

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

To: Clarence W. Marsella, General Manager
From: Tony McCaulay, AGM of Customer Services
Date: October 14, 2004
Subject: Approval of January 2005 Service Changes

Date
GM
Board Meeting Date October 19, 2004
ACTION X DISCUSSION INFO

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended by the Operations Committee that the Board of Directors approve the January 2, 2005 Service Change package as revised and summarized on Attachment A resulting in a net annual cost of approximately \$403,500 (\$738,000 with the CMAQ funded BOLT and Arvada call-n-Ride and Arvada's contribution included), 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 January 2, 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 will be 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
October 4, 2004	Downtown Denver RTD Administration Offices	5
October 6, 2004	Aurora Aurora Senior Center	7
October 6, 2004	Englewood Englewood Public Library	0

DATE	LOCATION	PUBLIC ATTENDANCE
October 6, 2004	Lafayette Lafayette Recreation Center	0
October 7, 2004	Arvada Arvada City Hall	3
October 7, 2004	Parker Town of Parker Recreation Center	2

Public Hearing Results

The public hearings were attended by a total of 17 members of the general public. Please see Attachment B for a summary of public hearing comments.

Proposed Revisions to original January 2005 Service Change Proposal

1. Routes 2, 21, 32 and CS/CV/CX have been added for schedule adjustments.
2. The Route 0 proposal has been changed from a minor service efficiency to schedule adjustments.
3. The Arvada call-n-Ride coverage area has been changed per the request of the Arvada City Council.
4. The proposed routing change for Route 66 has been modified per the request of the City of Centennial.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2005 cost of the January 2005 service changes would be approximately \$738,000. Partial funding is provided via the BOLT CMAQ grant (\$25,000) and a CMAQ grant (approximately \$137,600) and Arvada’s 10% contribution (\$17,200) for the Arvada call-n-Ride. In addition, the proposed 2005 Budget now includes \$154,700 for Gateway call-n-Ride. Funding for the remaining changes (\$403,500) is not currently contained within the 2005 Budget. Accordingly, compensatory service efficiencies may be required with the May/September service changes.

SUMMARY OF SERVICE CHANGES – JANUARY 2005

I. MIXED SERVICE EFFICIENCIES/SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Route 66 – Parker/Arapahoe Crosstown

Selected trips which currently are routed along Parker Road bypassing Arapahoe Crossing Shopping Center and Regis High School will be re-routed to use Jordan Road between Lincoln and the Broncos Parkway and then Broncos Parkway to Parker Road to the Arapahoe Crossing Shopping Center and then to Arapahoe Road and the current routing. The new routing will provide peak hour service to Arapahoe park-n-Ride from the Cottonwood neighborhood (Parker) and the developing areas along Jordan Road. It will also provide additional service to the Arapahoe Crossing Shopping Center and to developments along the Broncos Parkway. As is standard, the new routing will need to meet the RTD's service standards within a six month period, or be subject to modifications. The newly extended Route 153 will continue to provide service on Parker Road in the deleted area along Parker Road between Lincoln and the Broncos Parkway. Also, schedule adjustments.

Route AB – DIA/Boulder via US36

Remove the following trips from Airport/40th park-n-Ride, thus operating nonstop between Westminster Center park-n-Ride and Denver International Airport:

Saturdays: Westbound: 1:15 p.m. from DIA (replaced by a new Route AT trip) and 9:15 p.m. from DIA (duplicated by an existing Route AT trip)

Sundays : Eastbound: 5:37 p.m., 7:37 p.m., 8:37 p.m. at Airport/40th (these times will continue to be served via existing AF/AT trips)

Westbound: 1:15 p.m. from DIA (replaced by a new Route AT trip)

Also, minor schedule adjustments.

Route LRT – Light Rail Lines

New division opens, with changes to pull-in and pull-out trips. Northbound pull-out trips which currently go into service at 10th/Osage will instead go into service at the Evans Station. Southbound pull-out trips which currently start service at Alameda Station will instead start service at the Englewood Station. Northbound division pull-in trips with connections to Route 0 which currently operate in-service from the Littleton-Mineral Station to the Alameda Station before pulling in to the division, would instead, operate in-service from Littleton-Mineral to the Englewood Station before pulling in to the new Elati division. Also, new Convention Center Station replaces existing 14th/Stout and 14th/California Stations and schedule adjustments.

II. SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Route 8 – North Broadway/Huron

Extend weekday peak period trips from Wagon Road park-n-Ride to the Adams County Western Service Center at Pecos/122nd Avenue. Service will be approximately every 30 minutes from 6:40 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

Route 52 – West 52nd Avenue/South Pearl

7:34 a.m. and 8:04 a.m. trips at 17th & California extended to Alameda Station instead of terminating at Tremont Street, due to overloads on following trips to Denver Health. Westbound trip currently starting at Alameda Station at 2:34 p.m. to instead start at Evans/Albion at 2:07 p.m. Also, schedule adjustments.

Route 76 – Wadsworth Crosstown

Extend route north from Broomfield to Lafayette park-n-Ride, via US Highway 287 and new Exempla Hospital (HWY 287 to South Campus Drive to Exempla Drive to HWY 287). Service to be provided every 30 minutes, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., weekdays only, plus several evening trips for shift changes. The new hospital is scheduled to open in January 2005 with EcoPass.

Route AT – DIA/Mineral Station via DTC

The Sunday 9:20 p.m. trip will be extended to Colfax/Billings and rescheduled to better address passenger demand. Saturday service around the same period will be augmented by adding a short-turning trip between DIA and Nine Mile park-n-Ride. Also, add the following short trips between Airport/40th park-n-Ride and Denver International Airport, replacing Route AB trips removed from Airport/40th:

Saturdays: Southbound: 1:15 p.m.

Sundays: Southbound: 1:15 p.m.

In addition, move the few remaining afternoon northbound trips that operate via I-225 to I-70 to Peña Boulevard to instead operate by the now standard routing of I-225 to Colfax to Airport Boulevard (while still skipping Airport/40th park-n-Ride).

BOLT – Boulder/Longmont

Add three morning peak reverse commute trips, departing Boulder at 6:53 a.m., 7:23 a.m., and 7:53 a.m. The BOLT will then provide 15 minute frequency from Boulder between 6:38 and 8:08 a.m.

Route J – Longmont/East Boulder

Reroute via 63rd/Spine Road in Gunbarrel, instead of Lookout Road. Better serves developing industrial area, no existing stops lose service. Also, schedule adjustments.

III. NORMAL MAINTENANCE

Route 0 – South Broadway

Schedule adjustments.

Route 1 – West 1st Avenue

The 6:24 a.m. and 6:54 a.m. eastbound weekday trips at Champa/16th will be extended to 7th/Santa Fe [out of existing recovery] due to West High School pupil needs.

Route 2 – East 1st Avenue
Schedule adjustments.

Route 10 – East 12th Avenue
Schedule adjustments, westbound early morning peak.

Route 16 – West Colfax
Time point adjustment.

Route 16Ltd – West Colfax
Schedule adjustments.

Route 21 – Evans Crosstown
Schedule adjustments.

Route 32 – 32nd Avenue
Schedule adjustments.

Route 35X – East Yale/Heather Gardens Express
Time point adjustment.

Route 76X – North Wadsworth Express
Schedule adjustments.

Route 88 – Thornton/Commerce City/Stapleton
Schedule adjustments.

Route 105 – Havana Crosstown
Schedule adjustments.

Avoca park-n-Ride
Name changed to Wadsworth and Hampden park-n-Ride.

School Service
Review and adjust RTD school tripper service as necessary on the following routes:
1, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 27, 28, 30, 30Ltd, 31, 40, 45, 50, 51, 51Ltd, 52, 59, 65,
66, 100, 121, 205, 206, 208, 209, 301, 302 and 303.

Note: Changes will occur to school service on Routes 1, 6, 9, 11, 14, 24, 27, 28,
30, 30Ltd, 40, 50, 65, 100.

Smoky Hill Cutoff park-n-Ride
Name changed to Havana and Alameda park-n-Ride.

Route W – Wagon Road/D.T.C./Meridian
Add exception stop at Ohio/Lincoln/Walsh.

