

STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Wheels Forward - East Livermore Service Recommendations

**FROM:** Christy Wegener, Director of Planning & Communications

**DATE:** May 23, 2016

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**Action**

Review staff recommendations for east Livermore service and express service to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and forward to the Board for consideration and approval.

**Background**

Based on feedback received at the May 2, 2016 Public Hearing, the Board directed staff to develop an alternative to bring express service to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) as a part of the Wheels Forward COA changes.

**Discussion**

The Wheels Forward COA service recommendations for east Livermore included the elimination of Route 20X (express service to LLNL) and re-routing Route 11 to provide a connection to the Vasco Road ACE Rail Station. After hearing feedback from existing Route 20X riders, who were in opposition to the proposed elimination, the Board directed staff to look at ways to continue to provide express service to LLNL. The Board's direction included looking at a possible extension of the 580X and/or the elimination of Route 11. Since the May 2, 2016 Board meeting, the Wheels Forward planning team has been looking at ways to provide express service to LLNL, without adding costs.

Staff Recommendation

Route 20X - Staff recommends modifying Route 20X to utilize Vasco Road instead of Greenville Road and to operate four daily 20X trips via a reverse-commute extension of Route 580X (Attachment 1). The recommended service levels include two AM eastbound trips and two PM westbound trips. Trip times from BART and from the Lab would correlate with existing demand. Service to Greenville Road would be discontinued.

Route 580X - Route 580X would operate as an express route from the Livermore Transit Center to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station; however, staff recommends operating 10 trips per day instead of 12 trips per day, as originally recommended. Eliminating two trips allows for Route 20X to operate at no additional cost.

Route 11 - Staff is recommending the route be realigned to terminate at the Vasco Road ACE Station and operate 6 round trips per day. This realignment would provide an opportunity to grow the ridership in the industrial area of Livermore by connecting directly to the closest ACE station on Vasco Road, making ACE to Wheels a viable option for employees coming from the Central Valley. Currently, Route 11 only connects to ACE at the Livermore Transit Center, which is an unattractive trip for those commuting from the Central Valley, as they have to backtrack east several miles once they arrive in Livermore.

This package of recommendations prove to be a cost-neutral solution to providing express service to the Lab, while maintaining adequate service to the industrial area of Livermore via Route 11, and maintaining an express connection between Livermore and BART via Route 580X. Initial feedback received from Lab employees about this proposal has been positive.

#### California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

It is recommended that the Committee recommend the Board authorize staff to file a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on the basis that the COA changes being recommended are categorically exempt under CEQA Guideline §15378 (No possibility of impact). Staff has done an analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the changes being recommended. The changes being recommended are cost neutral and no net reduction in the total amount of bus operation is contemplated. If authorized by the Board, staff will file the Notice of Exemption with the County of Alameda.

