

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Wheels in Motion Proposed Scenario and Associated Service Changes Approval

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

DATE: January 8, 2024

Action Requested

Review and approve staff recommendations for the Wheels in Motion Proposed Scenario and associated service changes.

Background

LAVTA has been engaged in a service analysis referred to as “Wheels in Motion” for approximately 6 months. The requested action will complete the process and authorize staff to implement service changes associated with the Proposed Scenario to align Wheels bus frequencies with new BART train schedules and restore or introduce new routes to several areas that currently lack service, thereby expanding Wheels’ “footprint.” 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).

The Wheels in Motion Proposed Scenario (Attachment 1) was made available for public comment beginning on November 6, concluding with a Public Hearing on December 4, 2023. Included in this staff report is a background description of the Wheels in Motion project, a summary of the preferred alternative, a summary of comments received as of December 4, 2023, and staff’s recommendations of Wheels in Motion Preferred Alternative service changes for consideration and approval, to be implemented in March 2024.

Discussion

In September 2023, BART unveiled a revised rail 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/Pleasanton from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes throughout the day. This change resulted in increased rail service availability during nights and weekends, but it also introduced 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, including the timing of its connections with 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.”

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 certain 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.

After conducting extensive rider and community outreach in September, and after an analysis of survey responses, staff recommended Scenario 3 as the Proposed Scenario. The full service plan for the Proposed Scenario is included as Attachment 1.

At the December 4 Board meeting, the Authority conducted a public hearing which included a staff presentation of proposed Wheels in Motion network changes, as well as a summary of the public notice channels utilized to solicit input during the public comment period. A summary of how the Public Hearing was noticed is included as Attachment 2. The public hearing provided a venue for Wheels riders, stakeholders, and the community to provide in-person feedback on the agency recommended scenario. A summary of the Wheels in Motion comments received during the comment period, prior to and at the in-person hearing is included as Attachment 3. With few exceptions, comments were generally very supportive of the Proposed Scenario, but several wanted more service which is not possible at this time.

Title VI

While LAVTA does not have to complete a service equity analysis as a part of its Title VI plan, the Wheels in Motion outreach took equity into account, and the changes recommended as a part of the Wheels in Motion Proposed Scenario do not appear to disproportionately burden low-income and minority populations. Additionally, with the restoration of bus service coverage throughout the Tri-Valley, expanded access to housing and jobs will be realized with the new bus network.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Wheel in Motion Proposed Scenario as detailed in Resolution 01-2024.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Wheels in Motion Proposed Scenario Details

