

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Accommodation for the 2016 Summer School Program

FROM: Christy Wegener, Director of Planning and Communications
Cyrus Sheik, Senior Transit Planner

DATE: May 2, 2016

Action Requested

Approve Wheels service accommodation of summer school classes in 2016 in Dublin and Pleasanton, and review / reaffirm provision of service for the summer 2016 Extended Student Service program in Livermore.

Background

The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD), Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD), and Livermore Valley Unified School District (LVUSD) have requested that LAVTA consider continuing service for this year's summer programs.

Discussion

At the March Committee meeting, staff presented a recommendation to continue summer school service similar to what was operated last year. The March 28, 2016 staff report is included as Attachment 1. The Committee directed staff to explore options for summer school service that didn't necessarily include operating school tripper service, including offering free bus passes for mainline service, purchasing bicycles for students, and requesting funds from the school districts. The Committee directed staff to also look at availability of mainline bus service to the summer school locations.

Based on information collected by staff, the only potential cost-saving measure would be to supply summer school students with a bus pass (Attachment 2). This would only be a solution for the Pleasanton School District, as the Dublin and Livermore summer-school sites have limited or no mainline route service.

For the upcoming summer, staff recommends approving service as identified in the original March 28, 2016 staff report. Staff will closely monitor the performance of the routes, and routes not meeting the service standard for school-tripper service (i.e. 15 or more passengers per trip) will not be recommended for service in summer 2017.

Budget

The recommended service would add about 100 revenue hours to a total of approximately 126,000, for a net cost of about \$8,500 (after fare revenue is deducted); if approved, this would be included into the fiscal year 2017 budget.

Recommendation

The Projects & Services Committee recommends the Board approve a repeat of last year's summer school accommodations as described above. Specifically, Staff recommends to:

- Continue accommodation of the LARPD ESS summer program in Livermore by operating Route 403 three days per week during summer 2016;
- Continue accommodation of the DUSD and DPIE summer programs at Dublin High School by operating Route 501 five days per week during summer 2016; and
- Accommodate the PUSD summer program at its (new) location at Amador Valley High School by operating Route 605 four days per week during summer 2016, and by way of the regularly scheduled service of Routes 8 and 10.

Attachments:

1. March 28, 2016 Projects and Services Staff Report
2. Evaluation of Alternatives
3. Resolution 09-2016

Approved: _____

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Accommodation for the 2016 Summer School Program

FROM: Christy Wegener, Director of Planning and Communications
Cyrus Sheik, Senior Transit Planner

DATE: March 28, 2016

Action Requested

Approve Wheels service accommodation of summer school classes in 2016 in Dublin and Pleasanton, and review / reaffirm provision of service for the summer 2016 Extended Student Service program in Livermore.

Background

In addition to their regular curriculum during the main academic year, the Tri-Valley school districts – Dublin Unified School District (DUSD), Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD), and Livermore Valley Unified School District (LVUSD) - operate a school program during the summer. The scope of the programs vary somewhat from year to year and between the three districts, ranging from only providing for academic intervention to offering students an opportunity make up or earn additional credit to advance a grade, raise a grade necessary for college, or earn credit for graduation. Typically, a limited curriculum is available, mostly in academic areas. The programs are usually offered both at the middle- and high school levels.

Other summer programs benefiting students are offered as well. The Dublin Partners in Education (DPIE) is a non-profit organization providing for educational partnerships that benefit the students of the DUSD, and it offers a summer enrichment academy. In Livermore, The Extended Student Services (ESS) is a program by the Livermore Area Parks and Recreation District (LARPD) held at the Smith, Joe Mitchell, and Sunset Elementary Schools and the Police Activities League (PAL) at Mendenhall Middle School. The ESS program was created to provide a safe and caring place for children to be before and after school and during the summer months. The summer program includes field trips, community service projects, and community visits for which Wheels fixed routes can be utilized.

The DUSD, the PUSD, and the LARPD have requested that LAVTA consider continuing service for this year's summer programs.

Discussion

The school districts in the LAVTA service area do not operate yellow school buses for their general student population. Instead, students in the middle- and high school grades are expected to make use of existing public transportation (Wheels mainline routes). In cases where either (or both) the school and the neighborhood(s) from which its students need to travel is not located on a mainline, and where there is sufficient demand, LAVTA in some areas supplements its mainline routes with limited “school tripper” service operating during school days, during the academic year. In some cases, this supplemental service also serves as overflow capacity to an existing mainline route.

