

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

To: Clarence W. Marsella, General Manager
From: Bruce Abel, AGM of Customer & Contracted Services
Date: June 10, 2009
Subject: Approval of August 23, 2009 Service Changes

Date
GM
Board Meeting Date: June 23, 2009
ACTION X DISCUSSION INFO

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended by the Operations/Customer Services Committee that the Board of Directors approve the August 23, 2009 Service Change package as revised and summarized on Attachment A resulting in a net annual savings of approximately \$53,300, 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 23, 2009 service changes are included herein (Attachment A). The primary objectives are to: (1) conduct service efficiencies; and (2) conduct system maintenance – which includes service increases to address overloads and normal maintenance.

DISCUSSION

The current economic recession has negatively impacted current and projected sales tax revenue. A moderate service reduction was implemented with the January 2009 Service Change. A relatively major reduction was made with the May 2009 Service Change. The proposed August 2009 Service Change is very moderate in scope. That proposal is contained herein as Attachment A. The guiding principles behind the selection of services to be adjusted were the RTD Service Standards, the effect on the overall transit network and the availability of alternative services.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND REVISIONS TO INITIAL PROPOSALS

The public hearings were attended by a total of 7 members of the general public. Please see Attachment B for a summary of public hearing comments.

Based on input received during the public comment process and additional analysis conducted since the initial service recommendations were proposed to the Board of Directors, the following revisions are recommended to the service changes initially proposed:

1. Routes 38, 44L, 135, 209 and AT have been added for schedule adjustments.
2. The Route 31X proposal to discontinue one trip in each peak period has been removed due to some moderate ridership growth since the beginning of the May 2009 service changes. Its performance will continue to be monitored.

DATE	LOCATION	PUBLIC ATTENDANCE
June 2, 2009	Downtown Denver RTD Administration Building	2
June 8, 2009	Thornton/Northglenn Thornton Public Library	5

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2009 net savings from the August 2009 service changes as revised would be approximately \$17,800. The annualized savings would be approximately \$53,300.

SUMMARY OF SERVICE CHANGE PROPOSALS – AUGUST 2009

I. SERVICE EFFICIENCIES

Route 104 - 104th Avenue

Route 104 averages 12.8 boardings/per in-service hour. Midday service, operating every 60 minutes, averages 13.5 boardings/hour, while morning peak service, operating every 30 minutes, averages 11.8 and afternoon peak averages 13.5. It is proposed to reduce the peak frequency from 30 to every 60 minutes, thereby retaining a 60 minute service frequency throughout the day.

Route 105 – Havana Crosstown

It is proposed that the 5:22 a.m. southbound trip from Ulster-Tufts be eliminated. This trip currently averages 0 passengers.

Route B – Boulder/Denver

Discontinue 6:19 a.m. eastbound Route BX trip from Table Mesa park-n-Ride. Averages 13 passengers, while adjacent BX trips 8 minutes earlier and 7 minutes later have available capacity.

II. MIXED SERVICE EFFICIENCIES/SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Route 1 – West 1st Avenue

Delete Saturday service east of Madison Street. Schedule adjustments and interline Saturday service with Route 17.

Route 17 - Jeffco

Schedule adjustments. Interline Saturday service with Route 1.

Route 402Ltd – Highlands Ranch Parkway Limited

Sunday & holiday service – some of the lowest ridership short-turn trips (Littleton-Mineral Station to/from Highlands Ranch Town Center) would be discontinued, paying for the extension of the highest ridership short-turn trips to/from County Line Station. (Goal is to come out net even.)

Route CS – Pine Junction/Conifer/Denver

Discontinue 5:30 a.m. westbound trip due to low (0-1) ridership. Replace 5:09 p.m. and 6:11 p.m. trips eastbound from Pine Junction with trips at 4:43 p.m. and 5:48 p.m. for better coordination of Cold Spring to Civic Center headway and earlier afternoon departures from US285 stops.

III. ROUTINE SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS

Route 0 – South Broadway

Schedule adjustments.

Route 6 – East 6th Avenue/North Pecos

Trips starting at DUS extended to start at Rockmont due to DUS construction. Also, schedule adjustments.

Route 8 – North Broadway/Huron

Complete running time analysis. Current weekday midday on-time performance is only at the 50% level. The annualized cost to correct the on-time performance would be approximately \$60,800.

Route 15Ltd – East Colfax Limited

Potential Downtown layover relocation due to construction (W Hotel at Market/16th) until DUS bus box opens. {Tentatively Market/18th nearside or 15th/Arapahoe nearside.}

Route 16 – West Colfax

Add timepoint at Kipling.

Route 20 – 20th Avenue

Downtown layover relocated due to construction. {Tentatively 18th/Blake farside.}

Route 29 - Riverbend

Route 36 – Fort Logan

Route 36Ltd – Fort Logan Limited

Schedule adjustments.

Route 35 – Hampden Crosstown

Minor schedule adjustments.

Route 38 – 38th Avenue

Schedule adjustments.

Route 43 – MLK/30th Downing

Schedule adjustments.

