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Friday, November 13, 2009

Public outreach events, web page, intended to inform public

Sales tax shortfalls and the improper elimination of State Transit Assistance funds is forcing the Metropolitan Transit System reduce its expenses by more than \$7 million. To preserve the network of weekday services and to impact as few riders as possible, MTS is proposing to substantially reduce service on Sundays.

By altering service on Sunday, MTS will affect the least amount of riders and routes, while still closing the budget gap. Approximately 145,000 people use MTS on Sundays, as opposed to 274,000 on weekdays.

"Service cuts are never what we want to do, but we also cannot carry a deficit in our budget as a responsible public agency in San Diego," MTS Chief Executive Officer Paul Jablonski said. "These system changes are designed to affect as few people as possible and still allow San Diegans to get to work on time."

To inform the public and gather input, MTS will be hosting public outreach meetings at these various transit stations and centers throughout the week. All information available at the outreaches is also available online at www.sdmts.com.

Nov. 15 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Iris Avenue Trolley Station

3120 Iris Ave. (Iris Avenue & 30th Street)

San Diego, California

Euclid Avenue Trolley Station

450 Euclid Avenue

San Diego, California

Palomar

1265 Industrial Ave. (Palomar Street & Industrial Boulevard)

Chula Vista, California

12th and Imperial Transit Center

1255 Imperial Avenue

San Diego, CA

Tuesday Nov. 17 – 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

El Cajon

352 S. Marshall Ave. (W. Main Street & S. Marshall Avenue)

El Cajon, California

Iris Avenue Trolley Station

3120 Iris Ave. (Iris Avenue & 30th Street)

San Diego, California

Wednesday Nov. 18 – 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Southwestern College

900 Otay Lakes Road

Chula Vista, CA 91910

El Cajon

352 S. Marshall Ave. (W. Main Street & S. Marshall Avenue)

El Cajon, California

Saturday Nov. 21 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Plaza Bonita

3030 Plaza Bonita Rd

National City, CA 91950-8007

Bayfront E Street

750 E St. (Interstate 5 & E Street)

Chula Vista, California

Fashion Valley Transit Center

1205 Fashion Valley Rd. (Friars Road & Fashion Valley Road)

San Diego, California

Santee Town Center

152 Civic Center Drive

Santee, CA 92071

Sunday Nov. 22 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fashion Valley

1205 Fashion Valley Rd. (Friars Road & Fashion Valley Road)

San Diego, California

24th Street Trolley Station

506 W. 22nd Street (West 24th Street (Mile of Cars Way) & Interstate 5)

National City, California

Old Town Transit Center

4005 Taylor Street

San Diego, California

Sunday Nov. 22 – 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rancho Bernardo Transit Station

16785 West Bernardo Drive

San Diego, California

MTS will gather input at the public outreaches for the Dec. 10 public hearing. Riders and transit advocates are also welcome to come to the hearing at 1255 Imperial Avenue, Ste 1000 at 9 a.m., to speak to the MTS Board of Directors about the proposed changes. Comments can also be

submitted at mts.planning@sdmts.com or by phone 619.557.4912

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System transported more than 94 million passengers last year on 95 bus routes and 53 miles of rail. For further information on fares, routes, and schedules, or to plan a trip, visit www.sdmts.com or call 511.

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