

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Wheels in Motion – Proposed Scenario & Public Hearing

FROM: Christy Wegener, Executive Director
Mike Tobin, Director of Operations

DATE: November 6th, 2023

Action Requested

Staff recommends that the Board review the proposed service changes associated with Wheels in Motion Scenario 3; open the public comment period to solicit input on the proposed service changes; and set a public hearing for December 4th to gather input on selection of Wheels in Motion Scenario 3.

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 off-peak ridership. As part of this plan, BART decreased the frequency of its Blue Line trains to and from Dublin from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes throughout the day. This change resulted in increased service availability during nights and weekends, but it also introduces an additional 5-minute gap between trains during weekday daytime hours. Consequently, LAVTA found itself in the position of needing to reevaluate its existing service, connectivity to BART, and seize the opportunity to reimagine its own service levels. The study of alternatives, public outreach and selection of resulting service changes are referred to as “Wheels in Motion.”

Discussion

As part of the Wheels in Motion initiative, staff studied 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.

Initial Public Outreach

Beginning in September, staff launched a comprehensive public outreach effort that included:

- Distribution of an electronic survey to gauge our riders' preferences for each of the aforementioned scenarios
- Multi-lingual printed materials posted onboard buses and at 50 bus stops
- Digital advertising
- Participation at seven pop-up events (farmer's markets, senior fairs) throughout the Tri-Valley
- Bus operator outreach
- Presentation to the TAAC and stakeholder groups

An overwhelming majority of respondents to the electronic survey expressed a strong preference for Scenario 3. Respondents' support for this scenario primarily revolved around the idea of expanding coverage to historically-underserved areas within the Tri-Valley region, specifically in West Dublin and South Livermore, as well as keeping commuter routes such as Route 20X and 580X, both of which run between the East Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Staff presented the findings of the survey at the October Projects & Services Committee meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Based primarily on public, operator and stakeholder feedback, staff recommends implementing Scenario 3. This scenario would adjust Wheels bus frequencies to align with new BART train schedules and restore or introduce new routes to several areas that currently lack service, thereby expanding Wheels' "footprint". Under this scenario, Central Dublin, East Dublin, and Southwest Livermore would benefit from new or restored bus services, with service every 40 minutes during extended peak-hours. Also, Route 15 would begin operating every 20 minutes during peak hours on weekdays, and weekend travelers would gain increased frequency on the Rapid routes, providing more flexibility and convenience. This redistribution of service would be possible with a slight reduction in the weekday frequency on the primary trunk lines (30R and 10R).

More specifically, staff's recommended Scenario 3 would include the following changes:

Weekday service:

- Frequency adjustments:
 - Increase service on Route 15 to run every 20 minutes during rush hours (peak), and hourly during the midday
 - Slightly decrease peak service on Routes 1, 3, 8 and 14 to run every 40 minutes, and on Routes 10R and 30R to run every 20 minutes
- Operate Route 10R service for one additional hour (until midnight)
- Introduce local service in Central Dublin, and Southwest Livermore every 40 minutes during extended peak hours
- Resume hourly service on Route 2 in East Dublin
- Resume limited peak service to East Livermore on Route 11
- Resume limited peak express service on Route 580X between Downtown Livermore and BART

- Extend Route 70X to the Hacienda Business Park

Weekend service:

- Increase service on Route 10R to run every 20 minutes on Saturdays and every 40 minutes on Sundays
- Increase service on Route 30R to run every 40 minutes on Saturdays; continue to run hourly on Sundays
 - Add new Central Dublin local service, operating every 40 minutes during the daytime on Saturdays

Public Hearing

The changes being proposed under this scenario constitute a major service change in the provision of transit service according to LAVTA's Public Participation Plan, which is part of the agency's Title VI Program. Specifically, Section 2 of LAVTA's Public Participation Plan stipulates that public comments will be solicited prior to any of the following: a twenty-five (25%) percent or more reduction of the number of daily transit revenue vehicles of a route; twenty-five percent (25%) or more reduction of the number of daily transit revenue vehicles of a route; or a proposed introduction of a new route. The proposed changes meet the aforementioned criteria, thereby necessitating a 30-day public comment period and the scheduling of a public hearing.

