

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Wheels in Motion Update

FROM: Christy Wegener, Executive Director

DATE: October 2, 2023

Action Requested

None – information only.

Background

The current fixed route service offered by Wheels is designed to seamlessly connect riders with commuter rail options such as the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and Altamont Corridor Express (ACE). Notably, BART recently unveiled a revised service plan in response to post-pandemic commuting trends and increasing ridership. As part of this plan, BART will adjust the frequency of its Blue Line trains to and from Dublin. Specifically, the frequency will shift from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes throughout the day. This change will result in increased service availability during nights and weekends, but it will also introduce an additional 5-minute gap between trains during weekday daytime hours. Consequently, LAVTA finds itself in the position of needing to reevaluate its existing service and seize the opportunity to reimagine its own service levels.

Discussion

As part of this initiative, staff have begun drafting three different service level scenarios:

1. **Scenario 1** – Bus schedules and routes would remain essentially unchanged.
2. **Scenario 2** – Buses would come more often on the Rapid routes, but service on other routes would be reduced or eliminated.
3. **Scenario 3** – Most buses would come every 20-40 minutes to align with the new BART schedule. Service would be restored in several areas that are currently unserved.

Beginning last month in September, staff began engaging in a comprehensive public outreach effort that will include the distribution of an electronic survey to gauge our riders' preferences for each of the aforementioned scenarios. This feedback will then be used to design and finalize the preferred alternative, which will likely go into effect in Winter/Spring 2024.

Recommendation

None - information only.