

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Temporary Additional Service to/from Amador Valley High School

FROM: Tony McCaulay, Director of Planning and Marketing
Cyrus Sheik, Senior Transit Planner

DATE: June 3, 2019

Action Requested

Review and approve service as proposed.

Background

Amador Valley High School (AVHS) is located in a central area of Pleasanton that is served by three LAVTA routes: the mainline route 10R, which provides service north and south along Santa Rita Road, as well as two supplemental routes, 605 and 611, which are “school trippers” connecting the Fairlands and Ruby Hill residential areas with AVHS. The #10 operates four times per hour, per direction throughout the day, while the #605 and #611 provide a single inbound (school-bound) trip in the morning and a single outbound trip in the afternoon, timed to the main bell time at AVHS.

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) has received a grant to install energy-generating solar panels at its AVHS site. The solar panels would be installed as roof covers over existing surface parking areas at the school, and the installation will have an impact on the amount of available student parking during construction. The installation will begin shortly after the end of the current spring semester on May 31, and is anticipated to be completed by approximately October 31, 2019.

While the school district has identified some alternative parking options for students during the installation project, its parking capacity would be less than the regular parking capacity. So, earlier this spring, PUSD reached out to LAVTA to see whether additional bus capacity might be one of the mitigations that could be put in place to supplement or reduce the need for parking during the solar installation project, once the fall semester begins in August.

Discussion

The staffs of LAVTA and PUSD last met on May 10 to discuss possible options with regard to bus service, taking into account the transit agency’s resource constraints, as well as the district’s other mitigation measures for their solar installation project (including temporary replacement parking). The discussion centered on the fact that LAVTA does not have the capacity to additionally carry all the students whose parking might be lost during the project,

especially at the main bell time peak, and that the role of Wheels in this irregular context should be one of providing a backup option that could potentially be offered outside of the timeframe of peak time. It was discussed that if supplemental route trips were added to provide for A/B period (which are classes that are held before the main bell in the morning, and after the main bell in the afternoon), those trips – together with the other mitigation measures that the district is planning – might provide sufficient backfill capacity to allow all students to continue being able to travel to school during the project. If scheduled this way, the same buses that normally operate the 605 and 611 routes would be able to do double trips, rather than requiring additional bus/driver pulls from the LAVTA garage.

The PUSD staff also stated that they wished for such additional service to be fare-free, and that in the interest of fairness, it would be desirable to also let the students ride for free on the regular, main-bell trips of the same routes during the same timeframe. The district would then reimburse LAVTA for the operation of the additional service, as well as for the loss in fare revenue on the existing service.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both staffs agreed to propose the following:

- One additional, earlier morning trip on Wheels routes 605 and 611, timed to the A period bell.
- One additional, later afternoon trip on the same routes, timed to the B period bell.
- LAVTA would waive fares for all students showing a valid AVHS ID card on all trips of the #605 and #611, including the regular main-bell trips.
- PUSD would reimburse LAVTA at the fully allocated rate of \$99.73 per additional bus vehicle hour, and at the rate of \$1.30 per fare-waived student boarding on the regular-schedule trips.
- The above measures would be in effect from the start of the fall semester on August 12, until the project’s completion, anticipated by approximately October 31, 2019.

The following table illustrates what the additional #605 and #611 arrival and departure times would be during this timeframe, relative to these routes’ regular arrivals and departures (which would continue to operate normally) at AVHS:

PROPOSED TEMPORARY EXTRA SERVICE TO AVHS				
Summary of trips				
	AM	AM	PM	PM
	Extra trip	Regular trip	Regular trip	Extra trip
Route	arrival	arrival	departure	departure
605	6:40 AM	7:40 AM	3:12 PM	4:12 PM
611	6:40 AM	7:40 AM	3:12 PM	4:12 PM
No extra AM service on Wednesdays due to collaboration time				
Wed/Thu AM arrivals would be 50 min later than shown above				

The additional service is estimated to incur a total of 19.43 incremental bus vehicle hours per week. At the LAVTA fully allocated gate-to-gate rate, the agency would bill the school district approximately \$23,250 for this service, based on twelve weeks of operation.

During a typical week last fall, the #605 and #611 routes saw 940 total boardings. At an average fare of \$1.30 per boarding, a waiver of those fares would be estimated to incur a loss of approximately \$14,700, based on twelve weeks of free rides, which would also be billed to the school district. The free rides on the *extra* trips would not be charged to the district.

The following table summarizes these costs, showing a total estimated amount to be billed by LAVTA to PUSD in the order of approximately \$37,900:

PROPOSED TEMPORARY EXTRA SERVICE TO AVHS	
Summary of costs and reimbursement for additional service	
<i>Additional operation:</i>	
Additional revenue hours required, weekly	19.43
Hourly rate charged to PUSD	\$99.73
Total weekly cost	\$1 938
Expected number of weeks of operation	12
Expected cost to be billed to PUSD	\$23 253
<i>Fare waiver reimbursement:</i>	
Estimated weekly boardings on regular trips	940
Per-boarding reimbursement from PUSD	\$1.30
Total weekly fare revenue loss	\$1 222
Expected number of weeks of operation	12
Expected total fare loss to be billed to PUSD	\$14 664
<i>Total:</i>	
Total amount estimated to be billed to PUSD	\$37 917

Budget

If approved, this item will be included with the FY2020 budget.

Next Steps

If approved by the governing boards of both parties, each entity would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for LAVTA to supply the additional #605/#611 service, as well as free rides to AVHS students on all trips of those routes, on a reimbursement basis from PUSD. The first day of the additional service and fare waiver would be August 12, 2019, with an anticipated last day of service (subject to change depending on the progress of construction) of October 31, 2019.

Recommendation

The Projects & Services Committee recommends the Board of Directors approve temporary, additional service and free rides on Wheels routes 605 and 611, as outlined above, to be reimbursed by PUSD at the fully allocated rate, effective on August 12, and anticipated to end on or around October 31, 2019.

Approved: _____