



Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning Committee
AC Transit Board of Directors

FROM: David J. Armijo, General Manager

SUBJECT: Public Hearing for Spring 2015 Service Improvements

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- Consider setting public hearings on December 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. regarding:
 - a) 2015 service expansion; and
 - b) New service on street segments not previously served in Alameda and Oakland.
- Consider waiving the Board Policy 100 requirement to hold two public hearings.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Board Policy 163 requires public hearings for service changes that represent over 25 per cent of existing service hours for the day of the week for which the change is proposed, along with proposed new service on street segments not previously served. Accordingly, staff requests the Board set a public hearing for December 10, 2014 regarding service expansion and service on new street segments in Alameda and Oakland. While the changes under Board Policy 163 are considered major adjustments, the service expansions are positive and not significant enough to warrant a second hearing. Consequently, staff requests waiving the requirement for the second public hearing per Board Policy 100.

Specific expansion proposals include weekend service increase on Lines 72 and 72M in West Contra Costa County, Lines 46 and 31 in Northern Alameda County and extended weekday trips on Line 680 to the East Bay Innovation Academy. In addition to the increase in service hours, changes on Lines 680, 31 and NL require new service on street segments not previously served in Oakland.

Additionally, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) is funding a one-year pilot for additional late night service from San Francisco to the East Bay. Pending Board approval, the pilot service is planned to start in December, 2014. If the pilot is successful, and BART wishes to continue the service, the ongoing service requires a public hearing. Staff is being proactive and efficient by including the late night service in this public hearing process.

BUDGETARY/FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost of the proposed expansion plan amounts to \$255,888 for the remainder of fiscal year 2014/2015, and \$1,051,750 annually, assuming a marginal rate of \$86. BART is fully funding the late night service.

There is no fiscal impact associated with service on new streets.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

a) Spring Service Expansion

With an improved financial situation, the District is able to consider expanding service and staff has developed a series of District-wide expansion proposals. The proposals cover most service areas of the District apart from Southern Alameda County, which underwent large improvements and changes in 2013. The minor adjustments will come before the Board as information on November 12, 2014 for implementation in December 2014.

However, under Board Policy 163, six of the proposals are major adjustments and require a public hearing due to the increase in weekend service hours, or service on new street segments not previously served. Attachment 1 describes the costs associated with these changes along with the service details.

Increased Weekend service on Lines 72 and 72M

Lines 72 and 72M currently operate at 30-minute frequencies on the weekend. As Line 72R does not run on the weekend, these two lines experience regular overcrowding. The proposed expansion on Lines 72 and 72M will help relieve the overcrowding by operating at higher frequencies along the most congested parts of the route. The lines will maintain the same service spans, but will operate at increased frequencies of every 20 minutes on Saturday and Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The weekend expansion requires 11,339 additional platform hours and costs approximately \$974,000 annually to operate, and costs \$243,788 for the remainder of FY 14/15.

The expansion provides better overall service with higher frequencies along the San Pablo corridor – the primary trunk line for West Contra Costa County – and better service in Richmond along Macdonald Avenue and to Hilltop Mall.

Weekend service on Line 46 to the Oakland Zoo

For many years staff has received requests for weekend service to the zoo from passengers and Oakland Zoo staff. The zoo receives most of its visitors on the weekend, and this expansion will support local access to a recreational facility for families in Oakland and the Inner East Bay, and help regional access through the connection at Coliseum BART. In addition, staff received requests for Sunday service on Line 46 to provide access to churches in the area.

The service span deliberately mirrors the opening hours of the zoo and so the service runs between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., which is shorter than the weekday span. As the zoo receives

more visitors in the summer vacation period, increasing the frequency for summer weekend service from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes will better accommodate the increase. The non-summer weekend frequencies will remain the same as the weekday at 60-minute frequencies.

The weekend expansion requires 1,067 additional platform hours and costs approximately \$93,000 annually to operate, and costs \$12,802 for the remainder of FY14/15.

Weekend Route Extension on Line 31

This proposed line extension will serve two distilleries and a brewery on Alameda Point, which offer tastings on the weekends. As with the other service expansion proposals, passengers and staff at the distilleries have requested service to help create another option for those who want to enjoy the tastings, but have no other way of getting there other than driving.

