

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

To: Clarence W. Marsella, General Manager  
From: Tony McCaulay, AGM of Customer Services  
Date: February 16, 2006  
Subject: Approval of May 2006 and August 2006 Service Changes

Date
GM
Board Meeting Date February 21, 2006
ACTION X DISCUSSION INFO

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended by the Operations Committee that the Board of Directors approve the May 7, 2006 Service Change package as revised and summarized on Attachment A and the August 20, 2006 Service Change package as revised and summarized on Attachment B, resulting in a net annual cost of approximately \$7,200, and, further, to authorize the General Manager to execute contract amendments as necessary for private operators whose service is impacted by these changes.

## BACKGROUND

The opening of the Southeast Corridor in November 2006 will impact 76 bus routes and over 140 separate schedules. The scheduling work necessitated is quite significant and it requires that Service Planning and Scheduling concentrate on this project beginning in April 2006. In order to do this, the August Service Changes must be kept to a bare minimum (i.e. return of school and winter service only). The May 2006 scheduling database will be completed in March 2006. The August 2006 changes will be incorporated into that database in early April 2006 and this will become the framework upon which the November 19, 2006 Service Changes will be created.

## DISCUSSION

Funding for increased system service hours in the 2006 budget was set at 1.0% for fixed route service, instead of the more typical 2.5% of total annual hours (3-4% annualized). 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
February 8, 2006	Downtown Denver RTD Administrative Offices	16
February 8, 2006	Green Valley Ranch Green Valley Ranch Golf Club	4
February 9, 2006	Littleton Littleton City Hall	1

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>PUBLIC ATTENDANCE</b>
February 9, 2006	Westminster Westview Recreation Center	5

Public Hearing Results

The public hearings were attended by a total of 26 members of the general public. Please see Attachment C for a summary of public hearing comments.

Proposed Revisions to original May and August 2006 Service Change Proposals

1. Routes CC and ES have been added for schedule adjustments.
2. Route HX will have its stop at Flatiron park-n-Ride (now being made on a temporary basis) made permanent.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The 2006 cost of the proposed May 2006 service changes would be approximately \$4,800. The annualized cost of the May 2006 service changes would be approximately \$7,200. Funding is available in the 2006 budget for the proposed May 2006 service changes. The cost of the August 2006 service changes is already included in the 2006 budget.

## SUMMARY OF SERVICE CHANGES – MAY 2006

### **I. SERVICE EFFICIENCIES**

#### Route 28 – 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Low productivity Sunday and holiday service will be discontinued before 7:00 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m. (based on times at Stout Street). Loss of these trips would affect 59 boardings, on bus trips ranging from:

- 1.8 to 4.5 boardings per in-service hour in the margins of the day (after 11:00 p.m.) when the minimum (10%) standard is 9.25 boardings/in-service hour,
- 7.3 to 9.2 boardings per in-service hour in the early morning and evening periods (5:00-6:00 a.m. and 7:30-11:00 p.m.) when the minimum (10%) standard is 13.88 boardings/in-service hour, and
- 7.1 boardings per in-service hour on the first daytime eastbound trip when the minimum (10%) standard is 18.5 boardings/in-service hour.

Deleted eastbound trips start at 5:19 a.m., 6:19 a.m., 10:10 p.m., 11:10 p.m., and 12:10 a.m. Westbound deleted trips start at 5:53 a.m., 9:40 p.m. and 10:40 p.m.

#### Route 67 – Coal Mine/Ridge Road Crosstown

Service was expanded on this route in 2000 with the inauguration of LRT connections for it. At present it has two Saturday trips in each direction that operate before the old service start-up time. Discontinue the first trip in each direction, affecting 4 passengers. Boardings per in-service hour range from 1.3 to 5.3 passengers, measured against a standard of 6.6 for the minimum 10% of Suburban Locals.

