine Mile park-n-Ride on the south and Peoria Street on the west. The service area currently has a wide range of RTD services including fixed route, express, skyRide and access-a-Ride services.

Route DM – Boulder/Fitzsimons

New route serving the new CU Health Sciences Center campus at Fitzsimons. Three peak trips to Fitzsimons in the morning, returning to Boulder in the afternoon. Service will operate from the Boulder Station via Broadway and Table Mesa Drive, Table Mesa park-n-Ride, Superior/Louisville park-n-Ride, Westminster Center park-n-Ride to Fitzsimons. The resources to fund this new route will come from service efficiencies on the Route DD (see Service Efficiencies).

IV. NORMAL MAINTENANCE

Route 3 – Alameda Crosstown

Schedule adjustments.

Route 15 – East Colfax

Route 15Ltd – East Colfax

Schedule adjustments and additional Saturday morning westbound 15Ltd trips.

Route 35X – East Yale/Heather Gardens Express

The last eastbound trip will be revised to depart I-25/Broadway at 5:36 p.m.

Route 66 – Arapahoe Crosstown

Schedule adjustments.

Route 120X – Wagon Road/Thornton Express

Route 122X – Wagon Road/Civic Center Express

Schedule adjustments and 1 a.m. trip switched from the 120X to the 122X.

Route 125 – Denver West

Schedule adjustments.

AVA - Avatrac

Schedule adjustments.

BOUND – 30th Street

Implement winter schedule by improving weekday frequency from every 15 to every 10 minutes, between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

CS/CV/CX – Pine Junction/Conifer/Denver

The King's Valley stop will be discontinued in both directions due to traffic engineering issues.

DASH – Boulder/Lafayette via Louisville

Implement winter schedule by improving weekday midday frequency between 17th/Walnut and South Boulder Road/Manhattan Circle (just east of Foothills Parkway) from every 30 to every 15 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

JUMP – Arapahoe

Implement winter schedule by improving weekday frequency within Boulder from every 15 to every 10 minutes, between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Improve weekday peak frequency to/from Lafayette from every 30 to every 20 minutes.

SKIP – Broadway

Implement winter schedule by improving weekday peak frequency from every 10 to every 7 minutes.

STAMPEDE – CU/East Boulder

Implement winter schedule by improving weekday frequency from every 30 to every 15 minutes from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m., and to every 10 minutes from 7:30 a.m. to 6:20 p.m. Depending upon results of the summer service experiment, the Stampede may revert to counterclockwise only operation through CU Campus.

School Trippers

Reinstate seasonal school service on the following routes: 1, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 27, 28, 30, 30Ltd, 31, 45, 50, 51, 51Ltd, 52, 59, 65, 66, 100, 121, 205, 206, 208, 209, 301, 302 and 303.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Downtown Denver – June 8, 2005

RTD Administrative Offices

Seven members of the public attended this hearing. No comments were received relevant to the proposed August service changes. One comment received was about a bus stop on Quebec (referred to the Bus Stop Division), another was a request for more service on Route 15 on Saturday and Sunday mornings and another was a request for additional trips on Route 48X (this will be included in the January 2006 service change proposal).

Golden – June 8, 2005

Golden Recreation Center

One member of the public attended this hearing. The public participant was not directly interested in the specific August 2005 changes. She came to speak in favor of adding some midday service on Route G between Boulder and Golden. She also encouraged the rapid construction of Light Rail lines west toward Golden from Downtown Denver.

Boulder – June 9, 2005

Boulder Public Library

Twenty members of the general public attended this meeting, as well as Director Dick McLean, Chris Jones from the City of Boulder and Kim Castleberry from the Boulder Daily Camera. The majority of the attendees (residents of Canyon Pointe Apartments) were there to speak against the Route 205 route change proposal, as they stated that this would cause a hardship for many of the elderly and disabled residents (the route change proposal has been removed from the proposed August changes). About five people spoke on aspects of Route DD (i.e. length of trip, number of stops, request to extend to the DTC, inconvenience cause by eliminating 3 a.m. and 3 p.m. trips). Two people commented on Routes F and H (i.e. parking availability at 28th/Canyon, holiday capacity at Table Mesa, a bus stop issue).

Littleton – June 9, 2005

Littleton City Hall

Two members of the public attended this meeting, as well as Director O'Neill Quinlan. The public participants were not directly interested in the specific August 2005 changes. They came to speak in favor of a call-n-Ride or regular feeder bus route between the Littleton Light Rail stations that would serve the newer (southerly) portions of Prince Street.

They also took advantage of the opportunity to discuss a number of fare proposals with Director Quinlan, including their desire to eliminate the hard zone boundary at Hampden Avenue, their concern that senior fares were raised too much when peak/off-peak differentials were eliminated, and the need to be able to make advance purchases of senior fares for skyRide.

Aurora – June 13, 2005

Heather Gardens

Sixty-two members of the public attended this meeting, as well as Director Barbara Yamrick, Sue Sandstrom (Aurora City Council) and Huilang Lui (Senior Planner, City of Aurora). A brief introduction of representatives from RTD was offered along with a description of the public meeting process. After a brief description of the proposal to eliminate the Route 35 service to Heather Gardens and to create the new Aurora call-n-Ride service, public input began. Huiland Lui from the City of Aurora read a letter supporting the proposal to create the Aurora call-n-Ride from Councilwoman Molly Markert. A number of questions and comments were heard that illustrated a lack of understanding of how call-n-Ride service operates. Explanations were offered and the meeting was concluded with a “show of hands” vote on the proposal. The unofficial vote showed a split of 19 for, 19 against the proposal. It should be noted that during the input process Councilwoman Sue Sandstrom offered that the service should be explored on a temporary basis and that it should be modified with input from the City of Aurora and residents of Heather Gardens.

Stapleton – June 14, 2005

Stapleton Redevelopment Building

Three members of the public attended this meeting. After brief introductions, a description of the public meeting process was given. Discussion ranged from questions concerning Route 40 selected service to 49th/Pontiac, to comments approving the proposed changes on the Routes 20 and 105.

Stapleton – June 15, 2005

Stapleton Redevelopment Building

Five members of the public attended this meeting. After brief introductions, a description of the public meeting process was given. An overview of future Transit Plans for Stapleton was offered in relation to the proposed changes to the Route 105. Comments and questions included approval of the proposed changes in the Stapleton area and a request for additional limited stop service to Downtown Denver. Two students and the Director of the Denver School of Science and Technology were also present advocating the proposed change to the Route 20. A letter stating the number of students expected to attend DSST was submitted as a part of a request to create a school tripper service.

Additional Communications

Fifty-three additional communications (e-mail's, faxes and letters) were received. Thirty-three were opposed to the proposed Route 205 changes (one e-mail, six letters and one petition with 26 names). One was in support of the Route 27 proposal and one was opposed to the Route 67 reductions. One was in support of the added Route 121 trips. Twelve were opposed to the Route DD proposal, two in support of the DM proposal, and one requested an earlier L bus leaving Longmont be added to the August proposal. In addition, two e-mails in support of added frequency for the Boulder routes were received.