This will save \$24,000 annually as staff determined that interlining the route with Line 12 allows for additional schedule time without significantly affecting reliability. The only change that requires a public hearing is that the new route runs on a previously unserved street segment, as seen in Attachment 2.

Extending Line 680

The District received a request for new bus service from the East Bay Innovation Academy (EBIA), a new Oakland Unified School District charter school serving grades 6-12. The new school is located at 3400 Malcolm Avenue in Oakland.

Staff recommends extending Line 680 (Lakeshore to Bishop O'Dowd) to serve EBIA. The existing service carries 22-28 passengers per trip and has sufficient remaining capacity to accommodate the additional loads from EBIA. Attachment 3 shows a map of the existing and proposed Line 680.

The proposal requires an additional 101 annual platform hours at an annual cost of \$8,750 to operate, and costs \$3,122 for the remainder of FY14/15.

Weekend Late Night Service

BART is funding a one-year pilot for additional late night service from San Francisco to the East Bay. Staff report 14-222 details the new increased service on Lines 800, 801 and a new service, Line 822, which replicates the BART line to Pittsburg BART. The increased service will operate on Friday and Saturday nights to accommodate the increased demand for weekend activities. Line 800 will operate at 20-minute frequencies from 12:30 a.m. until 2:30 a.m. Line 801 will also operate at 20-minute frequencies to Bayfair BART, and 40-minute frequencies to Fremont BART. A new Line 822 will operate at 30-minute frequencies to Pittsburg BART. See Staff Report 14-222 Attachment 2 for route maps.

Pending Board approval, the pilot service is planned to start in December 2014. If the pilot is successful, and BART wishes to continue the service, staff is including the service in this public hearing process for efficiency purposes and so the service could continue without any delay. Furthermore, BART is fully funding the additional service so there is no cost to the District.

b) New service on street sections not previously served in Alameda and Oakland

Attachments 2, 3 and 4 show the following proposed new street sections for revised routes 31, NL and 680.

- *Lexington Street between West Midway Avenue and West Red Line Avenue*

Staff proposes to serve this street section on weekends with Line 31 at 30 minute frequencies between 6:45 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

- *Mandela Parkway between West Grand Avenue and 7th Street*

Staff proposes to serve this street on weekdays on Line NL at 15 minute frequencies between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. This will allow a re-route of the NL to San Francisco to avoid heavy traffic on West Grand Avenue leading onto the freeway.

- *106th Avenue east of the MacArthur Freeway; Sheldon Street between Malcom Avenue and 106th Avenue, Malcom Avenue between Sheldon Street and Maggiora Drive, and Maggiora Drive.*

Staff proposes to serve these streets on weekdays while school is in session for one trip in the morning and one trip in the afternoon.

Implementation Schedule

Below is the schedule for implementing the above mentioned service changes.

October 8, 2014	Request the Board to set a public hearing
December 10, 2014	Public Hearing for Service Changes
Early January, 2015	Request Board Approval of Changes
End of January, 2015	Finalize Schedule Adjustment in Hastus
March, 2015	Implement Service Changes in conjunction with the Spring Sign-up

ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES:

The advantage of the proposed service expansion is that it will provide increased and better service across the District, particularly on weekends where service is lacking, to meet capacity and recreational attractions

The disadvantage of the proposed service expansion is that funds could be applied elsewhere in the District budget.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:

Staff reviewed all possible options for expansion given the existing resources and determined the increase in weekend service was the best option to optimize the service given limited resources. Weekend service took a large cut in the 2010 service reductions and this is the first opportunity to try to redress the balance. In addition, the weekend expansion does not require any additional buses or operators, and is significantly more affordable than weekday service. If staff were to apply these operating funds to weekday service, the District would be limited to an expansion of one or two non-trunk routes or minor span changes, which would not provide the daily ridership benefit as compared to the weekend proposals in this report.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS/POLICIES:

