

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Dublin Student Transit Service Study

FROM: Michael Tree, Executive Director
Cyrus Sheik, Senior Transit Planner

DATE: May 7, 2018

Action Requested

This is an informational item.

Background

As a supplement to its Wheels mainline service, LAVTA provides school-focused routes to middle- and high schools in Dublin and Pleasanton. As residential developments in eastern Dublin continue to be completed at a fast pace, demand and ridership on the Wheels supplemental (school-focused) routes to and from Dublin High School have continued to increase, and LAVTA has gradually deployed additional capacity in order to address this – mostly in the form of overflow buses operating on the same schedule as the principal buses.

In order to be able to continue to do capacity planning proactively, Staff asked Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates to conduct outreach and to gather information on the distribution and projected growth in school enrollment in Dublin, and to develop a small service and capacity plan that could be implemented in a first phase as early as this coming fall 2018, and in a second phase beyond that time.

The following table summarizes the existing supplemental Wheels routes in Dublin. All serve Dublin High School; Route 503 also serves Wells Middle School. Beyond these, the schedule and routing of Wheels *Route 2* are designed with Fallon Middle School students in mind.

WHEELS SUPPLEMENTAL ROUTES IN DUBLIN	
Route	Neighborhood(s) served
501	Positano Hill, Signal Hill, Silvera Ranch, Wallis Ranch, Emerald Glen
502	Bray Park, Emerald Glen, Wildwood Road
503	Shannon Park
504	Dublin Ranch

Discussion

After completing outreach, collecting data, and receiving responses from an online survey, the Consultant has developed a draft two-phase service plan for the Dublin supplemental service. The priority for the shortest-term recommendations has been to develop a plan that can be deployed as early as with school-starts in August of this year.

The first phase will propose to:

- Add overflow bus capacity to routes #501 and #504
- Create branch-out or express trip(s) for route #501
- Extend route #502 to Jordan Ranch

The second phase will propose to:

- Add overflow bus capacity to route #502
- Extend route #501 to the new Palisades subdivision
- Create a new standalone supplemental route for Fallon Middle School

Mainline fixed routes. In addition to the school-focused routes, Wheels as well as the County Connection operate regular (non-supplemental) fixed-route service in the Dublin area. It is outside of the main scope of this study to review those, however, Staff intends to return later this year with a recommended plan update for the mainline service. It will be based on factors such as 1) post-evaluation of the impact of the 2016 COA service changes, 2) newly proposed service changes by the County Connection affecting the Dublin area, 3) an upcoming discussion of service delivery in the fixed-versus-flex spectrum, and 4) customer feedback.

Budget

The main resources needed to implement the plan relate to peak vehicle and manpower requirements. Staff will be reviewing scheduling and other logistical savings to offset the small increase in vehicle hours required to support the first phase of the plan. For the medium-term plan, however, other types of offsets or service trade-offs may be required. For both, additional fare revenues are expected to help underwrite incremental service.

Next steps

A draft summary version of the plan was presented to the Projects & Services Committee at their April 27 meeting. The Consultant will be presenting the complete study findings and preliminary recommendations at this Board meeting as an informational item.

Following this, Staff will post the recommendations on the Wheels website and onboard Wheels buses, and return to the Board at their June meeting to ask for approval of final recommendations. The target effective date for phase one will be for the 08/2018 school-starts.

Recommendation

None – information only.

Approved by: _____