Typically in the past, the supplemental (school tripper) routes have not been operated during the summer due to the smaller student population enrolled in summer programs and the large number of neighborhoods that would need to be served relative to the summer sessions’ smaller student population base. Based on requests from the districts, however, LAVTA commenced summer pilot programs for Dublin and Pleasanton in 2015 and 2014, respectively, and - Since 2009 - limited service for the summer ESS program in Livermore.

Last year, LAVTA accommodated the summer school programs in both Dublin and Pleasanton by providing service on select school tripper lines. Routes 602 (Del Prado Park, Valley Trails, Parkside) and 604 (Fairlands, Hacienda, Muirwood Park) operated summer service to Foothill High School, while Route 501 (East Dublin, Dublin Ranch) provided service to Dublin High School. In Livermore, summer service was provided on Route 403 (Granada Woods, Sunset) to accommodate the ESS program.

Indicators from last year: The Dublin service operated across 33 days, and carried a total of 313 boardings through the program – or just under 10 one-way boardings per day operated. Relative to the vehicle hours operated, this equated to approximately 9.2 unlinked passenger boardings per vehicle revenue hour.

The Pleasanton service operated across 24 days, and carried a total of 1,021 boardings through the program – or about 43 one-way boardings per day operated. This equated to approximately 19.2 boardings per revenue hour.

The Livermore service operated across 26 days, and carried a total of 575 boardings through the program – or about 22 one-way boardings per day operated. This equated to approximately 15.3 boardings per revenue hour.

The table below summarizes these indicators.

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE & RIDERSHIP LAST SUMMER					
2015					
<i>City</i>	<i>Days operated</i>	<i>Daily ridership</i>	<i>Total ridership</i>	<i>Pax/h</i>	
Dublin	33	10	313	9.2	
Pleasanton	24	43	1 021	19.2	
Livermore	26	22	575	15.3	

There are two ways one could view the results above. If compared with the typical supplemental (tripper) route during the main academic year, which sees in the range of 50 passenger boardings per vehicle hour, all the summer program supplemental service fell well short of that range last year. However, if compared with the overall average of approximately 14 passenger boardings per vehicle hour that is seen in the Wheels system as a whole, the result is more favorable, as only the Dublin service (for which the service was operated for the first time) fell substantially below the systemwide average.

Service Options for Summer 2016

Dublin: Both the DUSD and DPIE summer programs will be offered similarly to last year in terms of duration and bell times, and will run from June 14 thru July 22, Monday thru Friday. Classes will start at 8:00a and end at 1:00p (12:30p on Fridays), and both programs will again be held at Dublin High School.

As the high school grades are in the same, single location during the main academic year as well, all three Wheels supplemental routes that serve Dublin High (501 and 502 from East Dublin, and 503 from Shannon Park), would technically be suitable for the summer program as well. Given, however, the low ridership seen last year and the fact that the service was already operated on the route that has the most ridership (501) of the three Dublin trippers during the academic year, the options for this year would likely be to either repeat operating the 501 again this summer, with additional marketing outreach - or simply run nothing at all.

The table below shows the estimated cost parameters for running the 501 again for this year’s summer session. The revenue estimate is conservatively based on last year’s ridership, but may be higher as more parts of the community become aware of the service. The estimated net cost of operating this service, after anticipated fare revenue, would be approximately \$2,600.

ROUTE 501 POT. SUMMER SVC. REPEAT 2016	
Cost estimate	
Daily revenue hours	1.03
Number of days operated	28
Total revenue hours	28.84
Total fully allocated cost	\$2 964
Daily ridership	10
Total program ridership	280
Estimated fare revenue	\$384
Total net cost (est'd)	\$2 580

Pleasanton: When LAVTA provided its pilot summer service program in Pleasanton in 2014 and 2015, the program location was at Foothill High School (FHS). As this location isn’t served by any mainline Wheels route, two school tripper routes (602 and 604) are operated during the main academic year to bring students from various neighborhoods in Pleasanton to FHS, and these were the routes that were called upon to provide the summer service as well.

