

Torrance Transit

“The Little Transit Agency Doing Big
Things For Its Customers And The Region”

City Council Transportation Committee

Wednesday, October 13, 2021



Items For Discussion

Transit Operations Update

- Torrance to Florence (Special Event Service)
- Line 13 Update
- Bus Operator Recruitment Update
- Bus Operator Safety Shield (“BOSS”) Update

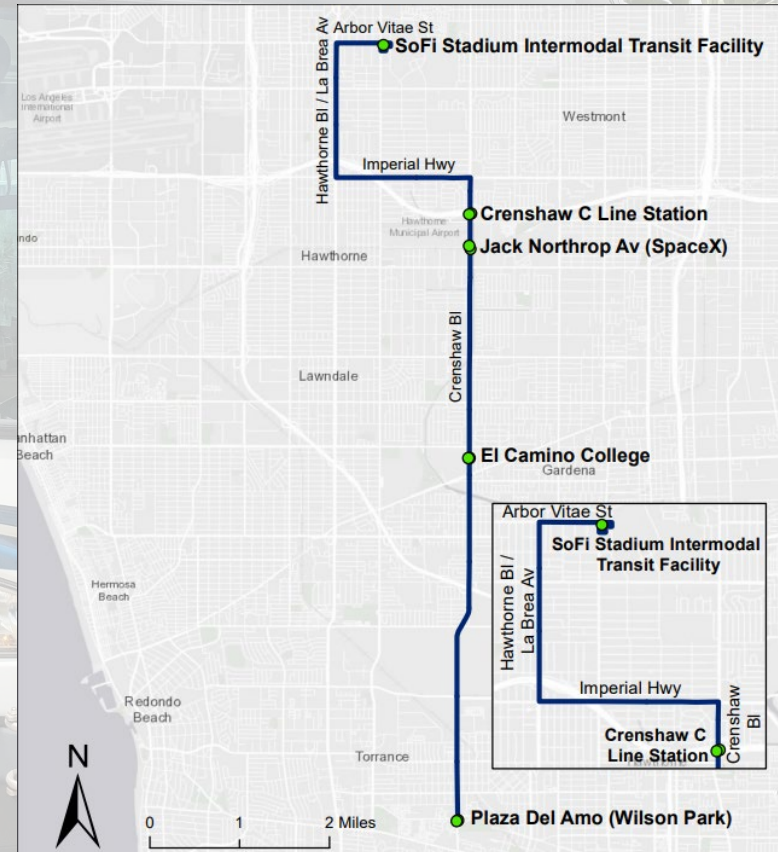
Regional Updates

- Metro Fareless Initiative (FSI) Update
- Regional Transit Center Construction Update
- Facility Naming Committee Update



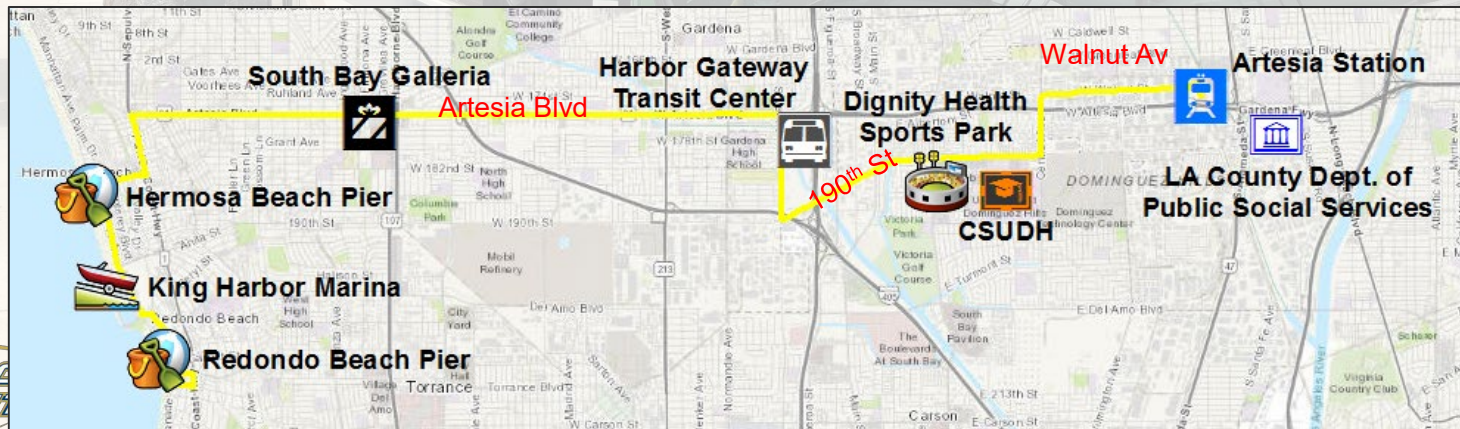
Line 10 – Torrance to Florence Special Event Service

- On NFL game days, extend Line 10 from Crenshaw C-Line (formerly Green Line) Station to Downtown Inglewood to service SoFi Stadium.
- Trips every 30 minutes pre-game and post game. 50-60 minutes during the game.
- Special Event Fare (round trip):TBA
- Park and Ride pick up at Wilson Park
(Future service to SoFi will be from the new Regional Transit Center)
- Special event service to begin November 2021.



