ALAMEDA COUNTY
CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

1333 BROADWAY, SUITE 220 • OAKLAND, CA 94612 • PHONE: (510) 836-2560 • FAX: (510) 836-2185
E-MAIL: mail@accma.ca.gov • WEB SITE: accma.ca.gov

Memorandum

Agenda Item 4.4
July 13, 2009

DATE: July 2, 2009

TO: Administration and Legislation Committee

FROM: Matt Todd, Manager of Programming

SUBJECT: Altamont Commuter Express (ACE): Proposed Revised Schedules

Action Requested:
This is an information item. At its June 26, 2009 meeting the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC) approved a schedule change for the ACE service to be effective October 26, 2009. The schedule change eliminated the two midday trains and will replace them with two additional peak hour trains.

Next Steps
The new train schedule will be effective October 26, 2009.

Discussion
During the presentation of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission's FY 2009/2010 Work Program and Budget, the Commissioners directed ACE staff to evaluate aggressive schedule alternatives to generate new ACE ridership.

The midday trains were added in 2006 as a way to attract a new demographic of ridership. Since the August 2006 addition of the midday trains, the schedule has not been significantly modified. In partnership with Caltrans and Amtrak, the midday service was scheduled to provide a connection to and from the Central Valley's Amtrak San Joaquin service. With the exception of Fridays, wherein riders tend to leave from work early, the midday train has not met ridership expectations. Based upon the comparison of the midday ridership levels to the ridership levels of the peak period trains, and the impacts of the economic downturn, the SJRRC Board directed ACE staff to move the midday trains to more productive time slots.

A summary of the proposed changes to the schedule is described below:

Mornings:

- ACE 5 will operate **20 minutes earlier** at all stations (to make room for the new train), leaving Stockton at 6:20am
- ACE 7 will move from 9:30am **to a 7:15am departure** from Stockton.

Afternoons:

- ACE 2 will move from a 12:05 departure from San Jose **to a 6:40pm departure**, ***Monday to Thursday.*** (Will be renumbered to ACE 10)
- ***On Fridays***, instead of the 6:40pm train, the train will depart San Jose at **2:25pm**

The new schedule which will be effective in October 26, 2009 is attached to the memo (Attachment A). Also attached is the current ACE train schedule (Attachment B) and the ACE staff memo presented to the SJRRC on June 26, 2009.

Attachments

ALTAMONT COMMUTER EXPRESS REVISED TRAIN SCHEDULE
EFFECTIVE October 26, 2009

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY EXCLUDING MAJOR HOLIDAYS

Read Down	AM - WESTBOUND				STATIONS	PM - EASTBOUND					Read Up
	ACE					ACE					
	1	3	5	7		2	4	6	8	10	
	Mo - Fr	Mo - Fr	Mo - Fr	Mo - Fr		Fr Only	Mo- Fr	Mo- Fr	Mo- Fr	Mo-Th	
	4:20 AM	5:35 AM	6:20 AM	7:15 AM	STOCKTON	4:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	7:45 PM	8:50 PM	
	4:37 AM	5:52 AM	6:37 AM	7:32 AM	LATHROP/MANTECA	4:06 PM	5:21 PM	6:21 PM	7:21 PM	8:26 PM	
	4:49 AM	6:04 AM	6:49 AM	7:44 AM	TRACY	3:54 PM	5:09 PM	6:09 PM	7:09 PM	8:14 PM	
	5:18 AM	6:33 AM	7:18 AM	8:13 AM	VASCO ROAD	3:25 PM	4:40 PM	5:40 PM	6:40 PM	7:45 PM	
	5:23 AM	6:38 AM	7:23 AM	8:18 AM	LIVERMORE	3:20 PM	4:35 PM	5:35 PM	6:35 PM	7:40 PM	
	5:31 AM	6:46 AM	7:31 AM	8:26 AM	PLEASANTON	3:11 PM	4:26 PM	5:26 PM	6:26 PM	7:31 PM	
	5:53 AM	7:08 AM	7:53 AM	8:48 AM	FREMONT	2:48 PM	4:03 PM	5:03 PM	6:03 PM	7:08 PM	
	6:11 AM	7:26 AM	8:11 AM	9:06 AM	GREAT AMERICA	2:32 PM	3:47 PM	4:47 PM	5:47 PM	6:52 PM	
	6:30 AM	7:45 AM	8:30 AM	9:25 AM	SAN JOSE	2:20 PM	3:35 PM	4:35 PM	5:35 PM	6:40 PM	

ACE
ALTAMONT COMMUTER EXPRESS
Life is a journey, let us be the ride

SCHEDULE

Effective January 5, 2009

1.800.411.RAIL
www.acerail.com

READ DOWN

STOCKTON to SAN JOSE
AM – WESTBOUND

ACE 01	ACE 03	ACE 05	ACE 07
4:20am	5:35am	6:40am	9:30am
4:37am	5:52am	6:57am	9:47am
4:49am	6:04am	7:09am	9:59am
5:18am	6:33am	7:38am	10:28am
5:23am	6:38am	7:43am	10:33am
5:31am	6:46am	7:51am	10:41am
5:53am	7:08am	8:13am	11:03am
L6:11am	L7:26am	L8:31am	L11:21am
*suspended	*suspended	*suspended	*suspended
6:30am	7:45am	8:50am	11:40am