Attachment 2: Advertising the Public Comment Period

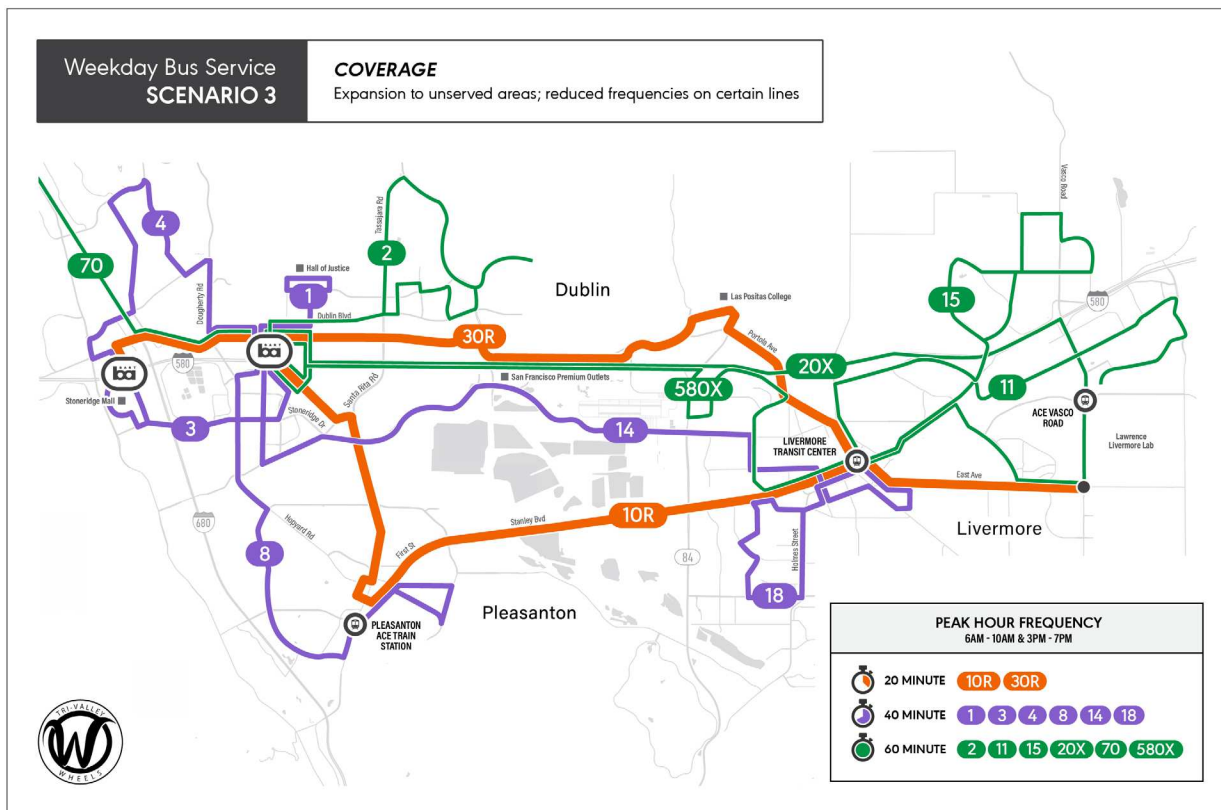
Attachment 3: Public Comments Received

Attachment 4: Board Resolution 01-2024

Wheels in Motion: Proposed Scenario

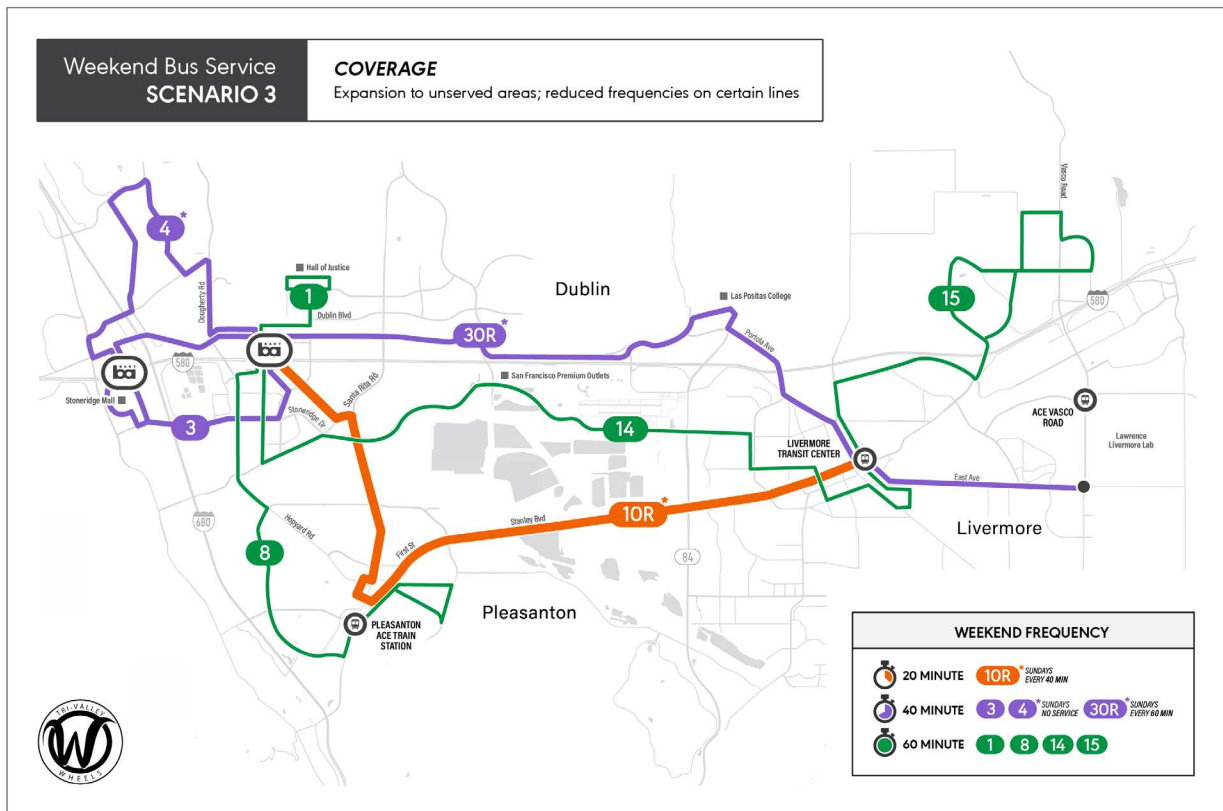
Weekday service:

- 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 (Route 4), and Southwest Livermore (Route 18) 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 (Route 4), operating every 40 minutes during the daytime on Saturdays



Advertising the Wheels in Motion Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

Wheels staff advertised the public hearing and the proposed scenario through a variety of channels. Notices were published in the following publications:

Publication	Posting Date
Pleasanton Weekly	November 12
Tri-Valley Herald	November 12
Valley Times	November 12
Livermore Independent	November 27

Radio advertising

1. Local Tri-Valley radio station 101.7 KKIQ aired radio advertisements about the public hearing from November 20 – Dec. 4.

