

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Dublin Student Transit Service Study

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

DATE: February 26, 2018

Action Requested

This is an informational item.

Background

As a supplement to its Wheels mainline service in Dublin, LAVTA currently provides four school-focused Wheels routes geared toward students attending area middle- and high schools. As residential developments in eastern Dublin continue to be completed at a fast pace, demand and ridership on the Wheels supplemental (school-focused) routes have continued to increase. In the last year alone, the number of boardings on the Dublin trippers has increased in the order of 50 percent.

The additional demand for transit service, as an alternative to solo or chauffeured driving, is a welcome development. At the same time, however, the time-clustered nature of this demand is placing high peak vehicle and manpower requirements upon LAVTA. In order to try and get ahead of current and upcoming issues particularly present in Dublin, Staff identified amounts in the existing budget for Planning Department studies sufficient to have an external party provide support with gathering information and assist with developing a brief transit service plan for Dublin, focusing on student transportation needs.

Discussion

Through competitive procurement, Staff has selected Nelson\Nygaard & Associates to conduct a small-scale study about exiting conditions and near-future challenges/opportunities that LAVTA should be aware of in its service planning in Dublin going forward.

Specifically, the study will identify:

- Current and near-term capacity constraints
- Current and anticipated student population, including its demographics and geographic distribution
- Current and planned middle- and high school capacity and locations, including their circulation elements
- Current and planned street- and pedestrian networks

Based on the above, the study will then recommend:

- Changes and additions to the existing supplemental Wheels route network
- Arrival and departure timeframes, (e.g. main bell, zero period, bell time offsets)
- Appropriate bus vehicle size(s) required to accommodate demand and implement the recommended service plan in a cost- and resource effective manner
- Minor modifications or extensions to existing Wheels mainline routes that could help moderate the demand for dedicated supplemental routes
- Potential new hybrid routes, if any, that - while serving students - could also work well for other trip purposes in the community
- Supporting services or programs (existing or potential) that may help extend the effective radius of existing or proposed transit routes, such as improved walking paths, shared bicycle facilities/parking, and/or connector shuttle services.
- Estimate the total anticipated capital and operating costs to implement the plan.

Budget

The allocated amount for the Dublin service study is \$50,000, and comes from the existing budgeted amount for Planning studies in the current FY2018 budget.

Next Steps

The data collection and outreach components of the study are already underway; a stakeholder meeting was held on 02/21, and a public open house is scheduled for 03/08. An online survey is also planned. Following these, the draft service plan will be developed. Given the very limited scope and timeline for the study, there are no official interim milestone documents planned.

The Consultant will present the study recommendations at the May meeting of the Board of Directors. Staff's goal is to have a fiscally constrained short-range component that can be implemented with August school-starts of this year, and a medium-range component with items/programs that could be deployed beyond 2018.

Recommendation

None – information only.