

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: YURI KOSLEN, TRANSIT PLANNER
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
SUBJECT: SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN FY 2016-25 PUBLIC
HEARING AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that the Council, by resolution, adopt the Short Range Transit Plan FY 2016-25 which builds on the Council adopted Reimaging CityBus Service Plan, updates the 10-year financial plan and updates the Santa Rosa CityBus and Santa Rosa Paratransit services goals, objectives, performance measures and standards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Short Range Transit Plan serves as a guide for investments in Santa Rosa's public transportation system over a ten-year period, and includes measures to promote long-term financial stability as well as improved performance. All transit operators receiving federal funding through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) are required to complete a Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) every four years.

This item relates to Council Goal 3.1: "Improve transportation network to reduce vehicle miles traveled and promote multi-modal transportation."

BACKGROUND

The SRTP serves as a policy, planning, and programming document, laying out the anticipated service plan, capital program, and operations budget over a ten-year period. In addition to providing a "road map" for short-term service and fare changes and capital program priorities, the SRTP serves as a critical step in the development of the Bay Area's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Together, the SRTP and RTP justify the programming and awarding of state and federal operating and capital grants to support Santa Rosa CityBus.

Key elements of the SRTP include:

- Service and System Evaluation: A detailed review of systemwide and route-level performance using performance measures such as ridership and passengers carried per hour of service.
- Operations Plan: Detailed intentions for how fixed-route and paratransit services will be provided over the plan period, including proposed service modifications, subject to financial constraints.
- Operations Budget: A financially-constrained ten-year budget that demonstrates that planned transit service levels can be sustained and balanced with the need for rehabilitation and replacement of capital assets. The operations budget details any planned fare increases or fare policy changes and anticipated revenues to be gained.
- Capital Improvement Program: A ten-year program providing the basis for requests for federal, state and regional funding for capital replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion projects.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

City Council approved the FY 2012-21 Short Range Transit Plan in December 2012.

City Council took the following action regarding Reimagining CityBus Plan on the following date;

- April 2015 approved the Public Involvement Plan
- August 2015 Service Design Guidelines
- February 2016 Study Session
- May 2016 Draft Plan presentation and Public Hearing
- June 2016 Reimagining Adoption
- August 2016 adoption of final route alignment

ANALYSIS

The Draft Short Range Transit Plan FY 2016-2025 builds on the Council adopted Reimagining CityBus service plan, updates the fixed route and paratransit service goals, objectives, performance measures and standards, and updates the 10-year financial plan.

This SRTP uses operating costs from the Reimagining CityBus service plan and aligns them with the revenue projections. This SRTP details service level changes that align with the adopted Reimagining CityBus service plan. There is some uncertainty about the level of future federal and state financial assistance for the fixed route and paratransit services as funding has fallen over the last several years. The operating and capital improvement budgets are fully funded for the first 5 years based on current

expectations for the funding sources. The operating budget for the last 5 years is funded but it leaves the capital budget unfunded in three of those years. Staff will work with the MTC, FTA, and SCTA to identify additional funding.

The Draft Short Range Transit Plan includes service modifications based on Reimagining City Bus service plan, and measures to raise additional fare revenues in order to achieve the required farebox recovery ratios for TDA funding claimants (20% for CityBus and 10% for Santa Rosa Paratransit) and provide funding for the transit services. The fare increase proposed for FY 17-18 will be brought back to the Council for a public hearing and Council consideration of the staff recommendation in later 2016 or early 2107.

Public outreach will involve an open house on September 21st from 4-7 P.M. to review the details of the SRTP and gather public comment. Full copies of the SRTP will be made available for the public to review starting September 12th, with copies available at the City Manager's Office, the Transit Division office at City Hall, the Junior College and all Sonoma County Library branches in Santa Rosa, as well as online at www.srcity.org. The public will be notified about the availability of the Draft Short Range Transit Plan, the open house and the public hearing at City Council on September 27th through a published notice in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, rider alerts posted on all CityBus buses, and an email to the Transit Division outreach mailing list that has been used throughout the Reimagining CityBus public process.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from this public hearing.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Notification regarding the availability of the Draft copies of SRTP for review and comment, and the public hearing date was made using the following methods:

- Rider alerts onboard CityBus and paratransit vehicles and at the transit customer service counter and City Manager's Office at City Hall and Transit Operations on Stoney Point.

- Announcements also posted at SRJC, County Libraries in Santa Rosa, the Downtown Transit Mall
- News article on the City's website and the Santa Rosa CityBus webpage
- Reimagining CityBus email alert (over 400 subscribers) and social media posts
- Public hearing notice published in the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* September 16th.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 — FY 16-25 Draft Short Range Transit Plan

CONTACT

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