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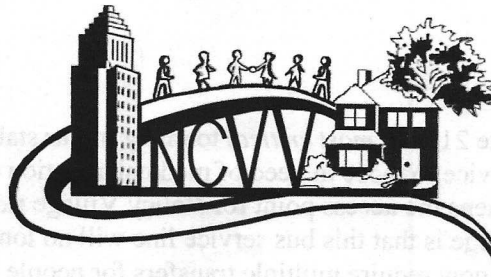
NEIGHBORHOOD
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August 26, 2020

Email to: servicechanges@metro.net

cc: The Honorable Paul Krekorian

cc: The Honorable Sheila Kuehl

cc: The Honorable Eric Garcetti

From: Neighborhood Council Valley Village Board of Directors

Subject: NextGen Bus Plan Proposed Service Changes

On behalf of the Board of Neighborhood Council Valley Village, we respectfully submit the following comments to you for consideration and we hope - action. These comments are based on input we have received from Valley Village stakeholders and residents who utilize the Metro Bus Line Service. We also wish to express our concern for some of our vulnerable populations including elderly residents, those whose livelihoods depend on Metro bus service to their employment, and Veterans who services for social and health needs.

We applaud your efforts to implement a new bus network that is more relevant, reflective of and attractive to the residents of LA County. Metro's Vision 2028 to build a comprehensive World Class Transportation System can only help Los Angeles improve its services to our residents. We support your overarching goals.

However, we must prioritize the needs of our families, neighbors and stakeholders related to the Final Bus Service Plan due to be presented to the Metro Board in September. As such we offer the following comments and suggestions related to the changes.

Prior to specific suggestions we would like to point out that the maps that were provided through the website were complex and difficult to study related to the proposed changes. For instance, the descriptions of the original routes were not clear and the new routes lacked directional arrows. There was no mention of layover corners or span of service. These are important issues for the bus riders.

Our suggestions include:

Route 237 – We implore you not to change this route. The changes extend the timetable, break the route into multiple lines which interrupts a direct path of tourism to Universal via the bus system. The changes will also drop the customer outside of the Universal station without progressing over the hill to the Glendale area. This can create hardships for elderly riders and parents with small children and/or babies.

Route 154/153 – while the maps made it difficult to study – it appears that changes to those lines will interrupt access to Medical facilities & Providence Tarzana Hospital on Ventura west of the 405 – without transfers.

Route 218 - the changes on Route 218 are *most critical* to many of our stakeholders. Please review these changes with an eye toward providing service to those in need of medical attention or healthcare workers/front line medical staff. The change lengthens the access point for Valley Village riders by moving the origin to Ventura Boulevard. The most serious change is that this bus service line will no longer take riders directly to Cedars Sinai Health System/Hospital and will now require multiple transfers for people whose health risks may be heightened due to double and sometimes triple transit times. Please review this route and consider these issues.

Route 155 - the proposed changes to the 155 line are very difficult to study as the new Burbank bus was not shown. The western portion of the proposed line is poorly planned for riders wishing to go to Universal City. There should be a loop similar to the 154/153.

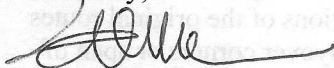
Route 158 – the proposed changes will have a dramatic negative impact on our Veterans. This line should not be modified without a solution already in place to transport the VA/North Hills customers to their new bus line. Additionally these Veteran riders need to be provided with assistance to bring them up the hill to the VA/Westwood facility. Providing a “Dash” type service may be one of the potential solutions.

Overall, there appears to be an effort to reduce the number of Valley Village East/West lines. The 155 along Riverside will combine the 183 along Magnolia; the 154 on Oxnard will combine with a new line on Burbank and Chandler would be removed altogether. Effectively, these combined changes reduce the East/West bus line access in Valley Village by more than 50%. Some of our elderly and physically challenged stakeholders are concerned that additional walking, especially with bags of groceries or other personal items, will be a hardship for them. Please review these changes to the East/West lines and consider preserving more of them in the overall final plans.

We would also ask that you also continue to be sensitive to the amount of traffic on 2-lane sections of Magnolia Boulevard in the southeast San Fernando Valley. Most of these 2-lane segments are in Valley Village and traffic congestion is an increasing burden on our stakeholders. Please continue to consider alternatives to increasing bus traffic on Magnolia Boulevard. Consideration of preserving East/West bus service will help alleviate these concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on behalf of Valley Village stakeholders and your riders.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Braswell
President

cc: Sahag Yedalian
Karo Torossian