This year, however, the PUSD will hold its summer school program at Amador Valley High School (AVHS). The program will run Mondays thru Thursdays, June 20 thru July 28. Although served during the main academic year by two supplemental school tripper routes (605 and 611), AVHS is also well served by Wheels mainline routes that operate throughout the year, throughout the day, including in summer: Route 10 serves the Santa Rita Road corridor bi-directionally, while Routes 8A and 8B operate a loop, including along Santa Rita Road, and connect it with portions of Valley Avenue and Hopyard Road. Although these mainline routes don't operate directly into residential streets like the school tripper routes do, they provide service to several neighborhoods by way of the arterial streets that are along the perimeter of those residential areas. The following table shows the main neighborhoods that are connected to AVHS by routes 8 and 10.

EXISTING ROUTES TO AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL	
Neighborhoods with direct bus service to/from AVHS*	
<i>Area</i>	<i>Route(s)</i>
Nielsen Park	8, 10
Fairlands Park	8, 10
Hacienda East	8, 10
Kottinger Park	8
Del Prado Park	8
Valley Trails	8
Parkside	8
Val Vista	8

* Access to/from neighborhood areas is via arterial streets along the neighborhood perimeter

Left among neighborhoods that are served during the main academic year but wouldn't be served during the summer without supplemental service are Ruby Hill, Oak Hill Park, and Laguna Oaks. Also, portions of the areas in east Pleasanton, such as Meadows Park and Amaral Park, would be quite far walking distance-wise to these mainlines. Given that the ridership seen last summer (as well as the summer prior) was considerably lower on a per-vehicle hour basis than during the main academic year, it is likely not warranted to create special summer routes and deploy a significant amount of additional service hours on them. However, the existing Route 605 would be suitable to operate unmodified for the summer session, helping to reduce the gap for students living in several of the neighborhoods east of Santa Rita Road, including Fairlands, Meadows Park, Nielsen Park, and Amaral Park. The adjacent table summarizes the net cost of operating the 605 during summer session, based on the assumption that it would be no more or less productive than the summer service that was operated in Pleasanton in 2015. Anticipated to operate 23 school days, the net cost after fare revenue is estimated at approximately \$1,700.

ROUTE 605 POTENTIAL SUMMER SERVICE 2016	
Cost estimate	
Daily revenue hours	1.07
Number of days operated	23
Total revenue hours	24.53
Total fully allocated cost	\$2 433
Daily ridership	22
Total program ridership	506
Estimated fare revenue	\$693
Total net cost (est'd)	\$1 740

Livermore: During the main academic year, Wheels school tripper route 403 connects Mendenhall Middle School and Granada High School with the adjoining neighborhood and the Transit Center. In 2014, the Board of Directors approved operating a shortened version of the Route 403 during the summer in order to accommodate the excursion travel needs of the LARPD ESS program on a continual basis year-to-year. However, in light of the potential discontinuation of Livermore supplemental (school tripper) routes as a result of the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) study – as well as to place this service into context relative to that of last year’s summer services operated in Dublin and Pleasanton – this service is highlighted in this staff report for discussion purposes.

This year’s ESS program will run between June 20 and August 17, Monday thru Friday. If the 403 summer service was to be repeated this year in accordance with the 2014 approval, it would be operated Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, providing two roundtrip loops in the AM and PM, respectively, and starting and ending at the Transit Center. The table below summarizes the anticipated ridership based on last year’s boarding activity, and the estimated net cost.

ROUTE 403 POT. SUMMER SVC. REPEAT 2016	
Cost estimate	
Daily revenue hours	2.00
Number of days operated	25
Total revenue hours	50.00
Total fully allocated cost	\$4 959
Daily ridership	22
Total program ridership	550
Estimated fare revenue	\$754
Total net cost (est'd)	\$4 206

Budget

The service outlined above would add about 100 revenue hours to a total of approximately 126,000; if approved, this would be included into the fiscal year 2017 budget.

Recommendation

Staff is asking the Projects & Services Committee to endorse and forward a recommendation to the Board for a repeat of last year's summer school accommodations as described above. Specifically, Staff recommends to:

- Continue accommodation of the LARPD ESS summer program in Livermore by operating Route 403 three days per week during summer 2016;
- Continue accommodation of the DUSD and DPIE summer programs at Dublin High School by operating Route 501 five days per week during summer 2016; and
- Accommodate the PUSD summer program at its (new) location at Amador Valley High School by operating Route 605 four days per week during summer 2016, and by way of the regularly scheduled service of Routes 8 and 10.