Board Policy 163

Board Policy 100

Staff Report 14-222 Agreement for Late Night Service, One-Year Pilot Program

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Costs and Service Details of Proposed Service Expansion
2. Map of Proposed Line 31 Extension
3. Map of Proposed Line 680 Extension
4. Map of Proposed Line NL Re-route
5. Public Hearing Notice

Department Head Approval: Dennis W. Butler, Acting Chief Planning, Engineering and Construction Officer

Reviewed by: Denise C. Standridge, Interim General Counsel
Robert del Rosario, Director of Service Development
Jim Pachan, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Linda Morris, Senior Transportation Planner
Sean Diest Lorgion, Senior Transportation Planner
Stephen Newhouse, Transportation Planner
Becca Homa, Transportation Planner
John Urgo, Transportation Planner

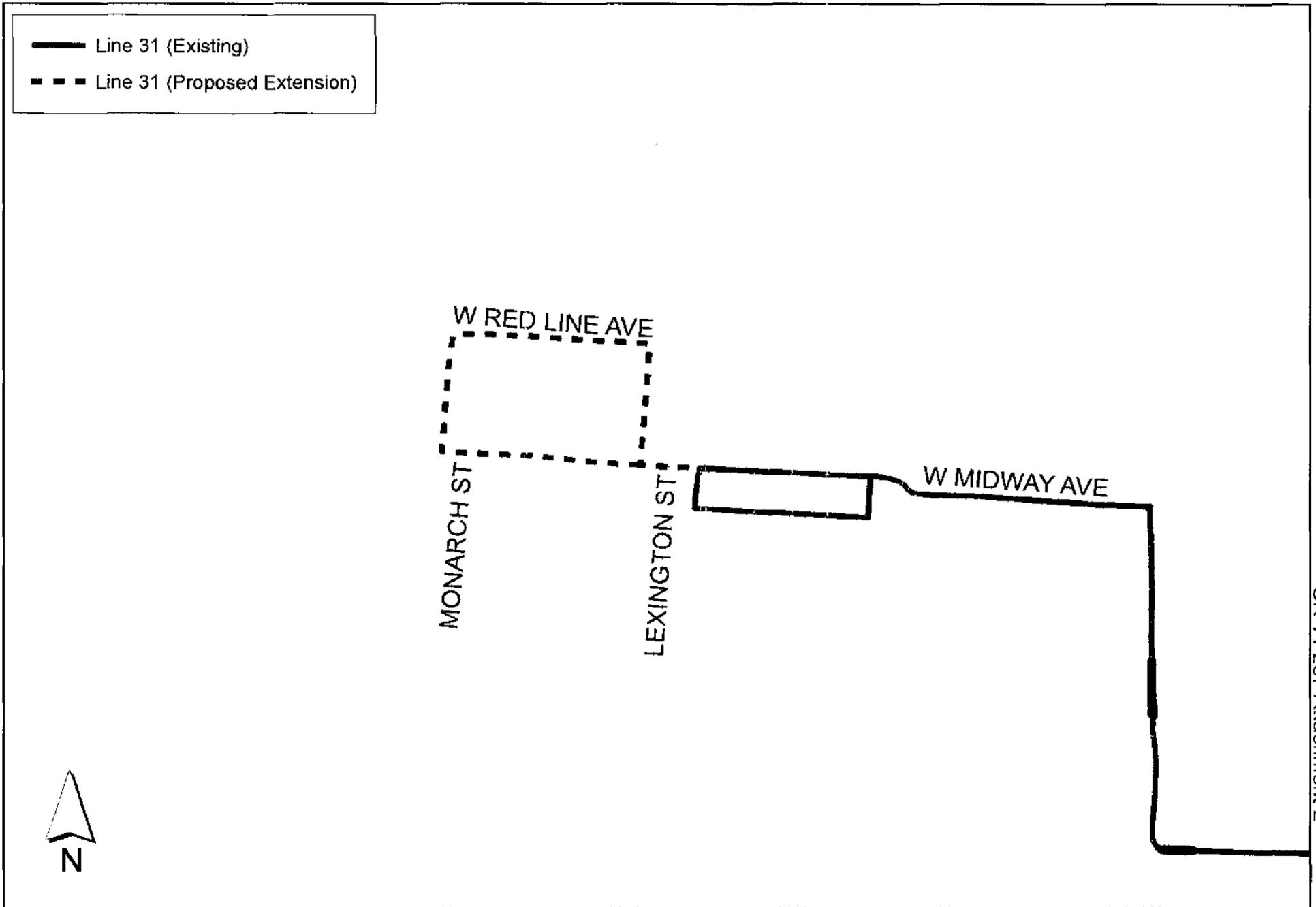
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**Proposed Service Improvements for March 2015
(Public Hearing Required)**