IV. WEWATTA STREET OPENING

Use of Wewatta Street will meet a commitment to residents along redeveloping Central Street, speed up reverse-commute trips and provide a new connection between Light Rail and North I-25/US36 points, bypassing Downtown traffic. It also greatly clarifies service at Union Station, improving connections with Amtrak, the Ski Train, Greyhound, Powder River and TNM&O buses. The unofficial park-n-Ride along Central and into the residential area north of the river will lose its service.

Route 6 – East 6th Avenue/North Pecos

Will no longer utilize the temporary routing via Little Raven Street between 20th Street and 15th/17th Streets. New southbound routing in downtown Denver will be 20th to Chestnut to 19th to Wewatta to 15th to Wazee to 17th and then regular route. Northbound routing will be 15th to Wewatta to 19th to Chestnut to 20th and regular route. This change will provide an all day local connection with the C-Line at Union Station.

Route 58X – West 58th Express

Route 68X – North Pierce Express

Route 72X – Ward Road Express

Route 76X – North Wadsworth Express

Change outbound routing from temporary use of Little Raven Street to operation via 15th and Wewatta Streets to Park Avenue West viaduct and then onto North I-25. Also, schedule adjustments.

Route 120X – Wagon Road/Thornton

Route B – Boulder/Denver

Route L – Longmont/Denver

Route S – Denver/East Boulder

Change inbound and outbound routing on non-HOV trips. Trips now using Central Street between 15th Street and North I-25 would use 15th to Wewatta to Park Avenue West to I-25. Also, minor schedule change on Route 120X's first northbound trip and some schedule adjustments on Route L and Route B (including an additional morning westbound express trip).

V. CALL-N-RIDES

Arvada call-n-Ride

The city of Arvada applied for and received a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grant for the implementation of 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 approximately 68th/64th Avenues to the North, Tennyson on the east, I-70 on the south and Kipling/Garrison/Oberon on the west. Non-peak service is planned to extend westward to Simms/Tabor. The east/west boundaries may be changed during the continued planning process with the Arvada Transportation Advisory Committee.

Gateway call-n-Ride

Change includes extending the current weekday service hours and adding an additional weekday bus on the Gateway call-n-Ride to alleviate customer overloads on the call-n-Ride. Hours will change from 6:30am-7:00pm to 6:00am-7:30pm. Additionally, the second vehicle will be added during this same time frame. The Gateway call-n-Ride has consistently increased in ridership on a monthly basis since its inception. Gateway is now averaging over 15.0 passengers per hour.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Downtown Denver - Monday, October 4th

RTD Administration Offices

Five members of the general public attended this meeting. One person spoke in support of the Route 76 extension to Lafayette. One person spoke in support of the Wewatta changes. Other comments related to T-REX, Light Rail, the quality of private carrier buses, and other non service change related matters.

Aurora – October 6, 2004

Aurora Senior Center

Seven members of the general public attended this meeting. There was discussion on a variety of matters such as service to new areas, connections, schedules, etc (we are following up on those subjects). No comments were received on the proposed January service changes.

Englewood – October 6, 2004

Englewood Public Library

Director James Zavist and Senior Lead Service Planner Robert Rynerson attended this meeting. No members of the public attended.

Lafayette – October 6, 2004

Lafayette Recreation Center

Director Mary Blue and Lead Service Planer Jeff Dunning attended this meeting. No members of the public attended.

Arvada – October 7, 2004

Arvada City Hall

Three members of the general public attended this meeting. Two of them submitted a request (11 signatures) to extend the Arvada call-n-Ride up to at least 72nd Avenue. One person requested a stop on the Regional Route L at the new Exempla Hospital (there will be a stop on Hwy 287 to serve the hospital).

Parker – October 7, 2004

Town of Parker Recreation Center

Two members of the general public attended this meeting. They supported the Route 66 proposed change to utilize Jordan Road during the peak periods and they requested that access-a-Ride be provided in that area on an all day basis.

Additional Communications

Five E-mails were received relevant to the proposed January 2005 service changes. One was in opposition to the Wewatta/Central changes. One was in opposition to the proposed AT changes. Three supported the Route J changes, with one offering various suggestions for further improvements.