

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Executive Director’s Report  
 FROM: Michael Tree, Executive Director  
 DATE: August 22, 2016

**Action Requested**

Informational item only. No action required.

*Implementation of Fixed Route Changes*

On Saturday, August 13, 2016, fixed route improvements from LAVTA’s year-long planning effort were implemented on the Wheels bus system. Here is a brief summary of the implementation (with an oral update planned for the Committee meeting):

**Website and Bus Schedules:** The Wheels website features a new slider for the system changes and a very easy-to-use webpage highlighting the new changes in the system. Also, staff did away with the bus book and have gone to individual schedules on the routes, which offer a cost savings and more flexibility.



**Buses:** The agency received all 20 new buses that are replacement in nature, but very important to implementing Route 10R as a route with Rapid service and the 580X.

**Bus Stops:** All the bus stops with shelters had the new schedules inserted on Friday evening and early Saturday morning. Bus stops with bus shelters no longer served have postings in them and will be removed in the near future.

**Las Positas College:** On Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> students returned to school and experienced new Rapid buses, Rapid shelters on campus and the Easy Pass. This is an area of low



hanging fruit for ridership growth and staff is working diligently with students to take advantage of the Easy Pass.

**Wheels Ambassadors:** The week before and after implementation of the fixed route changes Wheels Ambassadors were out at the transit centers to help customers understand the changes and facilitate getting them on the right buses. The Ambassadors have specially designed t-shirts they are wearing and this has been a huge benefit to customers.

### *Historic Depot Project*

The final design work is nearly complete on the depot, including the temporary ticketing office where LAVTA will move to during project construction. The architectural and engineering design team are in the process of completing the construction documents with a final approval anticipated at the end of August. The project will be put out to bid in September with a projected bid opening in mid-October. The Notice to Proceed, assuming the bids come in within budget and a responsive low bidder is established, should be issued in by early November 2016. A ground breaking ceremony is being planned after the City Council makes a project award.



Construction is anticipated to begin in late fall 2016 and continue for approximately one year. Prior to the relocation of the Depot and demolition of the existing LAVTA ticket office, a temporary LAVTA modular unit, associated utilities, and necessary accessibility upgrades will be installed in the southeast corner of the existing parking lot to accommodate LAVTA ticketing operations and restrooms during construction. Once LAVTA is operational in the modular unit, the existing LAVTA ticket office will be demolished, the bus island expanded, and site graded and prepared to accommodate the Depot and utilities. The construction schedule will be phased to minimize the impacts to operations of the Transit Center, fixed-route schedules, bus operations and parking. The needs of ACE train passengers and Amtrak bus riders have also been considered in the scheduling process.

LAVTA and the City are developing an agreement that will result in the Depot bid documents incorporating underground utility improvements that LAVTA needs to be able to introduce all electric buses into the fleet in coming years. Performing this improvement, which upgrades the electric draw capacity from the street into the Transit Center property, as part of the Depot project results in a cost savings to LAVTA. The agreement will be an addenda to the previously executed MOU between LAVTA and the City of Livermore. The agreement and a detailed presentation on the Depot project are scheduled for the Projects & Services Committee agenda in September.

### *Other Projects*

Staff anticipates updating the Committee on additional projects, such as the Wheels On Demand and Shared Autonomous (Driverless) Vehicle Projects at the Committee meeting.