#### Route 108X – Countryside Express

Discontinue 6:24 p.m. westbound trip from Market Street Station. Westminster Center passengers may use Route 86X at 6:19 p.m. or Route B at 6:35 p.m. Two passengers on 'tail' would lose service, but could use the Interlocken/Westmoor call-n-Ride.

### **II. MIXED SERVICE EFFICIENCIES/SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS**

#### Route 20 – 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Due to the closure of 17<sup>th</sup> Place in the Fitzsimons redevelopment area, Route 20 will be moderately truncated, ending its route at Building 500 (Fitzsimons Hospital) instead of near Wheeling Street. Additionally, the alignment will be changed east of Peoria to continue from Montview Boulevard-to-Quentin Street-to-16<sup>th</sup> Avenue-to-Ursula Street to the end of route at Building 500. A recent agreement between the RTD and the University of Colorado Health and Science Center facilitates the operation of the new alignment on the private roadways within Fitzsimons.

#### Route 82X – Pomona Express

#### Route 86X – Westminster Center Express

Discontinue 6:41 a.m. eastbound Route 82X trip from 88<sup>th</sup>/Garrison and convert it to a new Route 86X trip at 7:00 a.m. from Westminster Center East. This affects 3 passengers on the tail of Route 82X – alternate trips are available 15 minutes before and after. Also, reschedule Route 86X 6:14 p.m. trip to 6:19 p.m. due to the discontinuance of a Route 108X trip.

Route B – Boulder/Denver Express  
Route F – 28<sup>th</sup> Street/Market Street  
Route HX – 28<sup>th</sup> Street/Civic Center

Discontinue Route F due to very low ridership (11.3 boardings per trip) and utilize its resources for Route BX. Improve BX Express service during peak hours/peak direction to every 8-10 minutes. Add Route BX stop at US 36 & McCaslin park-n-Ride, replacing discontinued Route F. Selected a.m. peak eastbound trips will service Broadway and Table Mesa Drive only, skipping Table Mesa park-n-Ride and US 36 & McCaslin park-n-Ride. During this period, express trips will also originate at Table Mesa park-n-Ride, and serve US 36 & McCaslin. In addition, the Route HX stop at Flatiron park-n-Ride (now being made on a temporary basis) will become a permanent stop, thereby replacing discontinued Route F service.

Federal Center Service (Routes 3, 5X, 100 & GS)

Routes 3, 5X and 100 will no longer provide service inside the Federal Center. Routes 14 and GS will continue to serve the interior of the Federal Center during the peak periods.

Route 3 will be rerouted to operate via Alameda to Union to Cold Spring park-n-Ride (which is the same as its current night and weekend routing). It will provide access to the Federal Center via the South Gate (walk-in) on Alameda and via transfers to Routes 14 and GS at Cold Spring. Route 5X will stay on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and then operate via Union to Cold Spring park-n-Ride. It will provide access to the Federal Center via transfers to Routes 14 and GS at Cold Spring. Route 100 will operate via Kipling to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Union to Cold Spring (which is the same as its current night and weekend routing). It will provide access to the Federal Center via the East Gate (walk-in) on Kipling and via transfers to Routes 14 and GS at Cold Spring. Also, minor schedule adjustments on Route GS.

**III. SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS**

Route 0 – South Broadway

Saturday schedules will have running time adjustments, and additional trips to reduce crowding will be added between I-25 & Broadway Station and Market Street Station. This will provide Saturday midday service similar to weekday midday schedules. It will also provide improved connections with LRT service, which is to be expanded in November. Also, minor schedule adjustments on weekdays.

Route 16 – West Colfax  
Route 16Ltd – West Colfax Limited

Weekday early morning ridership on these routes has grown and the first (and only) morning Local trip from Golden carries 72 passengers, 40 of whom are on board by the time it reaches Colorado Mills. The 5:06 a.m. Route 16 trip from Golden will be converted to a faster Route 16Ltd trip (5:08 a.m.) and then add a new Route 16 trip from Cold Spring park-n-Ride at 5:23 a.m. to replace it at Local stops east of Simms Street. This change also simplifies public information.

