



Transportation Department

TRANSIT DIVISION- Service and Capital Planning

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February 25, 2019

Ms. Julie Leonard
Interim Director
Transportation and Mobility
City of Fort Lauderdale
290 NE 3rd Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Ms. Leonard,

Broward County Transit (BCT) is in receipt of your letter dated November 19, 2018 as well as an email of November 30, 2018 from Robyn Chiarelli, Executive Director of Transportation Management Association (TMA), seeking the approval for a "temporary" reduction in service hours for the City of Fort Lauderdale's (City) Beach Link, Las Olas Link and Downtown Link routes, and modification to the route structure, schedule and service hours of the Neighborhood Link route. In addition, there was a request for financial assistance only (no leased buses) of the full operating span—five (5) days per week and 24.75 daily service hours, Monday through Friday—of the new proposed route structure of the current city-funded NW Community Link route.

BCT Staff met with City Staff on January 11, 2019 to discuss the aforementioned requests. The discussion for the temporary reduction in service hours to the three (3) routes is summarized below:

- **Beach Link**
 - Schedule adjusted:
 - from Sunday-Saturday, 9:30am-6:30pm ~ to Sunday-Saturday, 10:30am-5:00pm
 - Reduction from 27 daily revenue service hours to 19.43 daily revenue service hours
- **Las Olas Link**
 - Schedule adjusted:
 - from Friday-Monday, 9:30am-6:30pm ~ to Friday to Sunday, 10:30am-5:00pm
 - Reduction from 18 daily revenue service hours to 13 daily revenue service hours
- **Downtown Link**
 - Schedule adjusted:
 - from Monday-Friday, 7:30am-5:50pm ~ to Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm
 - Reduction from 21 daily revenue service hours to 15.5 daily revenue service hours (Note: Funding provided for 8.02 hours only)

It is our understanding that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District IV team with the use of consultants conducted a study to assist in the decisions for the proposed service changes. While

we recognize that fiscal constraints are a reality for all municipalities in the Community Shuttle Program (CSP), we always caution against reducing service hours as that action can negatively impact ridership. It is acknowledged that the City, pursuant to City's Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Article 2, Section 2.6, and Section 2.6.2 provided proof—publication of newspaper advertisement showing adequate description of the service hours reduction as well as the Meeting Minutes—of Public Hearing for the requested service changes which was scheduled on November 6, 2018. It is also acknowledged that the City, pursuant to City's ILA Article 2, Section 2.6, and Section 2.6.2 provided proof—publication of newspaper advertisement—of Public Hearing scheduled for October 23, 2018 for the requested service changes. The proposed map and timetable of the route were provided at the Public Hearing as well. BCT staff made a recommendation that, moving forward, the City consider providing as much specificity as possible in the advertisements to minimize any possible confusion with the public.

The discussion for the proposed modifications to the route structure, schedule, and service hours of the Neighborhood Link are summarized below:

- **Modified Neighborhood Link**

- Schedule adjusted:
 - from Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:45pm ~ to 8:00am-1:15pm
 - Reduction from 10.92 daily revenue service hours to 5.25 daily revenue service hours

Upon review of the proposed Neighborhood Link route structure map submitted, BCT Staff had concerns about its sustainability recognizing the historical success of the original route with a rolling average annual ridership as of December 2018 of 13.3 passengers per hour (PPH) and noting the vast change to over Sixty (60%) percent of its original structure. Also noteworthy was the removal of service in specific areas of the original route structure and the Title VI implications. City Staff reaffirmed that the modified route structure was the result of surveys and several outreach meetings for public input as well as ridership statistics. City Staff felt that the modified route was in the best interest of their residents and would serve the need of the community. BCT staff noted that with such a drastic change to the route structure and the reduction of service hours, history has shown that ridership can be impacted negatively.

The discussion on the NW Community Link (existing route currently funded by the City) was for a change in the route structure and funding towards an operating span of five (5) days per week from 6:20am to 7:18pm, Monday through Friday for a total of 24.80 daily revenue service hours. It should be noted that the City submitted an application for the funding of the NW Community Link in January 2018 via BCT's 2018 Community Shuttle Supplemental Funding Application process. The delay in the review and award of these funds was due to the fact that the route structure map submitted with the application was different than a map provided by the City at a later date and a map submitted with your letter. BCT Staff had questions about the proposed new route structure which were adequately answered by City Staff.

Please note, that this letter serves as Broward County's approval of:

- Reduction in service hours with **effective service change date of December 7, 2018** of:
 - Beach Link reduced to 19.43 daily revenue service hours, Sunday-Saturday, 10:30am-5:00pm
 - Las Olas Link reduced to 13 daily revenue service hours, Friday-Sunday, 10:30am-5:00pm
 - Downtown Link reduced to 15.5 daily revenue service, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm (Note: Funding provided for 8.02 hours only)

- Modifications with **effective service change date of December 7, 2018**, to the route structure, schedule, and service hours of the Neighborhood Link reduced to 5.25 daily revenue service hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-1:15pm
- Financial assistance (no leased buses) of the proposed NW Community Link for the full operating span of 24.80 daily service hours, five (5) days per week from 6:20am to 7:18pm, Monday through Friday in the amount of Ninety-Five Thousand Six Hundred and Four and 00/100 (\$95,604.00.) Dollars. This award will be **effective as of April 1, 2019** pending submission of all required vehicle maintenance records and all applicable pre-requisites of the ILA.

The annual financial impact of the proposed service hours for the Beach, Las Olas and Downtown Links, as presented in FY19, totals \$179,850.05. The reduction represents 25.41% of the funding currently provided for these routes. The annual financial impact of the proposed service hours for the Neighborhood Link, as presented in FY19, totals \$24,242.40. The reduction represents 42.19% of the funding currently provided for this route.

Pursuant to Article 2.4.1 of the ILA, since the impact of the service changes is larger than ten (10%) percent of the total annual financial assistance established in Exhibit “F” of the ILA, the City’s request requires an amendment. Exhibit A (Routes and Bus Schedules) of the ILA will also be updated.

We appreciate your continued interest in operating transit services and are proud to partner with the City in providing these services. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 954-357-7713 or jisaacs@broward.org or Jennifer Melendez at 954-357-8615 or jenmelendez@broward.org.

Regards,



Jacquie-Ann D. Isaacs
Community Transit Officer

CC: Barney McCoy, Director - Service and Capital Planning, Broward County Transit
Jennifer Melendez, Contracts/Grants Administrator, Broward County Transit
Tara Crawford, Senior Planner, Broward County Transit
Trevia Taylor, Superintendent of Scheduling, Broward County Transit
Karen Warfel, Transportation Planning Program Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale
Renee Cross, Planner, City of Fort Lauderdale
Robyn Chiarelli, Executive Director, TMA