Additional Public Outreach

Over the next month, staff anticipates taking the following additional steps to solicit public input on the proposed implementation of Scenario 3 as well as to advertise the public hearing:

- Public hearing notice will be posted onboard buses and at select bus stops
- The Wheels website will be updated with detailed information about the proposal
- Notices will be advertised in the local newspapers
- Digital advertising across social media channels
- A press release will be issued
- A presentation will be made to the TAAC and shared with stakeholders

Recommendation

The Projects and Services Committee recommends that the Board open the public comment period from November 7th – December 4th, 2023; and set the public hearing date for December 4th, 2023 for the Proposed Scenario.

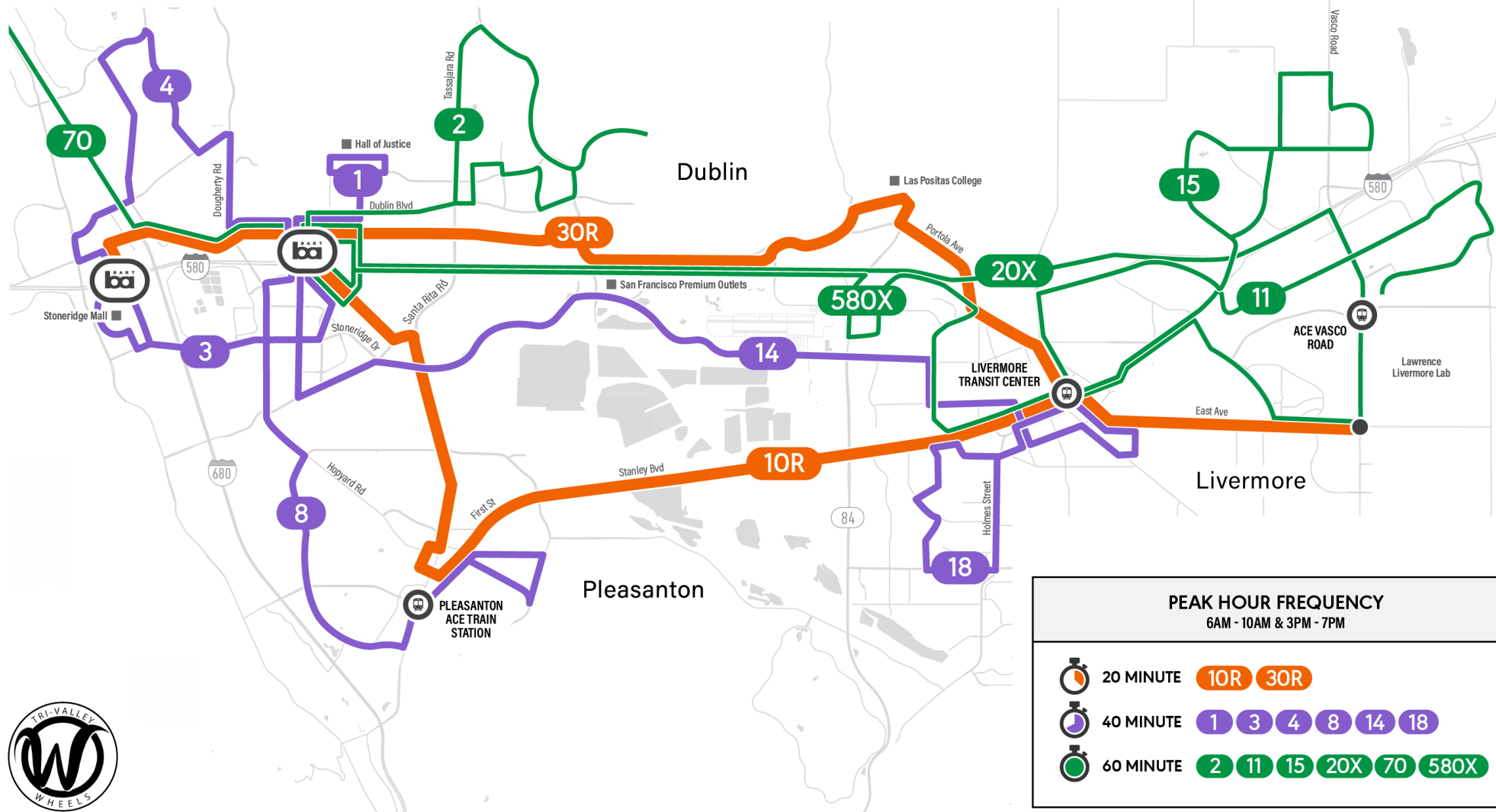
Attachments:

