

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

July 15, 2002

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON PASADENA AREA RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM
(ARTS) RIDERSHIP

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

BACKGROUND

On June 3, 2002, the City Council requested that the Department of Public Works and Transportation review the ridership on the Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS) to determine if bus service is overcrowded, and if so the extent of the situation. The records for the month of May were examined to determine passenger use, and bus operators were asked to record the trips where passengers were left at stops due to a full bus during a four-day period in June.

Overall the ridership on the ARTS system has shown steady growth since the new service was implemented on March 2, 2002, with 145,927 riders in March, 155,853 in April and 164,632 riders in May. For comparative purposes, the ridership for the month of January on the old Uptown and Downtown routes was 93,750. This means that between January and May ridership has increased approximately 76 percent. The level of service, as reflected in the number of hours operated has also increased; however, this increase is only 39 percent. In January the system wide number of passengers carried per hour was 38, in May the average number of passengers per hour was 48, an increase of 26 percent. A detailed breakout of ridership by route is shown on Attachment 1.

As the ridership numbers indicate, the new service is being used. The ridership data collected indicates that the system has capacity passenger loads, with drivers not able to board additional passengers on certain trips. Ridership data before and after the end of the school term indicate that the major capacity problems were during the school term. The two routes impacted are Route 20 and Route 31. On Route 20 the capacity problem is primarily associated with one specific bus out of the four operating during the morning hours. On Route 31 there are a few trips that appear to result in capacity loads from students. The remaining routes, Route 10, Route 32 and Route 40 did not have capacity problems

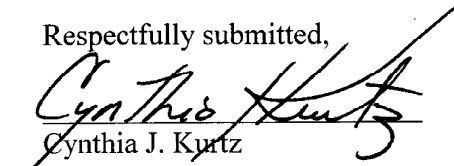
MEETING OF 7/15/2002

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.A.

Staff believes the capacity problem will be alleviated when the new larger buses are put into service. The City has received delivery of four of the new buses under the contract with Coach USA; the remaining six will be delivered and put into service by mid July. The new buses increase capacity to approximately 51 passengers compared to 26 passengers on the smaller interim buses used over the past seven months.

The situation with overcrowding will be monitored during the summer months; however, past experience indicates there will be fewer problems without the school generated trip loads. In September when school begins, service will be monitored to identify problem areas and time periods. Should the problems continue deployment of an additional bus may be advisable. Staff will return to Council with an update and any recommendation after the beginning of the school year.


Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

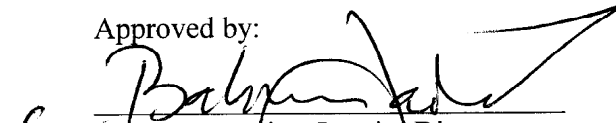
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Attachments