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution 09-2016

RESOLUTION 09-2016

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AUTHORIZING SUMMER SERVICE HOURS FOR ROUTES 403, 501, AND 605**

WHEREAS, LAVTA currently operates school tripper service on Routes 501 and 605 in the areas of East Dublin, Fairlands, Amaral Park, Dublin High School, and Amador Valley High School during the academic year; and

WHEREAS, LAVTA operated said or similar routes on a pilot program basis to accommodate the summer school program in 2014 and 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Dublin Unified School District and the Pleasanton Unified School District have expressed interest and support of continuing to provide service during summer session, in order to serve the transportation needs for their summer middle- and high school program; and

WHEREAS, LAVTA wishes to be responsive and supportive of reasonable requests by our partnership with the Dublin and Pleasanton Unified School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the new service is relatively small and may be partially offset by passenger fares that the Authority believes can be reasonably expected.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority that the LAVTA Board approves providing summer service on Wheels Routes 501 and 605 during school days in June and July 2016.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of April, 2016.

Don Biddle, Chair

Attest:

Michael Tree, Executive Director

POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES TO TRIPPER ROUTES FOR SUMMER SCHOOL

Type	Pros	Cons	Other/Cost
Supply bicycles - Lavta would supply requesting students with bicycles over the summer	Lavta would not need to operate summer supplemental service.	Issues to resolve would include who owns and maintains the bikes, and the logistics including delivery and pickup of bikes. Distances are long at 5-7 miles each way.	Purchasing 25 bicycles for Dublin and Pleasanton @\$300 each estimated at \$7,500 vs. \$4,320 net cost for trippers. Maintenance and delivery costs unknown.
Free bus pass to ride regular routes - Lavta would supply requesting, eligible students with free bus tickets to use mainline routes during summer session	Students would use existing Wheels service, and Lavta would not need to operate summer supplemental service.	For many Dublin, students would not be able to travel home (let-out bell is midday during summer; Route 2 does not operate midday). For Pleasanton, 8 neighborhoods would still be accessible vs. 12 with the tripper supplement. For Livermore, no service would be available to accommodate the ESS excursions.	Based on the estimated ridership if trippers were operated, the pass subsidy is estimated at \$1,260 vs. \$4,320 net cost for Dub + Pls trippers (but note that not all trips would be enabled by existing routes).
Uber/Lyft - Lavta would pay all or most of the cost of an Uber/Lyft ride for requesting, eligible students	Students would get convenient, dedicated service on demand.	The per-ride cost would be considerably higher for Lavta compared to operating summer supplemental service (see next column). Model might not work at all for the ESS program.	Average Uber ride is estimated at \$16 (may be higher during morning peak) vs. an average \$9 per-passenger subsidy for summer tripper service. Without Lavta charging a partial "fare" for Uber rides, the required subsidy would be estimated at \$12,500 vs. \$4,320 net cost for trippers (Dub + Pls)
School district subsidy - The school districts would wholly or partially underwrite the net operating cost of the summer supplemental routes	Lavta's cost to operate the service would be offset by the districts. Districts would be partners with Lavta in ensuring summer student transportation.	The cons would be solely on the Districts, which would need to identify funding for underwriting the summer service.	Lavta Staff reached out to DUSD and PUSD, but has not received any positive response regarding funding for the summer service. The Livermore ESS program already purchases Wheels tickets for their activities, but doesn't have the budget to underwrite the operation of service.

RESOLUTION 09-2016

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AUTHORIZING SUMMER SERVICE HOURS FOR ROUTES 403, 501, AND 605**

WHEREAS, LAVTA currently operates school tripper service on Routes 501 and 605 in the areas of East Dublin, Fairlands, Amaral Park, Dublin High School, and Amador Valley High School during the academic year; and

WHEREAS, LAVTA operated said or similar routes on a pilot program basis to accommodate the summer school program in 2014 and 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Dublin Unified School District and the Pleasanton Unified School District have expressed interest and support of continuing to provide service during summer session, in order to serve the transportation needs for their summer middle- and high school program; and

WHEREAS, LAVTA wishes to be responsive and supportive of reasonable requests by our partnership with the Dublin and Pleasanton Unified School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the new service is relatively small and may be partially offset by passenger fares that the Authority believes can be reasonably expected.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority that the LAVTA Board approves providing summer service on Wheels Routes 501 and 605 during school days in June and July 2016.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of April, 2016.

Don Biddle, Chair

Attest:

Michael Tree, Executive Director