1. Proposed Scenario Map (Weekdays)
2. Proposed Scenario Map (Weekends)
3. Draft Public Hearing Notice

Weekday Bus Service SCENARIO 3

COVERAGE

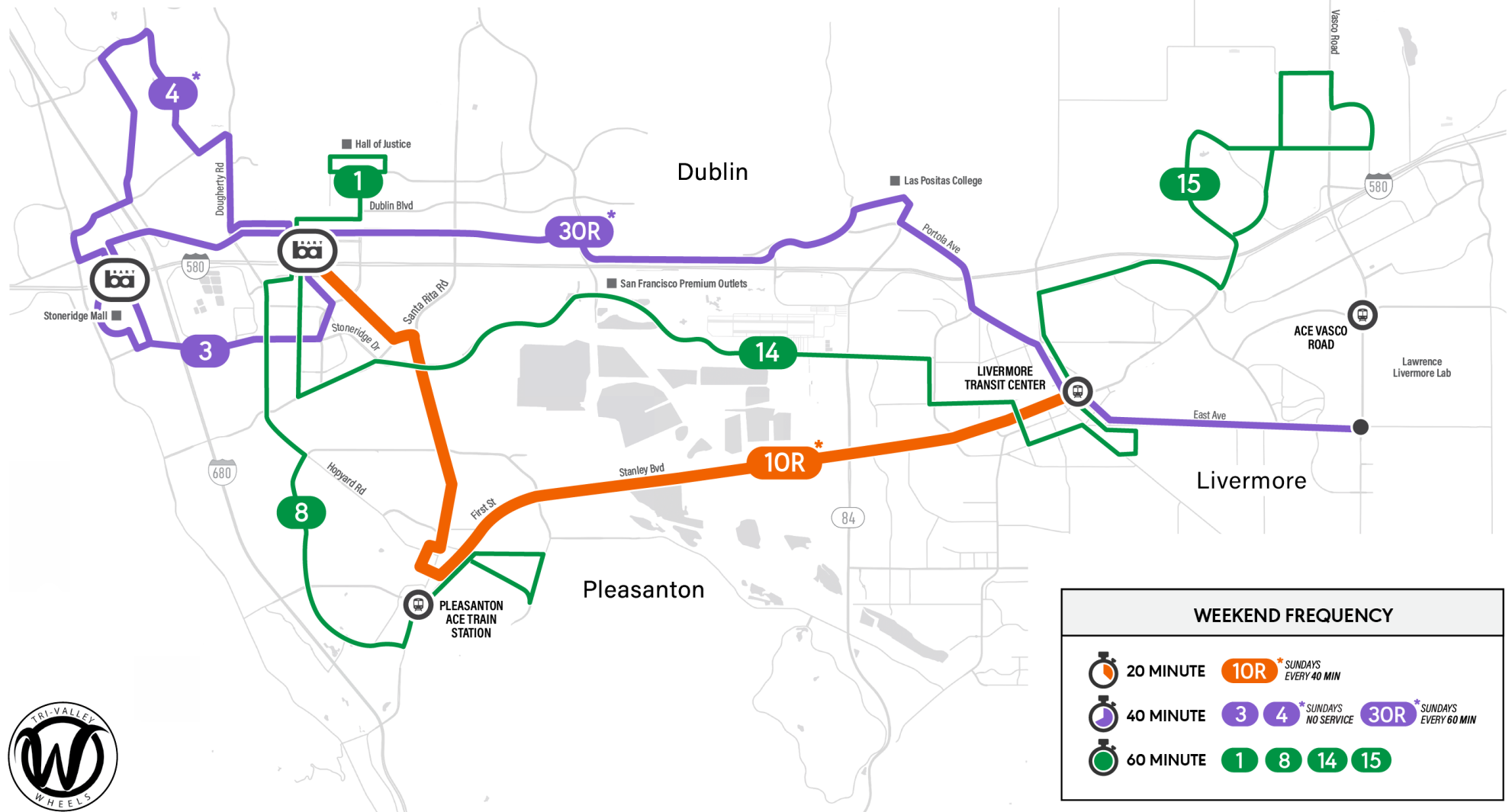
Expansion to unserved areas; reduced frequencies on certain lines