#### Route 43 – Martin Luther King Blvd/Gateway

The Route 43 will be extended into the Green Valley Ranch (GVR) neighborhood from the current terminal at Salida Street and Tower Road (Wal-Mart). The new extension will follow the routing of current services in GVR from 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue-to-Flanders-to-48<sup>th</sup> Avenue-to-Jebel Street-to-45<sup>th</sup> Avenue-to-Lisbon-to-42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue-to-Malaya-to-48<sup>th</sup> Avenue-to-Jebel-to terminal. The extension will operate during expanded peak periods (approximately 5:30a.m.-9:00a.m. and 3:40p.m.-7:00p.m.) on weekdays only.

#### Route 59 – West Bowles

Saturday midday ridership and traffic in the West Bowles area have grown to the point where the hourly service with one bus is experiencing difficulties in staying on schedule. This is particularly critical for a route that depends on close connections with Light Rail and other routes at Littleton/Downtown Station. Route 59B service will be added hourly between Littleton and Southwest Plaza, offset from Route 59, with the cycle time of Route 59 being extended during five midday hours.

#### Route 72X – 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Crosstown

With ridership increasing at a rate of 6% a year (November 2005 12-month average) and new home construction on the line continuing, the morning trip that was discontinued during the economic slowdown and ridership decline in January 2004 will be reinstated. The new trip will depart Ward Road park-n-Ride at 7:07 a.m., with the following trip rescheduled to depart at 7:17 a.m. In addition, a new trip from Market Street Station will depart at 5:01 p.m. to Ward Road park-n-Ride.

#### Route 122X – Wagon Road/Civic Center Express

An a.m. and a p.m. trip added. Also, schedule adjustments.

#### Route AF – Cold Spring/Downtown/DIA

Add a new weekday trip on Route AF from Cold Spring park-n-Ride at 5:22 p.m. to the Auraria Campus and Market Street Station. It is scheduled to make connections from Route GS departing the Federal Center after 5:00 p.m.

## **IV. NORMAL MAINTENANCE**

#### Route 9 – West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Route 9 will have a staging timepoint added eastbound for pull-out or interline trips that now start at Wadsworth/10<sup>th</sup>. Instead, they will start at Zephyr/Colfax, using the existing Route 16 short-turn layover point, which is available in those early morning periods. This information will not be shown in the public schedule, due to

its irregular operation. Staging at that location should provide a predictable start at Wadsworth/10<sup>th</sup> on pull-outs or interlines without blocking traffic (which is the issue).

Route 15 – East Colfax  
Schedule Adjustments.

Route 15Ltd – East Colfax Limited  
Schedule adjustments.

Route 204 – Table Mesa/Moorhead/North 19th  
Make permanent the current detour at 14<sup>th</sup>/Walnut: northbound buses to continue to stop on 14<sup>th</sup> at Walnut; southbound buses to continue to stop on Walnut at 14<sup>th</sup>.

Route 209 – CU/Thunderbird  
Implement summer schedule by reducing morning peak westbound frequency from every 10-20 minutes to every 15-30 minutes.

Route BOUND – 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
Implement summer schedule by reducing weekday frequency from every 10 to every 15 minutes, between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Also, schedule adjustments.

Route CC – Coal Creek/Wondervu  
Schedule adjustments.

Route DASH – Boulder/Lafayette via Louisville  
Implement summer schedule by reducing weekday midday frequency between 14<sup>th</sup>/Walnut and South Boulder Road/Manhattan Circle (just east of Foothills Parkway) from every 15 to every 30 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Also, reduce westbound frequency from Lafayette from every 10 to every 15 minutes between 6:48 a.m. and 7:18 a.m.

Route ES – Evergreen/Aspen Park/Denver  
Schedule adjustments.

Federal/Colfax Transfer Facility  
Schedule adjustments for Routes 29, 30, 31, 30Ltd, 36, 36Ltd.

