



Information Item

Date: August 15, 2012

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Edward F. King, Director of Transit Services
Subject: Big Blue Bus Fall 2012 Service Changes

Introduction

On [June 12, 2012](#), the City Council approved service changes to Route 2 and Rapid 10 in order to improve service efficiency and reliability for Big Blue Bus (BBB) customers. These service changes as well as those to Routes 5, 12, and 20 will take effect on August 26, 2012.

Background

At the end of each summer, the Big Blue Bus takes advantage of shifts in riders' travel patterns from taking more leisure trips to more school and work trips by making relevant route and schedule adjustments. This year, fall service changes will begin on Sunday and Monday, August 26 and 27, to provide the most effective and efficient transit for students and commuters.

Discussion

The biggest change this fall will be the launch of a new Rapid 20 service to connect riders between downtown Santa Monica and the Expo Culver City station more directly than Route 5 service. Presently, BBB operates buses that travel out of service (deadhead) from its yard to Culver City, where those buses go into revenue service as Route 5 and Route 12 trips. Beginning Monday, August 27, these trips will be open to riders, and subsequently will become revenue generating without BBB incurring any additional costs. The new Rapid 20 will service limited stops along the Transit Mall and 4th Street, then operate via the 10 Freeway to the Culver City Expo Station. While Rapid 20 will operate on the 10 Freeway, the local rate of \$1 for regular fares and a \$.50 for senior/disabled/Medicare fares will be offered.

To further increase connectivity to Expo light rail, BBB's Super 12 service is being changed to a Rapid 12 service. To transport riders between the Culver City station and Westwood/UCLA quickly and directly, bus trip times are being aligned with the light rail trips, stops with the lowest usage are being eliminated (but will still be served by BBB's Local 12), and the end-of-line stop is being relocated to northbound Robertson between Venice and Washington.

As authorized by Council, Route 2 service is being shortened due to very low ridership and high subsidization of service south of Pico. As of Sunday, August 26, the southern end of the route will begin operating from southbound 4th St. to westbound on Olympic Dr., southbound on Main St., eastbound on Pico and northbound on 4th St. Also per Council's approval at the same meeting, Rapid 10 will no longer operate three morning trips and three afternoon trips south of downtown Santa Monica. Due to this change, along with the movement of the relocation of the downtown Los Angeles layover location (per Metro's direction in June), Rapid 10 schedules are being adjusted slightly.

Finally, due to long-term road work on Olympic Blvd. in Santa Monica, Route 5 trips heading towards Century City will now operate via Arizona, then northbound on 6th St., westbound on Wilshire, southbound on 4th St., eastbound on Broadway, southbound on 6th St., and eastbound on Colorado and then resume current route. Additionally, the inbound route is changing due to long-term road work by shifting from northbound Robertson Blvd. to eastbound on Venice Blvd., westbound on National Blvd (West), and then resume regular route to Downtown Santa Monica.

Summary

Fall 2012 service changes, in addition to other service related information, are posted on the Big Blue Bus website at www.bigbluebus.com.

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