Weekend Bus Service SCENARIO 3

COVERAGE

Expansion to unserved areas; reduced frequencies on certain lines



WEEKEND FREQUENCY

 20 MINUTE	10R *SUNDAYS EVERY 40 MIN
 40 MINUTE	3 4 *SUNDAYS NO SERVICE 30R *SUNDAYS EVERY 60 MIN
 60 MINUTE	1 8 14 15



LAVTA: Board of Directors
Public Hearing Notice
Wheels in Motion – Proposed Service Changes

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing on **December 4, 2023 at 4 P.M.** to obtain input regarding proposed service changes that would adjust Wheels bus frequencies to align with new BART train schedules and would restore or introduce routes to several areas that currently lack service, as follows:

- Weekday service:
 - Frequency adjustments:
 - Increase service on Route 15 to run every 20 minutes during rush hours (peak), and hourly during the midday
 - Slightly decrease peak service on Routes 1, 3, 8 and 14 to run every 40 minutes, and on Routes 10R and 30R to run every 20 minutes
 - Operate Route 10R service for one additional hour (until midnight)
 - Introduce local service in Central Dublin, and Southwest Livermore every 40 minutes during extended peak hours
 - Resume hourly service on Route 2 in East Dublin
 - Resume limited peak service to East Livermore on Route 11
 - Resume limited peak express service on Route 580X between Downtown Livermore and BART
 - Extend Route 70X to the Hacienda Business Park
- Weekend service:
 - increase service on Route 10R to run every 20 minutes on Saturdays and every 40 minutes on Sundays
 - Increase service on Route 30R to run every 40 minutes on Saturdays; continue to run hourly on Sundays
 - Add new Central Dublin local service, operating every 40 minutes during the daytime on Saturdays

The LAVTA Board of Directors invites public comment on the potential changes at the public hearing in person, via a Zoom web link and/or by phone.

Public Hearing

Monday, December 4, 2023, at 4 P.M.

(or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard)

Zoom Info: <https://zoom.us/j/86244532120>

Webinar/Meeting ID: 862 4453 2120

Passcode: PH1362 in the Zoom app for audio/visual capability

Access via Telephone: (669) 900-6833 (**Phone Passcode:** 554060) enter webinar ID and press # when prompted for participant ID) for audio only.

Prior to the hearing, comments may be sent by mail, e-mail, or phone:

Board Secretary

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority

1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100

Livermore, CA 94551

frontdesk@lavta.org; 925-455-7555

For translation or interpretation assistance, call LAVTA at **925-455-7555** at least three days before the meeting.

Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con 925-455-7555.

如果需要其他語言的訊息，請聯絡 925-455-7555

Kung kinakailangan ng impormasyon sa isa pang wika, kontakin ang 925-455-7555.

다른 언어로 된 정보가 필요한 경우 925-455-7555로 문의하세요.