Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning Committee
FROM: Michael A. Hursh, General Manager
SUBJECT: Public Hearing: Changes to lines 667, 668 and 675, including service on new streets

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Consider setting a public hearing on February 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. regarding service on new streets for lines 667, 668 and 675 and the Environmental Document for the proposed changes.
2. Consider waiving the two public hearing requirements.
3. Authorize staff to conduct public hearing absent of the Board and report back to the Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff is requesting that the Board set the Public Hearing for the proposed changes to lines 667, 668 and 675 and the associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis on February 18, 2016. Korematsu Middle School (formerly Portola Middle School), is located at 1021 Navellier Street in El Cerrito and is currently served by these lines.

In August on 2014, AC Transit staff was notified that construction of the new Korematsu Middle School was nearly complete and WCCUSD had scheduled their move to the Donal Avenue site for March 2016. In order to continue to serve Korematsu Middle School at their new location, the District will have to operate service along Donal Avenue between Scott Street and Richmond Street and would preferably deadhead buses along Schmidt Street between Richmond Street and San Pablo Avenue.

Setting the public hearing at this time would allow staff to conduct the required notification process and Title VI Analysis prior to the school’s March move-in date. After the hearing, if the Board votes to approve the service change, the changes would occur as part of the Spring 2016 Sign-up.

BUDGETARY/FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed route will be approximately the same length as the current route and will require the same resources; therefore, the proposed changes will not result in any budgetary or fiscal impact.
BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The District operates three supplementary service lines that are coordinated to provide transportation to Korematsu Middle School at specific bell times:

- Line 667 – Market Street & 6th Street, North Richmond to El Cerrito High School and Portola Middle School via Market Street, Fred Jackson Way, 7th Street, MacDonald Avenue and San Pablo Avenue.
- Line 668 – Richmond BART to El Cerrito High School and Portola Middle School via Harbour Way, Cutting Boulevard. and San Pablo Avenue.
- Line 675- Richmond BART to Portola Middle School and El Cerrito High School via Harbour Way, Cutting Blvd., Potrero Avenue, 47th St., Carlson Boulevard. and Fairmount Avenue.

In the morning, four one-way trips are scheduled to arrive at Korematsu between 24-26 minutes prior to the morning bell time. These trips are designed to serve both Korematsu Middle School and El Cerrito High School. In the afternoon, three one-way trips begin at Korematsu and are scheduled to leave five minutes after school is dismissed.

Ridership

Ridership going to /coming from Korematsu Middle School on AC Transit service is fairly significant. Data collected in Spring 2015 shows over 140 passenger trips per day either begin or end at Korematsu Middle School.

Service Recommendation for Public Hearing

A.M. Service

In the morning, lines 667, 668 and 675 (four total trips) currently operate via northbound Ashbury Avenue, then turn left onto Moeser Lane, right at Richmond Street, right at Schmidt Lane, right at Navellier Street, and right at Moeser Lane to Korematsu Middle School. This loop around the campus is made in order to stop the bus along the side of the street where the school is located.

Buses then deadhead via Moeser Lane to San Pablo Avenue to either go back to Division 2 or deadhead to another trip.

In order to continue to serve Korematsu Middle School, staff is recommending re-routing the lines to the new school location along Donal Avenue. This will require buses to operate via northbound Ashbury Avenue, right at Moeser Lane, left at Navellier Street, left at Schmidt Lane, right at Scott Street, and then left on Donal Avenue to the new Korematsu Middle School site. Buses would then deadhead via Donal Avenue, turn left at Richmond Street, right at Schmidt Lane, and proceed to San Pablo Avenue to either Division 2 or deadhead to another trip.

P.M. Service

In the afternoon, line 667, 668 and 675 (three total trips) currently deadhead to Korematsu Middle School via east bound Moeser Lane, then turn left at Richmond Street, right at Schmidt
Lane, right at Navellier Street, and right at Moeser Lane. Lines 667 & 668 then leave Korematsu Middle School via Moeser Lane to get to San Pablo Avenue; line 675 operates via Moeser Lane, then turn left at Ashbury Avenue.

In order to continue to serve Korematsu Middle School, staff is recommending re-routing the lines to start at the new location along Donal Avenue. In order to do so, buses would deadhead via Moeser Lane, then turn left at Richmond Street, right at Schmidt, left at Scott Street, and left at Donal Avenue to Korematsu Middle School. Buses would then get back to their existing routes via Donal Avenue, then left at Richmond Street, left at Schmidt Lane, right at Navellier Street, and right at Moeser Lane.

Summary of Outreach Process

Staff has presented the service change proposals at two community meetings regarding the relocation of Korematsu Middle School conducted by the City of El Cerrito. This proposal is the preferred routing for the school, the West Contra Costa County Unified School District and the City of El Cerrito.

