

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Scheduled Bus Arrival Times at Dublin High School

FROM: Michael Tobin, Director of Operations
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DATE: September 22, 2025

Action Requested

This is an informational item.

Background

At the August 25, 2025 Projects & Services Committee meeting, directors inquired as to the reason that the Wheels supplemental 500-series routes arrive relatively early at Dublin High School (DHS) vs. the school's bell time.

Discussion

In areas where the regular Wheels routes have insufficient coverage or capacity to serve students' travel needs, or where schools are not located on mainline Wheels routes, LAVTA operates a number of supplemental routes to middle- and high schools in Dublin and Pleasanton.

The heavy peak-oriented nature of student travel puts significant pressure on LAVTA vehicles and manpower resources to operate the supplemental service – especially in the mornings, when all schools have similar bell times. This became especially problematic after the passage of California's Senate Bill 328 in 2019 which requires middle schools to start no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and high schools no earlier than 8:30 a.m. This law became effective in 2022.

Therefore, to maximize limited resources (and effectively maximize service), many of the buses are scheduled as a shared resource for two consecutive supplemental routes (schools) through a process called “interlining”. In some cases, buses are also scheduled to interline between supplemental routes and mainline routes.

Why is Dublin High the school with the earliest scheduled arrivals?

Prior to the new Emerald High School (EHS) coming online, traffic backups around DHS had eventually built up to the point where it was no longer realistic for the Wheels buses to arrive very close to bell time without spending most of their trip time along the final two blocks on the approach to the school (and students arriving late). At the same time, more buses overall were needed to accommodate higher demand at DHS.

With this issue at hand, and with more buses needed, the scheduled arrival times were moved up to avoid the heaviest traffic – and at the same time to enable buses to interline to other schools.

Current setup and schedule

Currently, all the supplemental routes/buses that serve DHS in the a.m. arrive 33 to 40 minutes prior to the main bell, and all of those buses continue to other supplemental routes, as follows:

501 > 610 (Hart Middle School)
501 (overflow) > 609 (Hart Middle School)
502 > 610 (Hart Middle School, overflow)
503 > 503 (same route continues to Wells Middle School)
504 > 607 (Hart Middle School)

Outlook for next school year

Staff is still drafting recommendations for next year, but expects the drawdown at DHS to continue as the boundary transition to EHS is completed. Depending on the exact resource requirements at DHS and elsewhere then, it may be possible to schedule bus arrivals closer to the DHS bell at that point.

Recommendation

This is an informational item.