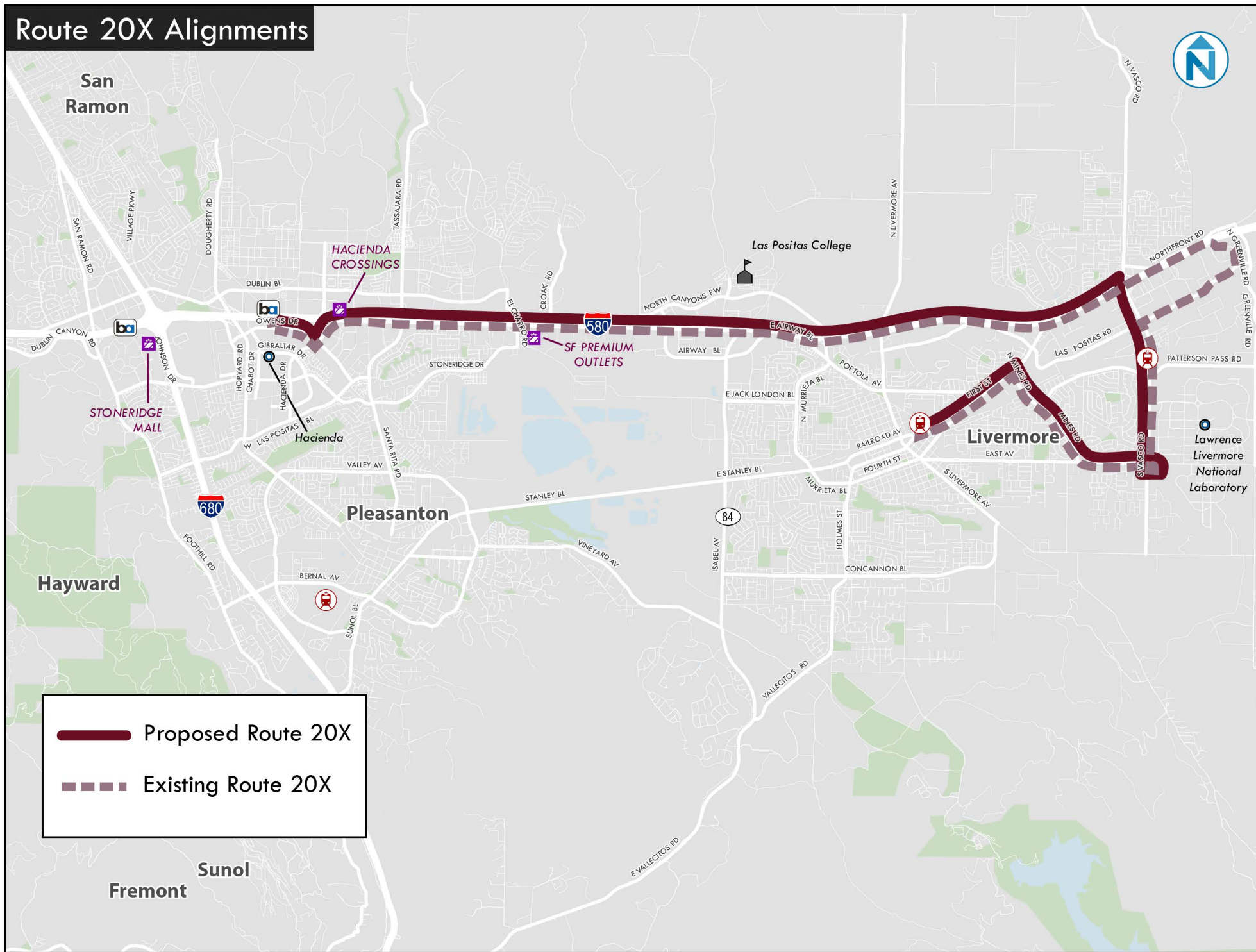
#### **Action Requested**

The Projects and Services Committee recommends that the Board approve the service changes recommended as a part of this staff report, and recommends the Board authorize staff to file a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

#### **Attachments:**

1. Map – Route 20X
2. Draft Resolution 17-2016

# Route 20X Alignments



**RESOLUTION NO. 17-2016**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
AUTHORIZING FALL 2016 SERVICE CHANGES**

WHEREAS, LAVTA projects that the agency can financially sustain to operate 125,759 revenue service hours in FY 2017, and

WHEREAS, LAVTA conducted a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) of the Wheels bus system to identify changes that would make the bus system easier to use, less duplicative, and create more frequent service to key destinations in the Tri-Valley in order to grow ridership and reduce inefficient service, and

WHEREAS, the COA involved extensive public outreach to riders, non-riders and local stakeholders, and

WHEREAS, staff, with help from the community, has identified a package of service changes to improve Wheels bus service; and

WHEREAS, all such service changes were thoroughly discussed with the public and a public hearing was held on May 2, 2016; and

WHEREAS, at their May 2, 2016 meeting the Board directed staff to continue to explore ways to provide express service to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, staff has identified an alternative to provide express service to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory at no additional cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority that the Board authorizes implementation of the Fall 2016 service changes as briefly described below and more thoroughly in the accompanying staff report, and authorizes staff to implement these measures as described herein:

Route 580X – Implement a new limited-stop, peak-only route to operate to and from the Livermore Transit Center and the E. Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station via the I-580 Express Lanes on weekdays.

Route 20X – Modify route to operate on Vasco Road instead of Greenville; reduce daily trips to four.

Route 11 – Realign Route to connect to the Vasco Road ACE Station.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of June, 2016.

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Don Biddle, Chair

ATTEST:

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Michael Tree, Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Michael Conneran, Legal Counsel

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