



---

**DATE:** May 8, 2014

**TO:** Transit Task Force Members

**FROM:** Carlos de Leon  
Deputy Director, Transportation

**SUBJECT: Recommended Bus Service Changes for FY2015**

At the next Transit Task Force meeting, staff will be presenting recommended Sun Tran bus service changes for FY2015.

Staff Recommendation – It is respectfully requested that Transit Task Force provide input to staff on the recommend bus service changes for FY2015. Staff is planning to recommend bus service changes to Mayor and Council on May 20 for their consideration on May 20. Based on Mayor and Council direction, a final public hearing to approve any bus service changes for FY2015 would be scheduled for the June 17, 2014 Mayor and Council meeting. If approved, the bus service changes would occur in August 2014.

Background –At the February 19, 2014 Mayor and Council Study Session, Mayor and Council directed staff to initiate the public comment process/Title VI service equity analysis in March 2014 for the proposed FY2015 bus service and fare changes as recommended in the Sun Tran Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) and the Bus/Rail Interface Report.

The bus service recommendations in the Sun Tran COA are market driven with a focus on reducing travel time, making Sun Tran service more attractive, and making Sun Tran service more financially sustainable. Bus routes serving the same area as the streetcar route were evaluated in the Bus/Rail Inteface Review to determine how the bus routes might be changed to intergrate with the introduction of the streetcar.

The public comment process and Title VI fare and service equity analysis was conducted in compliance with City of Tucson Resolution No. 22127, City of Tucson Policy and Procedure for Solicitation and Consideration of Public Comment on Fare Changes and Major Service Changes on Public Transportation. In recognition of the potential interest and impact of the proposed fare and service changes, public outreach activities were expanded to include media announcements, open houses, forums, website notices and response solicitation, social media, and notices upon transit vehicles. Per an intergovernmental agreement with the RTA, any public comment process/Title VI analysis for the Sun Tran Express routes was closely coordinated with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) since the RTA provides funding for all the express routes with the exception of Route 108X.

To help balance the City's FY2015 budget, the City Manager recommended a target budget goal of \$40.7 million for General Fund investment in the Mass Transit Fund. Based on this target

budget goal and future financial forecasts, an initial estimate of approximately \$6 million in additional revenue and/or reduced costs will be needed to achieve this target budget goal.

At the April 23, 2014 Mayor and Council study session, staff presented transit internal savings/revenue opportunities of \$3.3 million for FY2015. At the May 6, 2014 Mayor and Council study session, staff presented the results of the Title VI service and fare equity analyses, which concluded that the proposed FY2015 bus service changes from the COA and the Bus/Rail Interface Report do not have a disparate impact on minorities or a disproportionate burden to low income populations. In addition, the City of Tucson has a legitimate, non-discriminatory rational/decision for proposed FY2015 bus service changes.

Present Considerations – To address changing ridership demand, reduce duplicative service, and improve the efficiency of the Sun Tran bus system, staff is recommending the implementation all bus service changes as identified in the COA and Bus/Rail Interface Review. Detailed descriptions of the recommended bus service changes for FY2015 are provided in Attachment A. Public comments received on the proposed bus and fare changes for FY2015 are provided in Attachment B.

Financial Considerations – If approved and implemented, the recommended Sun Tran service changes would result in an estimated \$2.4 million annual operating budget savings in FY2015 for the City. Combined with the internal savings and revenue opportunities, the recommended Sun Tran service changes would reduce the target \$6 million gap to \$0.3 million. Any reduction amount not achieved in the Mass Transit Fund will require an offset (reduction) in the City's General Fund in order to balance.

Please contact me at 791-4371 if you have any questions about the above item.

cc: Daryl W. Cole, Transportation Director  
Albert Elias, Assistant City Manager

Attachments: A. Recommended Bus Service Changes For FY2015  
B. Public Comments Received on Proposed Bus and Fare Changes, March/April 2014