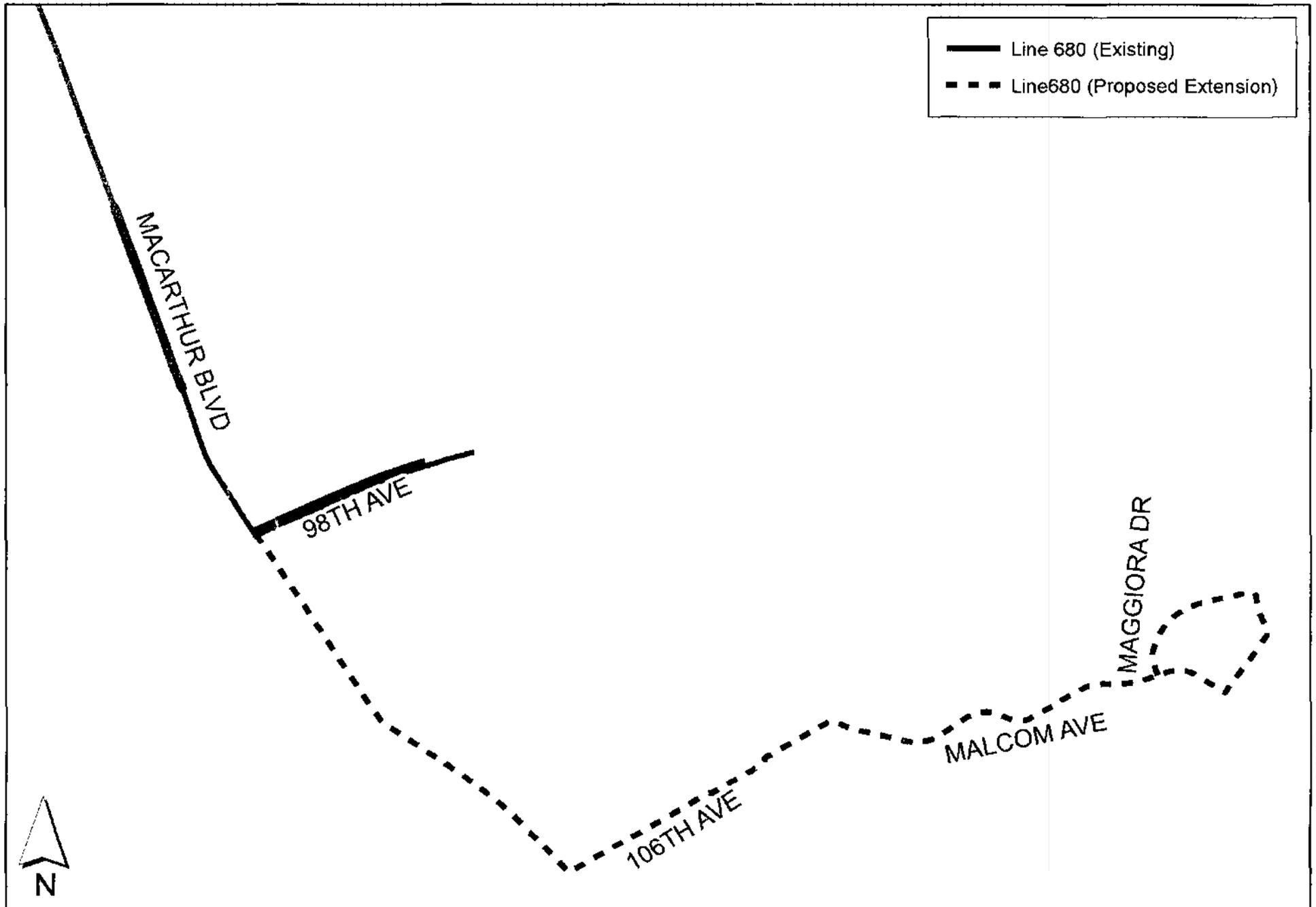
AREA DESCRIPTION	ROUTE	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	DAY TYPE	AC TRANSIT FY14/15 COST	ANNUAL PLATFORM HOURS	AC TRANSIT ANNUAL COST
West Contra Costa Weekend Service	72	Increase frequency btw 9:00am and 8:00pm from 30mins to 20mins	Saturday	\$ 38,828	1,806	\$ 155,000
	72	Increase frequency btw 9:00am and 8:00pm from 30mins to 20mins	Sunday	\$ 78,548	3,653	\$ 314,000
	72M	Increase frequency btw 9:00am and 8:00pm from 30mins to 20mins	Saturday	\$ 53,049	2,467	\$ 212,000
	72M	Increase frequency btw 9:00am and 8:00pm from 30mins to 20mins	Sunday	\$ 73,362	3,412	\$ 293,000
Oakland and Alameda Weekend Service	31	Interline with Line 12 and extend route to cover distillery attractions	Weekend	\$ (3,824)	(277)	\$ (24,000)
	46	Service to the Zoo at existing weekday hourly frequency	Weekend Non-Summer Sign Ups	\$ 12,802	769	\$ 66,000
	46	Service to the Zoo at increased 30 minute frequency for summer vacation	Weekend Summer Sign Up	-	314	\$ 27,000
Line 680 Extension	Line 680 (AM)	Extend route to serve new school	Weekday	\$ 1,514	49	\$ 4,243
	Line 680 (PM)	Extend route to serve new school	Weekday	\$ 1,608	52	\$ 4,508
TOTAL COST OF IMPROVEMENTS				\$ 255,888	12,247	\$ 1,051,750

