



CITY of CALABASAS

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2021

TO: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HALI AZIZ, ASSISTANT TRANSPORTATION PLANNER

SUBJECT: TRANSIT SERVICE UPDATE

MEETING
DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

BACKGROUND:

It was reported in July 2020 meeting that the City suspended peak-hour services as well as the Trolley services as of April 2020. It was anticipated that services were to resume once the local schools begin on-campus/in-person classes.

Dial-A-Ride service has been operating without change.

DISCUSSION:

Public Transportation:

Peak-Hour:

The purpose of peak-hour routes (Lines 2-5) are to alleviate peak-hour traffic surrounding the schools in Calabasas. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the schools have not resumed in person classes for all levels. As a result, there is no demand for peak-hour routes. Therefore, the City will extend suspension of services until further notice.

Line 1:

The purpose of fixed-route Line 1 is to provide transportation for housekeepers, daytime workers, and services providers within the City who depend on public transportation to commute to and from their workplace. Despite a sharp decline in

ridership during the pandemic, the City continued providing Line 1 in compliance with CDC guidelines. This service was not suspended because there was a demand for, although minimal. Staff continued monitoring ridership and, in December, the demand essentially dropped to zero. On Tuesday, December 08, the City, at the direction of the management, ordered services to stop. As well as low ridership, this decision was supported by factors such high maintenance cost and concerns for public health.

Key Factors:

High Maintenance Cost (Replacement of Stolen Catalytic Convertors):

The shuttles stored at the City yard on Mureau Road are regularly targeted by thieves for their catalytic convertors. The City replaced the Cat on vehicles once but they were unfortunately stolen again. Because the cost of replacement is high, the City decided to not replace all of them until services are restored. Only three of the vehicles which were used for Line 1, were maintained regularly and kept operational.

Decline in Ridership and Concerns for Public Health:

As discussed above, ridership for Line 1 was at minimum since the beginning of the pandemic. Although minimum ridership, the City realized that there were housekeepers, day-time workers and service providers serving Calabasas residents who relied on Line 1 to get to and from their workplace. Over time, this number declined. Low ridership coupled with high maintenance cost of the vehicles forced the City to finally shut down Line 1 on December 8. This decision was also supported by concerns for public health and City's attempt at reducing sources of COVID-19 exposure.

Dial-A-Ride:

The dial-a-ride service provider has been receptive of the instructions issued by the City and have been very helpful in implementing changes throughout the pandemic. The City has received numerous new applications and is pleased to hear riders' positive feedback on Ideal's operations. This continues to be a successful program.

Future Action Plan:

The current public transportation service provider has been very cooperative in dealing with the on-going pandemic and its effect on public transportation. However, unfortunately, the current contract with MV Transportation is set to expire in June 2021. Staff will be working with the City Attorney to publish a request for proposals to find a prospective service provider during this time.

FISCAL IMPACT / SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The City receives funds in Proposition A and C, Measure R and M Local Return, and Transportation Development Act Article 3 (TDA3) to fund its public transportation services. The City is subject to multiple annual audits conducted by Metro as well as the Federal Transit Administration to ensure compliance of capital and operation projects with respective guidelines. Staff monitors funds and expenditures regularly to ensure compliance prior to audits as well.

Due to the nature of the funds, it was originally expected that they were going to be impacted heavily by the pandemic. However, Metro has been optimistic that there was no significant impact and funds will be redistributed once approved by Metro board.

Any further updates will be reported to this Commission at the next meeting.

REQUESTED ACTION:

This is an informational item only and requires no action.