STATIONS

STOCKTON
LATHROP/MANTECA
TRACY
VASCO ROAD
LIVERMORE
PLEASANTON
FREMONT
GREAT AMERICA
SANTA CLARA
SAN JOSE

SAN JOSE to STOCKTON
PM – EASTBOUND

ACE 02	ACE 04	ACE 06	ACE 08	Bus 3910
2:15pm	5:45pm	6:45pm	7:45pm	9:50pm
1:51pm	5:21pm	6:21pm	L7:21pm	D9:10pm
1:39pm	5:09pm	6:09pm	L7:09pm	D8:50pm
1:10pm	4:40pm	5:40pm	6:40pm	D8:25pm
1:05pm	4:35pm	5:35pm	6:35pm	8:20pm
12:56pm	4:26pm	5:26pm	6:26pm	7:50pm
12:33pm	4:03pm	5:03pm	6:03pm	7:20pm
12:17pm	3:47pm	4:47pm	5:47pm	6:55pm
*suspended	*suspended	*suspended	*suspended	6:40pm
12:05pm	3:35pm	4:35pm	5:35pm	6:30pm

READ UP

D – Drop off only.
L – Trains may leave early after discharging passengers.
M – ACE/Amtrak buses are available to passengers holding valid ACE tickets. Non-monthly tickets must be validated before boarding.
***** – Stop has been temporarily suspended due to construction.

Trains run Monday through Friday.
No service on major holidays (see holiday schedule on our website).

Additional MBus 3910 Stop
Dublin BART: 8:05pm

VTA

Your Measure B Tax Dollars Help Fund the Operations of this Rail Car
ACTIA

CMA

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

01/09

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION
Meeting of June 26, 2009

Item 6: Discussion and Approval of the Midday Schedule Change to be effective October 26, 2009

Background

During the presentation of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission's FY 2009/2010 Work Program and Budget, the Commissioners directed staff to evaluate aggressive schedule alternatives to generate new ACE ridership. Since the August 2006 addition of the midday train, the schedule has not been significantly modified.

The midday train was added in 2006 as a way to attract a new demographic of ridership. In partnership with Caltrans and Amtrak, the midday train was scheduled to provide a connection to and from the Valley's Amtrak SAN JOAQUIN service. However, with the exception of weekly ridership on Friday's, the midday train has not met the expectations for ridership. Based upon the comparison of the midday ridership levels to the ridership levels of the peak period trains, and the impacts of the economic downturn, the Board directed staff to move the midday train to more productive time slots.

Initially, staff recommended that the morning train continue to depart Stockton at 9:30 a.m. and the afternoon train be moved to a 6:45 p.m. San Jose Departure. Several Boardmembers questioned whether the 9:30 train could also be moved to a more optimal slot. After a review of the low number of morning transfers from the SAN JOAQUINS and a conference call in which Caltrans and Amtrak noted they would be decreasing funding contributions toward the train to $75,000 (from $175,000), staff is now recommending that the morning train be moved into a peak commute slot as well. It should be noted that the addition of a peak morning train requires some changes to the other trains in order to fit into the peak period.

A summary of the proposed changes to the schedule is described below:

Mornings:

- ACE 5 will operate **20 minutes earlier** at all stations (to make room for the new train), leaving Stockton at 6:20am

- ACE 7 will move from 9:30am **to a 7:15am departure** from Stockton.

Afternoons:

- ACE 2 will move from a 12:05 departure from San Jose **to a 6:40pm departure**, ***Monday to Thursday.*** (Will be renumbered to ACE 10)

- ***On Fridays***, instead of the 6:40pm train, the train will run at **2:25pm train out of San Jose** This will provide an early Friday return train, which is more consistent with the ridership patterns on Fridays.

Potential Challenges

- Passengers come to rely on a regular routine and the changes to ACE 3 and ACE 5 will cause some initial disruption.
- Schedule change is geared toward the higher ridership potential in Santa Clara County
- Educating the public on the Special Friday Schedule
- Having enough time for all the shuttles at Great America to return between trains

Potential Benefits

- Tenfold higher ridership potential on a peak period train than on the midday train

Information on the proposed schedule change will be widely distributed through the ACE websites, ACE bulletins, seat drops, agency and employer partners, and at station locations. The schedule change is planned for October 26th which coincides with the Amtrak national schedule change and allows adequate time to negotiate shuttle service changes and provide advance notice to passengers.

Fiscal Impact

Costs associated with moving the 9:30 train to a peak period slot are anticipated to be minimal and can be accommodated within the approved 2009/2010 Budget. However, in the event the longer Great America shuttle routes are unable to return on time to meet the next train, additional shuttle costs may be incurred. At that time, staff would present a Budget Amendment for Board consideration.

Recommendation

Approve schedule change to be effective October 26, 2009.