



DATE: February 22, 2011
TO: SolanoExpress Intercity Transit Consortium
FROM: Elizabeth Richards, Director of Transit and Rideshare Services
RE: Discussion of Intercity Transit Study Update and Service Changes

Background/Discussion:

At the February STA Board meeting, the release of an RFP to conduct the I-80/I-680/I-780/Hwy 12 Transit Corridor Plan was approved. This study will update a similar study completed in 2004. The 2004 study had a thirty year planning horizon and included recommendations for freeway based intercity transit services in five year increments. The upcoming study would be similar. The study is expected to be initiated this Spring and take up to a year to complete.

Annually the Intercity Transit Funding (ITF) Agreement is updated for the seven major intercity bus routes in Solano County. The process to prepare the FY2011-12 ITF has begun with the collection of monitoring performance data (costs, fares, ridership, vehicle service hours) of the seven routes. As part of this process, service changes are typically considered.

Two new intercity transit facilities are opening soon: Vacaville Transportation Center and Red Top Rd Park-and-Ride (PNR) in Fairfield. With the opening of these facilities, a discussion of the services anticipated to be offered initially and in the longer-term would be timely. In addition, the opening of new facilities such as the Fairfield/Vacaville Intermodal Station and Benicia Industrial Park Transit Facility in the future and their impact on intercity services should be considered.

At this time, STA staff suggests a discussion begin at the Consortium of potential service changes to each of these seven routes. The main purpose of the discussion at this time is to determine if there are service changes that could occur in conjunction with the ITF or if further time and study is needed and should be considered as part of the Transit Corridor Study.

To begin the discussion, a summary of potential issues and/or service changes by each of the routes that the STA is aware of is presented below:

Rt. 20: Service to new Vacaville Transportation Center (VTC) instead of Ulatris Cultural Center beginning Spring 2011.

Rt. 30: 1) Service to new Vacaville Transportation Center instead of Davis St. PNR.; 2) Earlier westbound service from Dixon by turning around the UC Davis eastbound trip at UC Davis instead of having it run to Sacramento.

Rt. 40: 1) Serve Cordelia to pick up passengers who will not backtrack to FTC. Possible re-route southbound trips off I-680 at Gold Hill Rd with stop(s) on Lopes Rd., run parallel to I-680 until Marshview Rd. when it re-enters I-680 - all or select trips. 2) Improve transfer connections between morning eastbound trips to connect with Rt. 30 eastbound trip. 3) analyze route for other possible service changes to improve performance to meet RM2 performance requirements; 4) review stop in Vacaville with VTC opening; 5) review stop at Red Top PNR upon its opening.

Rt. 78: Review schedules and transfer times between Rt. 78 and County Connection and possibly other routes at BART stations.

Rt. 80: Are the weekday and weekend frequency appropriate for ridership? Is the same true for the span of service?

Rt. 85: Potential stop at Red Top PNR upon its opening.

Rt. 90: 1) Extend select trips to Vacaville (Davis St. PNR or VV Transportation Center) to reduce parking demand at FTC and expand options to Vacaville; 2) potential service to Red Top PNR upon its opening.

New transit service on Jameson Canyon/Hwy 12 between Fairfield/Suisun City and Napa County.

Recommendation:
Informational.