Next Steps

CEQA Analysis

The District will obtain a consultant to conduct the CEQA analysis for the proposed changes. The consultant will examine the environmental impacts of:

- Service on new street segments
- Increased Frequency on street segments

The consultant will complete the analysis in time to release the document to the public 30 days prior to the Public Hearing. Staff will also provide a copy of the final CEQA analysis to the Board upon completion. Consideration of the CEQA analysis is included in the Public Hearing on the proposed changes.

Title VI Analysis

Staff will complete the Title VI analysis prior to the Public Hearing so the information will be available when the Board decides on the proposed change.

Schedule

- **12/9/15** - Set the Public Hearing for February 2015
- **2/18/16** - Hold Public Hearing
- **3/7/16** - Continue to operate existing service via detour until school relocates to Donal Avenue on March 28, 2016
- **3/9/16** - Anticipated Board Decision on the changes
- **3/28/16** - Implementation of changes

ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES:

The advantage to conducting the Public Hearing in February will be that it would allow for the re-routing of the service along Donal Avenue to occur in conjunction with the move of the
school. If the changes are approved, passengers using our bus service to get to/from Korematsu Middle School will continue to be dropped off/picked-up adjacent to their campus without disruption.

**ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:**

If the Public Hearing is delayed until after February 2016 or the Board decides not to approve the proposed service change, staff is proposing to modify the bus services to drop-off/pick-up passengers along Scott Street at Donal Avenue where the District currently has existing bus stops. This option would have the buses stop a few blocks away from the front entrance of the school where infrastructure will be built to accommodate buses.

Buses would route via streets that the District already operates under this alternative utilizing existing stops.

**PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS/POLICIES:**

Board Policy 163- Public Hearing Process for Board of Directors

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1: Route Maps
2: Draft Public Hearing Notice

**Executive Staff Approval:** Robert del Rosario, Director of Service Development

**Reviewed by:**
Denise C. Standridge, General Counsel
James Pachan, Chief Operating Officer/Interim Chief Financial Officer

**Prepared by:** Sean Diest Lorgion, Senior Transportation Planner
A.M. -In-Service/Deadhead Route
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

PROPOSED OPERATIONS ALONG STREETS NOT PREVIOUSLY SERVICED
(DONAL AVENUE AND SCHMIDT STREET IN EL CERRITO, CA)

Notice is hereby given that AC Transit will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 18, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at El Cerrito City Hall, City Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, California, to receive public comment on the proposed rerouting of lines 675, 668 & 675 along streets not previously served as more specifically described below under “PROJECT DESCRIPTION”.

The proposed service options are detailed on AC Transit’s website at www.actransit.org, and available in printed format at the District’s General Offices, located at 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, California, and at a variety of other locations, including main county and city offices as well as the main libraries located within the District’s service area. For information on exact locations where the documents are available in your specific area, please telephone (510) 891-XXXX.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AC Transit is proposing to re-route lines 667, 668 & 675 in order to continue serving Korematsu Middle School when it is moved to its new location along Donal Avenue in March 2016. The District would operate bus service along the following new street segments: Donal Avenue between Scott Street and Richmond Street (in-service) and along Schmidt Street between Richmond Street and San Pablo Avenue (not in-service). Buses would operate along the Donal Avenue segment six times per weekday and along the Schmidt Lane segment three times per weekday.

If approved by the Board of Directors, the changes to lines 667, 668 & 675 would be implemented in March 2016.

Your Comments Are Invited

Public Comment on the Proposed Operations along Streets Not Previously Serviced (Donal Avenue and Schmidt Street in El Cerrito, CA) is invited either in writing or at the public hearing scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at El Cerrito City Hall, City Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, California. The public is urged to submit written comments by letter, facsimile, or email. Written comments will receive the same attention as verbal comments received at the Public Hearing. Please address written comments to the AC Transit Board of Directors, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, California, 94612; by facsimile at (510) 891-7157; or by email to planning@actransit.org. Comments may also be submitted by voicemail at (510) 891-7201. For Spanish-language comments, call (510) 891-XXXX; and for Chinese-language comments, call (510) 891-XXXX.

Meeting site is wheelchair accessible.

Spanish and Chinese interpreters will be available at the meeting. Upon request, a sign language interpreter or a foreign language interpreter (for languages other than those mentioned in this notice) will be present at the hearing. Please contact the District Secretary’s Office at (510) 891-7201 by Friday, February 12, 2016, at 5:00 p.m., to make arrangements. For TDD for hearing impaired, call 711, California Relay Service, and specify (510) 891-4700.
Transit to the Hearing Site

AC Transit Lines 72 and 72M stop within walking distance of the public hearing site. For trip-planning, visit www.actransit.org or call 511 (and say, “AC Transit”).

Please do not wear scented products to the meeting.