



**November 8, 2018**

**To:** Transit Committee  
**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
**Subject:** February 2019 Bus Service Change

**Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority implements changes to bus routes three times each year. The February 2019 bus service change consists of major changes to bus service on Beach Boulevard and minor adjustments to other bus schedules.

**Recommendation**

Receive and file as an information item.

**Background**

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) implements schedule and route revisions to selected bus routes three times a year in February, June, and October. The February 2019 bus service change consists of major changes to bus service on Beach Boulevard and minor adjustments to the schedule on one rail-feeder route. There may be additional minor schedule adjustments on routes due to the Interstate 405 Improvement Project.

**Discussion**

The February 2019 bus service change includes schedule adjustments to two bus routes and the implementation of one new route. A summary of the changes planned for the routes included in the February 2019 bus service change is provided (Attachment A), as well as a map of the impacted routes (Attachment B).

**Bravo! Route 529**

The new Bravo! Route 529 limited-stop service will be provided on Beach Boulevard from the Fullerton Park-and-Ride to the Goldenwest Transportation Center. The service will run weekdays during peak and off-peak hours with a frequency of 12 and 18 minutes, respectively. The core segment, which will have both Route 29/A and Bravo! Route 529 services, currently experiences high ridership and will receive a significant increase in frequency to about seven and a half minutes at the Bravo! stops. The route will traverse the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton, and Westminster. The Bravo! stops will be spaced approximately one mile apart at major destinations or transfer points. The implementation of this service is anticipated to grow ridership by approximately 500,000 annual boardings on the Beach Boulevard corridor.

Additional buses needed for the new Bravo! route were funded by the state Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP). The incremental operating cost for the first two and a half years of operations will also be funded through the LCTOP. Staff plans to return to the Board of Directors (Board) with an additional request to program future LCTOP and possible Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds to operate the service for an additional two and a half years (five years total).

**Route 29/A**

OCTA currently operates local bus service, Route 29/A, on Beach Boulevard from 4:00 AM to 1:00 AM, seven days a week. Route 29/A frequency will be adjusted from 15 minutes to 20 minutes during the peak period south of Edinger Avenue. The section of the route north of Malvern Avenue will see a frequency improvement from 30 minutes to 20 minutes during the peak periods. Staff analyzed these changes to Route 29/A and does not anticipate any passenger loading issues will be caused by these frequency changes.

**Stationlink Route 453**

Route 453 provides rail-feeder service from the Orange Transportation Center to St. Joseph's Hospital and the major employers along Town and Country Road in Santa Ana. Staff will be modifying the schedule on this route to work better in transit trip planners, such as Google Maps and the Transit App. Currently, these trip planning apps do not connect morning trips between Metrolink trains and the Route 453 buses. Since the bus trip start times are close to the train arrival times, these apps assume there is not enough time for passengers to transfer. In practice, the buses wait for the arriving trains. Staff will be moving the bus departure time forward six minutes on the schedule, which is the only workable solution based on feedback from Google. This change will initially be

made on Route 453 as a pilot and will be implemented in the future on all rail-feeder routes if it is accepted by customers.

#### Title VI and Environmental Justice Analyses

Title VI and environmental justice analyses for the implementation of Bravo! Route 529, and the reduction of service on Route 29, were conducted as part of the 2016 Bus Service Plan approved by the Board in February 2016. The implementation of these changes was deferred until funding could be identified for implementation, but was considered in the overall impacts of the 2016 Bus Service Change analysis. The other route changes for February 2019 are minor; therefore, Title VI and environmental justice analyses of these changes are not required per Board policy.

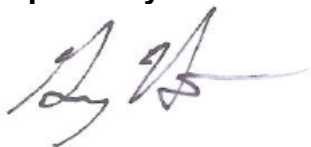
#### ***Summary***

The February 2019 bus service changes consist of major changes to bus service on Beach Boulevard and minor adjustments to other bus schedules. Notification of the changes to customers is expected three weeks prior to implementation of the program.

#### ***Attachments***

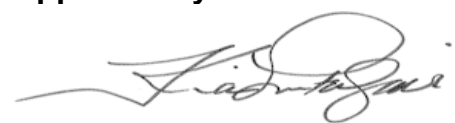
- A. February 2019 Bus Service Change Summary
- B. February 2019 Bus Service Change System Map, Schedule and Route Adjustments
- C. Beach Boulevard Transit Routes

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