Line 13 Update

- **Route**
 - Western portion from Artesia A-Line (formerly Blue Line) Station to Redondo Beach
 - Start of service: June 27, 2021
- **Benefits**
 - Expanded service area
 - Provide service on Artesia Blvd west of Vermont Ave.
 - Improve frequency between Harbor Gateway Transit Center and Artesia Station

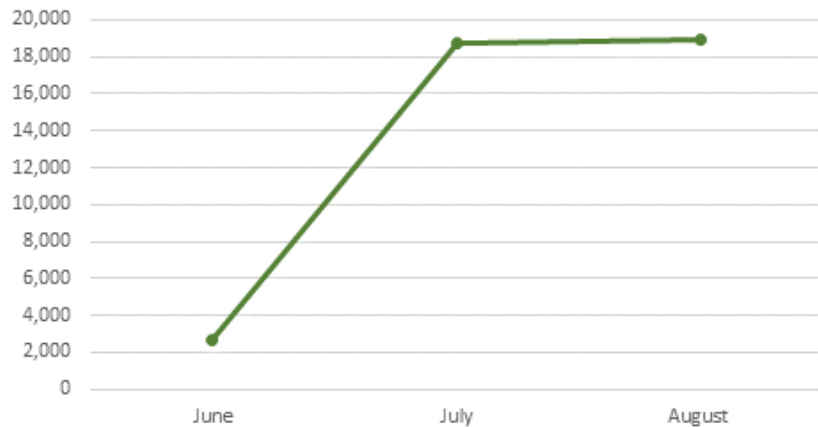


Line 13 Update

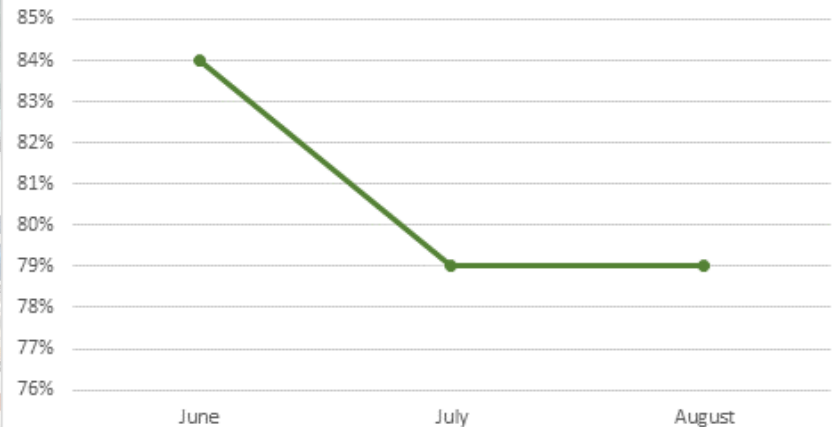
Performance

- 19,000 Average Monthly Boarding's
- 762 Average Weekday Boarding's
- 12.3 Weekday Boarding's per hour
- 79% On Time Performance

