

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Summer School Service Accommodation for 2019

FROM: Tony McCaulay, Director of Planning and Marketing
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DATE: March 25, 2019

Action Requested

To consider the travel needs of students attending the summer school programs in Dublin and Pleasanton, and forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Background

In Dublin and Pleasanton, LAVTA supplements its mainline routes with limited “school tripper” service operating on school days during the main academic year. Since 2014, the agency has also provided a limited subset of this service to accommodate students that attend the summer school sessions of the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) and Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD). The primary purpose of these sessions is to offer remedial coursework to students who are at risk of not meeting grade level standards.

Discussion

Similarly to prior years, the Dublin school district will again run its summer program at the Dublin High School (DHS) location this year. Wheels mainline service along Village Parkway (where DHS is located) was removed in the fall of 2016, and the County Connection just discontinued its service in the corridor earlier this month (March 2019) – leaving the supplemental routes as the only option for students looking to take public transit to/from DHS.

The summer supplemental service that was operated in Dublin in 2018 operated across 33 days, and carried a total of 4,121 boardings through the program – or an average of 142 one-way boardings per day operated, a slight increase of about 2.5% over the prior year summer service.

The Pleasanton summer program will remain at Amador Valley High School (AVHS) this year. Although two supplemental routes are provided during the main academic year, AVHS is located along the frequent mainline Route 10R which also runs the perimeter of a number of neighborhoods located north and south off Santa Rita Road and Owens Drive.

Service Options for Summer 2019

Dublin: The DUSD summer school program is expected to be offered similarly to last year in terms of duration and bell times, and to run for seven weeks, Monday thru Friday, starting June 10. Classes will begin at 8:00am and end at 12:50pm, and the program will again be held at Dublin High School. There will be a total of 31 instructional days.

LAVTA operates four supplemental routes to/from Dublin High School during the main academic year, as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL ROUTES	
at Dublin High School	
<i>Route</i>	<i>Area(s)</i>
501	Positano Hill, Silvera Ranch
502	Emerald Glen, Jordan Ranch
503	Shannon Park
504	Dublin Ranch

During last year’s program, service on the two busiest routes (#501 and #502) was provided during the summer session. Due to some geographic overlap between these routes, this provided relatively good neighborhood coverage to/from eastern Dublin, while areas west of I-680 were unserved. It was necessary to provide an overflow bus in the pm for the #501, in order to accommodate passenger loads.

Given the strong demand for travel to the DUSD summer program that the agency has seen over the past couple of years, the increased demand during the current academic year and the absence of mainline transit service in the Dublin High School area, staff is recommending that the Board consider improving the summer supplemental service coverage there. The farebox recovery rate for supplemental service is generally high, and – unlike during the main academic year – LAVTA is not maxed out on peak-pull resources during the summer.

The table that follows shows the estimated cost and revenue parameters for running, during summer session of 2019, the four supplemental routes that regularly serve DHS during the main school year.

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE OPTIONS	
Dublin summer program 2019	
<i>Number of days operated</i>	<i>31</i>
Route 501	
Total revenue hours	54.25
Fully allocated cost	\$5 912
Total estimated ridership	2 895
Estimated fare revenue	\$3 763
Estimated net cost	\$2 149
Route 502	
Total revenue hours	30.38
Fully allocated cost	\$3 311
Total estimated ridership	1 329
Estimated fare revenue	\$1 728
Estimated net cost	\$1 582
Route 503	
Total revenue hours	27.90
Fully allocated cost	\$3 040
Total estimated ridership	341
Estimated fare revenue	\$443
Estimated net cost	\$2 597
Route 504	
Total revenue hours	13.95
Fully allocated cost	\$1 520
Total estimated ridership	1 166
Estimated fare revenue	\$1 516
Estimated net cost	\$4
<i>Total estimated ridership, if all of above</i>	<i>5 731</i>
<i>Total estimated net cost, if all of above</i>	<i>\$6 332</i>

These numbers show the net cost (fully allocated cost minus anticipated farebox revenue) of \$6,300 for running all the DHS supplemental routes during the summer, with an estimated corresponding total ridership of approximately 5,700. Based on the success of the Dublin supplemental service last summer, and on the continued growth in the city's student population, Staff anticipates service to again be productive this year and recommends that the Committee endorse accommodating the Dublin summer 2019 program with supplemental service as outlined above.

The Dublin Partners in Education (DPIE) enrichment program: As in years past, the DPIE is a program that operates independently from the school district, and the goal of which is to assist students with their academic goals and needs through accelerated courses for high school credit, and enrichment courses for middle school. The high school grade element of this program has been, and will continue to be, held at DHS, and will be conducted Monday thru Friday, 8:00a to 12:45p, from June 5 thru July 12, 2019. These times coincide closely with those of the District’s program, and can be accommodated within the same service framework provided for the latter, as long as the service starts on June 5. This start date would require approximately 12 total additional service hours across three extra days.

At the same time, the DPIE middle school level classes will be relocating to Fallon Middle School (FMS) this year. During the regular academic year, FMS is served by Wheels Route 2. While this route operates year-round, its schedule takes into account only the regular Fallon bell schedule and would be unsuitable for the bell times of the enrichment classes. As such, it would be necessary to operate dedicated inbound and outbound trips to accommodate the summer session at FMS. The following table summarizes the would-be cost factors associated with such a service.

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE OPTION	
DPIE FMS Location	
Route 2	
Total revenue hours	40.30
Fully allocated cost	\$4 391
Total estimated ridership	403
Estimated fare revenue	\$524
Estimated net cost	\$3 868

Based on the proportion of students using Route 2 during the main academic year versus the anticipated enrollment numbers in the summer enrichment program, Staff estimates that additional trips on the Route 2 to accommodate the DPIE summer middle school program at FMS would only see in the order of 10-15 total boardings per day. As such, staff *does not recommend this kind of additional service* for the 2019 DPIE FMS program.

Pleasanton: As in 2018, this year’s PUSD summer school program will be held at Amador Valley High School. It will offer middle- and high school grade summer classes as well as enrichment courses. The program will start on June 12 and run for five weeks, and take place during the hours of 8:00a and 1:00p (middle school grades to let out at 12:00p). There will be a total of 22 instruction days.

Due to the presence of the frequent Rapid Route 10R operating throughout the day in the Santa Rita Road corridor by AVHS, and given the virtual absence of riders on the supplemental Route 605 when LAVTA last ran that route for the summer session in 2016, Staff recommends *no supplemental service* for the 2019 program in Pleasanton.

Instead, the agency would produce targeted timetables and other materials tailored toward students who could utilize Route 10 for their travel to and from the summer classes. These materials would highlight the scheduled trips that are relevant to the bell times of the summer program, and would contain guidance on transfer options as applicable.

Budget

The potential summer session accommodation option recommended by Staff totals 179 revenue hours of service. Based on direction from the Committee regarding service levels, these hours will be incorporated with the concurrent budgeting process for the upcoming fiscal year, and will require no amendments.

Recommendation

Staff is asking the Projects & Services Committee to review and discuss the service options outlined above, and forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors to:

- Operate Wheels routes #501, #502, #503, and #504 during the DUSD 2019 summer school program, and
- Operate the selected option above for an additional three days to accommodate the earlier start of the DPIE STEM program at DHS, and
- Direct students to the regular Rapid Route 10R for the PUSD 2019 summer school program.