Digital Media

1. Details of the public hearing and service changes were posted to the Wheelsbus.com website. Individual landing pages were created in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Tagalog and Korean.
2. Public comment was directly solicited on each languages landing page through a web form.
3. Social Media including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter were utilized with “pinned” posts at the top of news feeds for the duration of the comment period.

Community Outreach

1. An announcement about the public hearing was made at the November Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee (TAAC) meeting.
2. Flyers were delivered to all 3 towns City Halls, Senior Centers, Libraries, and Los Positas College in English and Spanish with quantities for redistribution.
3. A general press release was issued.

Public Notices and Displays on Wheels Buses

1. Public notices were displayed on the interior of all Wheels buses with public meetings & hearing dates and locations in English and Spanish, with Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese available upon request.
2. The LAVTA main office displayed posters in its reception area.
3. Livermore Transit Center displayed posters in both its customer lobby and at the kiosks on the transit platform.

Comments Received during the Wheels in Motion Public Comment Period

LAVTA received nine (9) communications from individuals in the public comment period prior to and in-person at the December 4 Board meeting. The majority of the comments were positive in nature. The following section summarizes feedback received regarding service changes and other relevant requests. One communication can contain multiple comments, and each topic was addressed individually.

Routes (weekday frequencies)	Totals
Route 1 – 40-minute frequency	1
Include in modified (holiday) service schedules	1
Route 2 – 60-minute service	2
Request for weekend service	2
Route 3 – 40-minute frequency	0
No comments	
Route 4 – 40-minute frequency (new service)	4
Request for weekend service.	2
Include routing via Silvergate Dr. before/after serving San Ramon Rd and Dublin Blvd.	1
Include in modified (holiday) service schedules	1
Route 8 – 40-minute frequency	0
No comments	
Route 10R – 20-minute frequency (BART alignment)	1
40-minute weekend frequency is insufficient	1
Route 11 – 60-minute frequency (restored service)	1
Reroute from First St. to service on Fourth St. and Portola	1
Route 14 – 40-minute frequency	1
Insufficient frequency to SF Premium Outlets	1
Route 15 – 40-minute frequency	1
Insufficient frequency, request for 30-minute service daily	1
Route 18 – 40-minute frequency	3
Request for weekend service	1
Realign proposed route to Concannon	1
Realign proposed route to Holmes to downtown core	1
Route 20 – 60-minute frequency	2
Update to match BART schedule	2
Route 30R – 20-minute frequency (BART alignment)	1
Request to add service to SF Premium Outlets	1
Route 70 – 60-minute frequency	0
No comment	
Route 580 – 60-minute frequency	0
No comment	

Miscellaneous	1
Concern over length of time until 2024 Q2 implementation	1
Total Comments	18

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2024

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AUTHORIZING WHEELS IN MOTION PROPOSED SCENARIO SERVICE CHANGES**

WHEREAS, LAVTA projects that the agency can financially sustain to operate 137,616 revenue service hours in FY 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) modified its train service in September 2023, modifying the frequency of BART service on the Blue Line to Dublin/Pleasanton to every 20-minutes, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, in analyzing the impact of the BART service change on Wheels bus service connections, LAVTA staff developed three alternative cost-neutral bus scenarios designed to provide different levels of connectivity to BART and coverage throughout the Wheels service area, including 1) status quo; 2) a frequent network with reduced coverage; and 3) reduced frequency with more coverage; and

WHEREAS, in September staff developed and launched the ‘Wheels in Motion’ public outreach program, designed to get input from riders and the community on the three alternative bus scenarios, and develop a proposed scenario that is reflective of post-Pandemic rider preferences and better meets changing travel patterns; and

WHEREAS, staff received over 250 survey responses as a results of Wheels in Motion outreach, with approximately 70% of respondents favoring Scenario 3, which modified core frequencies to match BART and adds more coverage throughout the Tri-Valley; and

WHEREAS, all service changes associated with Scenario 3 were thoroughly discussed with the public and a public hearing was held on December 4, 2023; and

WHEREAS, staff has taken equity into account in the Wheels in Motion outreach and anticipates that the service changes will not disproportionately burden transit-dependent, minority, and low-income riders; and

WHEREAS, staff has separately examined the potential environmental impacts of the service changes and has determined that there is no possibility of a significant environmental impact due to the service changes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority that the Board authorizes implementation of the Wheels in Motion Proposed Scenario in Spring 2024 as briefly described below and more thoroughly in the accompanying staff report, and authorizes staff to implement these measures as described herein:

Weekdays

- 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 (Route 4), and Southwest Livermore (Route 18) every 40 minutes during extended peak hours
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Weekends

- 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 (Route 4), operating every 40 minutes during the daytime on Saturdays

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of January, 2024.

Melissa Hernandez, Chair

ATTEST:

Christy Wegener, Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael Conneran, Legal Counsel