Monthly Ridership for Line 13

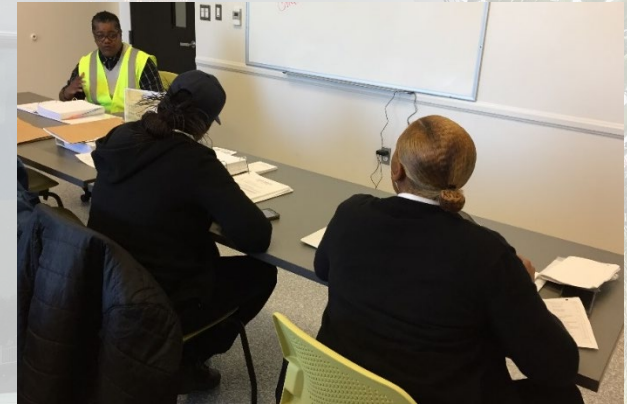


Line 13 On-Time Performance



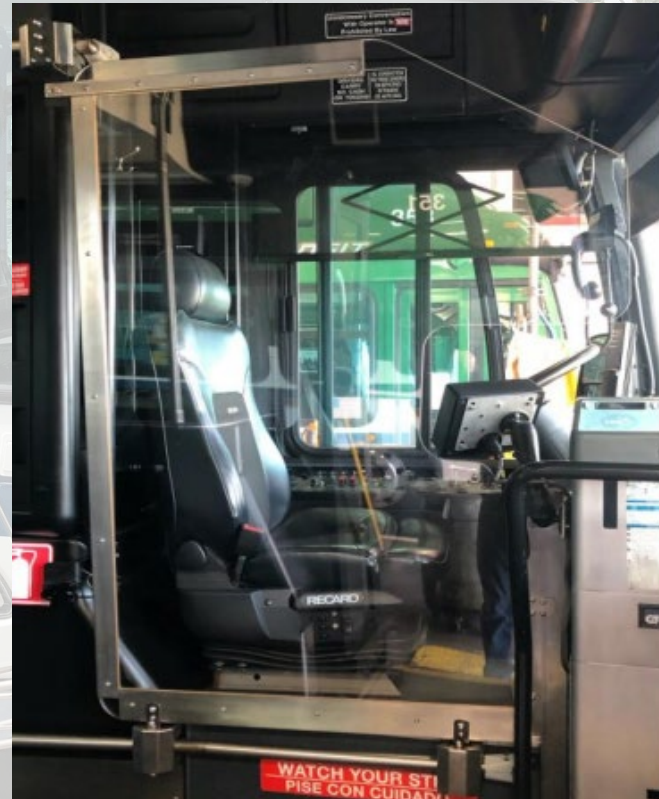
Bus Operator Recruitment

- Recruitment Campaign to hire Apprentice Relief Bus Operators (ARBO) and Temporary Relief Bus Operators (Temp RBO's)
- Expedited testing process to hire ARBO's and Temporary RBO's
- Coordination with HR, Workforce Investment Network and Employment Development Department
- Social Media advertising & sourcing of candidates from additional agencies – faith based/churches, social services, veterans & educational institutions



Bus Operator Safety Shield “BOSS”

- With COVID-19 Pandemic and Bus Operator assaults nationwide, the Transit Fleet Maintenance Division developed a safety barrier for Operators
- The BOSS is a durable, transparent barrier designed for use while offering maximum protection
- The “sliding” door allows the BOSS to be safely secured while not in use, while minimal effort is required for deployment and operation
- BOSS shields have been installed on all the Transit fleet
 - Staff is currently in progress of installing anti-reflection film
 - Expected completion end of October





Public Comment



Metro Fareless Initiative (FSI)

Fareless System Initiative (FSI) Update

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Metro's Fareless System Initiative (FSI)

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Metro Board Motions

In May 2021, Board unanimously approved implementation of the Fareless System Initiative, subject to a final financial plan, while pursuing cost-sharing agreements, with reports to the Board monthly on the development, launch, and performance of FSI.

Requirements included:

- Streamlined, efficient application and administration
 - Cost-sharing agreements with K-12 districts and community colleges
 - Maintaining existing agreements between colleges and transit agencies
 - Identifying new funding source
-
- In September 2021, Metro Board approved Phase 1 Launch effective 10/1/2021

Background for Phase 1 (K-14)

- 69% of 1.4 million K-12 students qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Meal programs for low-income families
- 20% of junior high school students and 23% of LA adults are obese
- People who take transit are 44% less likely to be overweight
- An AA degree increases income potential by up to 47%
- Only 30% of community college students graduate, and only 26% of African American students and 22% of Latino students

Program Goals - Phase 1 (K-14)

Increase ridership, increase student success, and improve student health by building on existing Metro and regional student pass programs, to make access to transit fareless for all K-12 and community college students in LA County through cost-sharing partnerships with districts (school and community college) and transit agencies

K-12 District Partnerships: Status

Cost-sharing for District K-12 Partnerships is \$3 per student per year for all students in district and includes:

- Distribution of free TAP Cards through District
- Unlimited rides on all participating transit agencies in LA County

41 districts have expressed interest in becoming Partners representing:

- 1,201 schools
- 726,735 students
- Cost-sharing revenue of \$2.18M/year (out of \$49.9M pilot cost)

Metro Youth Council

- Missing youth voices in existing planning process, advisory councils and committees.
 - Youth Council is aimed at students between 14 and 17 who represent the diverse demographics and geographic areas of LA County.
- Youth Council will be made up of 26 members representing Metro's nine sub-regions.

Fareless System Initiative

- FSI Plan-Phase 1 will leverage the Youth Council efforts

Public Participation

- Build a pipeline of riders and transit leaders as it moves towards engaging K-14 students in LA County.