Route JUMP – Arapahoe  
Implement summer schedule by reducing weekday frequency within Boulder from Every 10 to every 15 minutes, between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Reduce weekday peak frequency to/from Lafayette from every 20 to every 30 minutes.

Route S – Denver/East Boulder  
Schedule adjustments.

Route SKIP – Broadway

Implement summer schedule by reducing weekday peak frequency from every 7 to every 10 minutes.

Route STAMPEDE – CU/East Boulder

Implement summer schedule by reducing weekday frequency from every 15 to every 30 minutes from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m., and from every 10 to every 30 minutes from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

School Trippers

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

Town Center at Aurora

Public information for routes serving the Aurora Mall will be changed to reflect the new name of the mall, **Town Center at Aurora**. The following routes are affected: 3, 3L, 6, 11, 15L, 21, 153 and 169.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES – AUGUST 2006**

**I. NORMAL MAINTENANCE**

Route 209 – CU/Thunderbird

Implement winter schedule by improving morning peak westbound frequency from every 15-30 minutes to every 10-20 minutes.

Route BOUND – 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

Route DASH – Boulder/Lafayette via Louisville

Implement winter schedule by improving weekday midday frequency between 14<sup>th</sup>/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. Also, improve westbound frequency from Lafayette from every 15 to every 10 minutes between 6:48 a.m. and 7:18 a.m.

Route 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.

Route SKIP – Broadway

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

Route 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 6:30 p.m.

School Trippers

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

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Downtown Denver – February 8, 2006

### RTD Administrative Offices

Sixteen members of the public attended this meeting. Comments were received on a variety of issues, including the Route 15Ltd schedule (on the May agenda), connections in general, crowding on certain Route BX trips (on the May agenda) and on marketing. Comments were also received from six people regarding the discontinuance of Route F – most were relieved to learn that Route HX would continue to provide service to Flatiron park-n-Ride.

Green Valley Ranch – February 8, 2006

### Green Valley Ranch Golf Club

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with one participant from the public present. The customer was a resident of Green Valley Ranch who wanted to know if any changes were planned for the Route 47X. A family of three joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m. A request was made on behalf of the daughter for a change to the Route 6, moving the route closer to Bishop Machbeuff High School. The meeting was concluded at 7:50 p.m.

Littleton – February 9, 2006

### Littleton City Hall

One customer from Highlands Ranch attended the Littleton public meeting. His interests were general and he noted the declining interest in and around Southglenn Mall as a likely explanation for the low ridership on Saturday morning trips of Route 67 that are proposed for deletion. In addition to answering questions about RTD service in general, we informed him of the projected service changes for Highlands Ranch that would be considered in connection with the SE light rail line opening in November. Two RTD staff members attended the meeting, as did a reporter for the Littleton *Independent* weekly.

Westminster – February 9, 2006

### Westview Recreation Center

Five people attended. Two customers spoke against the deletion of the 6:21 p.m. Route 108X trip. There was a request for a call-n-Ride to the area between 88<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Wadsworth to Standley Lake. There was one request for a later a.m. and p.m. trip on the Route DM. Another person spoke about the Route 76 block 3 due at HWY 287/Midway at 12:22 being both early and late. There were also comments about the cost of Eco Pass for the Boulder Valley School District.

### Additional Communications

Twenty-five additional communications (e-mail's, faxes and letters) were received. Ten were opposed to the cancellation of the Route F. Two were in support of the Route F providing the Route BX trips increase and stop at Louisville as proposed. Three communications in support of the Route F if the Route BX trips increase and stop at Flatiron pnR were received. There was one communication received in support of the proposed changes to Route BX and one communication received in opposition to the proposed Route BX changes. One communication opposed to Route 20, four opposed to Route 28 and three opposed to the Route 82X proposed changes were received. In addition, seven communications requested that the Route HX continue to serve Flatirons park-n-Ride on a permanent basis and one requested that the Route HX have a stop added at Union Station on the way to Civic Center Station.