Route 44 – 44th Avenue Crosstown

Schedule adjustments.

Route 44L – West 44th Avenue Limited

Schedule adjustments.

Route 45 – Montbello/Green Valley Ranch

Schedule adjustments and a 6:05 p.m. eastbound trip added.

Route 76 – Wadsworth Crosstown

Sunday & holiday schedule adjustments.

Route 87X – South Wadsworth Express

Add timepoint at West Mississippi Avenue and schedule adjustments.

Route 100 – Kipling Crosstown

Schedule adjustments.

Route 105 – Havana Crosstown

There will be a long-term detour on Route 105 on Fiddler's Green Parkway due to the construction of the Village Center Transit Plaza.

Route 135 – Smoky Hill Road

Schedule adjustments and a deviation added to serve the new Smoky Hill/Piccadilly facility.

Route 139 – Quincy

Construction of the bus turnaround at Smokey Hill/Piccadilly is expected to be completed sometime in late 2009. When this occurs, the current detour will cease and the eastern terminal will be at Smokey Hill/Picadilly. Also, schedule adjustments.

Route 209 – CU/ Thunderbird

Implement winter schedule.

Route 403 – Lucent Boulevard

Schedule adjustments.

Route AF – Cold Spring/Downtown/DIA

Minor running time adjustments.

Route AT – Arapahoe County/DIA

Schedule adjustments.

Route Bound – 30th Street

Implement winter schedule by restoring weekday frequency from every 15 to every 10 minutes, and Saturday frequency from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes, subject to funding by City of Boulder.

Route Dash – Boulder/Lafayette via Louisville

Implement winter schedule by restoring service within Boulder to every 15 minutes from every 30 minutes from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and restore frequency from Lafayette to Boulder to every 10 from every 15 minutes from 6:45 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.

Route Jump – Boulder/Lafayette/Erie via Arapahoe

Implement winter schedule by restoring weekday frequency within Boulder to every 10 minutes from every 15 minutes, and Saturday afternoon frequency to every 15 minutes from every 30 minutes, subject to funding from the City of Boulder.

Route L – Longmont/Denver

Name change: The current Route LX trip departing Market Street Station at 5:08 p.m. and operating via Highway 66 to Longmont, will now be designated Route LH.

Route R – Brighton/Denver

Name change: Reverse commute trips, northbound to Brighton in the morning and southbound to Denver in the afternoon, will now be designated Route RC – Brighton/Denver via Colfax.

Route Skip - Broadway

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

Route Stampede – CU/East Campus

Implement winter schedule by restoring weekday frequency to every 10 minutes from every 30 minutes.

School Service

Implement school service on the following routes: 1, 6, 9, 11, 24, 30, 30Ltd, 31, 43, 51, 52, 65, 76, 100, 206, 301, 302 and 303.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/INPUT

Downtown Denver – June 3, 2009 (12:00 noon)
RTD Administration Building

There were two members of the public in attendance, plus Director Bill James.

One customer did not like the recent (May 2009) changes with the Route 2 as she depends on this service to go to the grocery store in the evenings and weekends, the times it was discontinued. The bus stops for other routes that still run during these times are too inconvenient for her needs. She asked if we can run smaller buses or 15-passenger vans to save money. She also suggested implementing a program for recycling old timetables on the bus.

The other customer was against the Route 402Ltd weekday changes that he thought were being proposed (they are actually Sunday changes). He wants to keep the weekend evening service for passengers who wish to travel from the southeast quadrant to the southwest quadrant. He also brought up other issues such as the 1st and Fillmore recovery on the Route 46, lots of incorrect shelterboards (getting better recently), and detours from construction on Ken Caryl resulting in lost drivers due to lack of street supervision.

Thornton/Northglenn – June 8, 2009
Thornton Public Library

Five members of the public attended. In addition, District J Board Member William (Bill) Christopher was also present.

Four of the five persons there spoke against the proposed changes to the Route 31X. They cited ridership figures in the 20's per trip, as well as the impact the proposed elimination would have on the adjacent trips. On-time performance issues were also raised, as was the number of people who walk to the route. One of the five spoke about the need for service on Colorado Blvd between 88th – 100th Ave, due to the large number of new residents in that area.

Additional Communications

Seventeen additional communications (e-mail's, faxes, phone calls and letters) were received.

<u>Route</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Opposed</u>	<u>Additional Comments</u>
17	1	1	1 comment also included a request for Sunday service. The 1 comment in support says if adjusted 5 or so min earlier that would be good.
31X		6	Received a petition containing 24 signatures.
104		1	
All changes in general	1		Received 1 comment in support of all proposed changes in general.

Also received communications on the following routes.

<u>Route</u>	<u>Additional Comments</u>
5X	Received 3 requests to move the 7:01am departure from Cold Springs to 6:54
17	Received 1 request for the route to be expanded to Colorado Mills.
45	Received 1 request for the route to run later.
72X	Received 1 request to extend the route to the Spring Mesa subdivision in Arvada (76 th & Quaker)
402L	Received 1 request for additional weekday pm peak trips.