FSI Community College Partnerships

Maintain all existing agreements between colleges and transit agencies

- Under Muni/College agreements, student fees range from \$7-\$9.50 per term
- Pass loaded would be FSI Regional College Pass, instead of local pass

Recommend U-Pass schools transition from opt-in to opt-out programs

- Proposed cost-sharing for new Community College Partnerships for Year 1 would be \$7 per student per year for all students in district for first year:
 - Distribution of free TAP Cards through District
 - Unlimited rides on all participating transit agencies in LA County
- This would give U-Pass community colleges time to assess usage and pass student referendum for student fee for Year 2, if desired

Regional Universal Student Pass (U-Pass)



U-Pass is currently valid on Metro and nine other agencies.

DASH

Culver
CITYBUS

 **LONG BEACH**
TRANSIT


big blue bus


G
TRANS


norwalk
transit

Montebello
BUS LINES


TORRANCE
TRANSIT

 **PASADENA**
PASADENA TRANSIT

Current U-Pass Participants

- Cal State Long Beach (CSULB)
 - Cal State Los Angeles (CSULA)
 - Cal State Northridge (CSUN)
 - City of Paramount
 - **Compton College**
 - **El Camino College**
 - Intl. American University (IAU)
 - **LACCD College Promise Program**
 - Long Beach Job Corps
 - **Los Angeles City College**
 - **Los Angeles Mission College**
 - **Los Angeles Pierce College**
 - **Los Angeles Trade Tech College**
 - Los Angeles Job Corps
 - LA Mayor's Internship
 - Loyola Marymount (LMU)
 - Occidental College
 - **Pasadena City College**
 - **Rio Hondo College**
 - UCLA
 - USC Graduate Students
 - Arizona State University (Fall 2021)
 - **Glendale College** (Fall 2021)
- Other Existing Programs:
- Long Beach City College
 - Santa Monica College
- New Colleges:
- Cerritos College
 - LACCD (Harbor, SWC, WLA, ELAC, Valley)

Phase 1 Funding Plan

Identified new funding for Phase 1:

- Metro plans to propose ARPA to fund Metro's participation
- In consultation with regional transit operators, Metro is recommending use of their ARPA allocations to fund their participation
- K-12 school districts and community college cost-sharing
- Revenue from district cost-sharing will be distributed between participating transit agencies

Potential new funding

- Continue to seek additional funding to support the pilot and beyond

Regional Transit Agencies

- **Already Participating (6)**
 - City of Commerce
 - City of Culver City Transportation
 - Foothill Transit
 - Montebello Bus
 - Norwalk Transit System
 - Santa Monica Big Blue Bus
- **Pending Board Approval (4)**
 - Arcadia Transit
 - City of Gardena (GTrans)
 - Long Beach Transit
 - Torrance Transit System



Next Steps

- Continue Phase 1 launch and outreach and planning with school districts, community colleges, and regional and local transit operators.
- Staff Continue advocacy efforts to secure funding for the Phase 2 financial plan. In addition, staff will finalize the administrative strategies for ease of implementation of the Phase 2 pilot.
- Continue LIFE Program Enhancements and Fare Capping Testing
- Resume full fare collection in January 2022



Additional Information

www.metro.net/fareless

www.taptogo.net/fareless

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Regional Transit Center Construction Update

West Building

- Building now encapsulated for interior work including HVAC, fire systems, electrical and plumbing
- Generator in place
- Exterior framing in progress
- Bike lockers to be placed along northern wall
- Includes transit store, security office, staff and retail space



East Building

- Both floors interior framing in progress
- Fire Systems, electrical, plumbing, roof drains, patio work on going
- LED wall work continues – plans in review
- AV specs for interior spaces ongoing
- Includes conference room, training room, exercise room, locker/restrooms and offices



Regional Transit Center Construction Update

- **Site**
 - Landscaping and irrigation work continues
 - Decorative concrete being poured
 - Working on joint trench for 208th St
- **Schedule**
 - Work progresses each week
 - Material delays due to shortages and shipping times
 - Experiencing longer lead times with utility coordination
 - Staff continually working with contractor to pursue schedule acceleration
 - Anticipated completion of project early 2022



Ad Hoc Facility Naming Committee Update

Application Timeline- Ad Hoc Naming of Public Facilities Committee

DATE	ACTION
10/12/21	Present item to appoint committee members and application process
10/13/21	Submit applications online
10/28/21	Announce at council meeting to submit applications
11/02/21	Application deadline
11/04/21	Submit applications to committee members for review
11/16/21	Conduct committee meeting to review applications and make recommendation to Council on the name of the facility
12/07/21	Present committee item with recommendation to City Council

Q&A