SR 14-267 Attachment 1

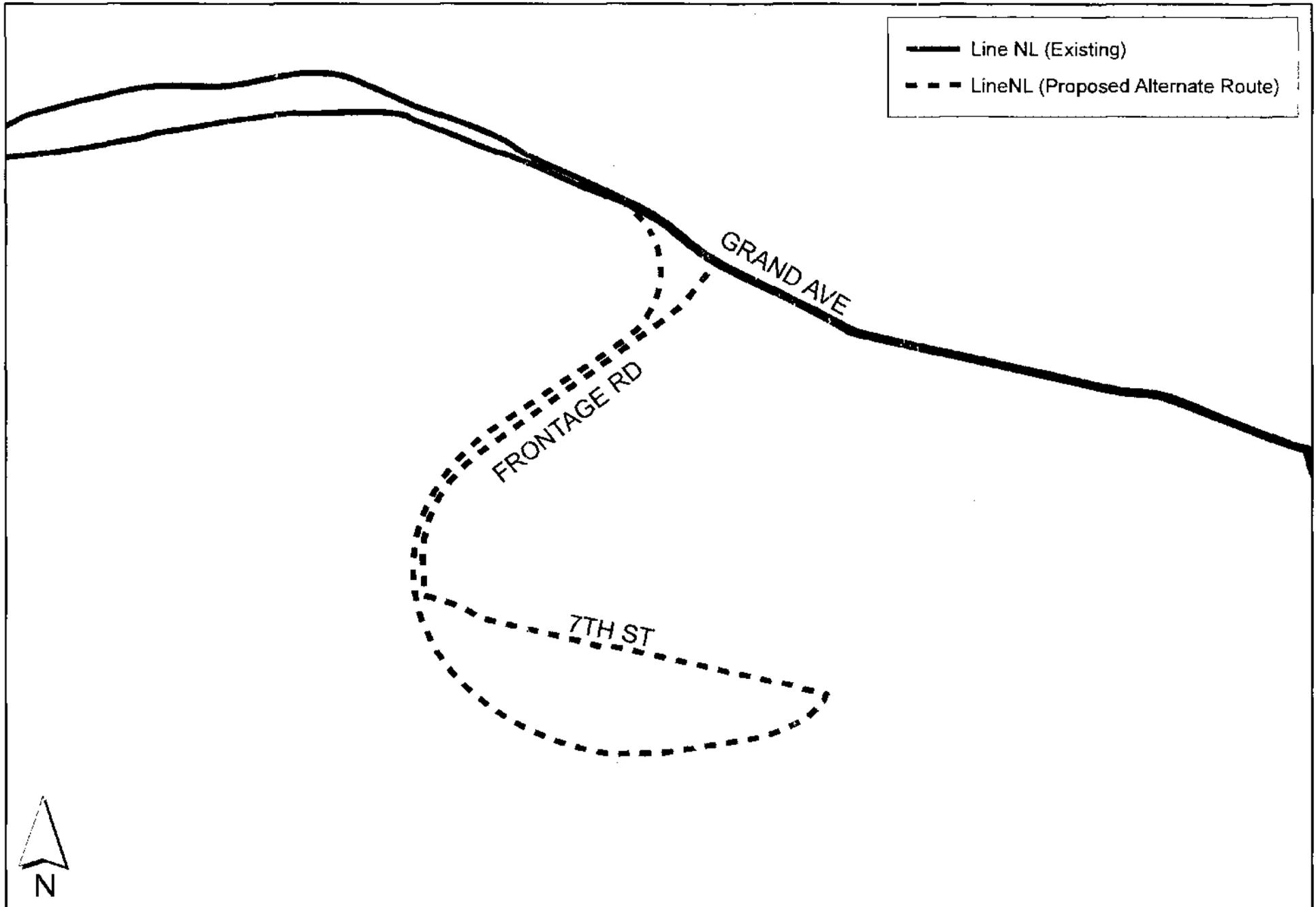
Line 31 - Proposed Extension



Line 680 - Proposed Extension



Line NL - Proposed Alternate Route





**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District**

- **Spring 2015 Service Expansion**
- **Service on New Streets in Oakland and Alameda**

Notice is hereby given that the AC Transit Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.** at the AC Transit General Offices, Second Floor Board Room, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, California, to receive public comment on the Spring 2015 Service Expansion, and Service on Street Segments not Previously Served in Alameda and Oakland, as more specifically described below under "PROJECT DESCRIPTION".

The proposed Spring 2015 Service Expansion and Service on New Streets in Oakland and Alameda 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) 891-7175.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Service expansion proposals include weekend expansion on Lines 72 and 72M in West Contra Costa County and Lines 46 and 31 in Northern Alameda County. Also included are extended weekday trips on Line 680 to the East Bay Innovation Academy and increased frequency on late night service and a new late night route to Pittsburg.

In addition to the increase in service hours, changes on Lines 31, 680 and NL require new service on street segments not previously served in Alameda and Oakland.

- *Lexington Street between West Midway Avenue and West Red Line Avenue in Alameda*
- *Mandela Parkway between West Grand Avenue and 7th Street in Oakland*
- *106th Avenue east of the MacArthur Freeway; Sheldon Street between Malcom Avenue and 106th Avenue, Malcom Avenue between Sheldon Street and Maggiora Drive, and Maggiora Drive in Oakland*

If approved by the Board of Directors, the spring 2015 Service Expansion and Service on New Streets will be implemented in spring 2015.

Your Comments Are Invited

Public Comment on Spring 2015 Service Expansion and Service on New Streets in Oakland and Alameda is invited either in writing or at the public hearing scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at the AC Transit General Offices, Second Floor Board Room, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, California. The public is urged to submit **written comments** by letter, facsimile, or email, which must be received no later than the close of the hearing on December 10, 2014. 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) 891-7291; and for Chinese-language comments, call (510) 891-7292.

Meeting site is wheelchair accessible.

Upon request, a sign language interpreter will be present at the hearing. Foreign language interpreters can be provided, if needed. Please contact the District Secretary's Office at (510) 891-7201 by Thursday, December 4, 2014 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

All AC Transit bus lines serving downtown Oakland stop within walking distance of the public hearing site. For trip-planning, visit www.actransit.org or call 511 (and say, "AC Transit"). The site can also be reached via BART to the 19th Street Oakland station.

Please do not wear scented products to the meeting.