

Memo (DRAFT)

To: Service Planning Committee
 From: Eric W. Harris
 Manager, Operations Planning
 CC: Chester Patton III
 Director, Bus Transportation
 Date: 5/10/14
 Re: **RB115 August 2014 Proposed Route 17 Weekend Alignment**

BACKGROUND

Weekend service on Route 17 serves Sunshine Valley Road on each of the eight northbound and eight southbound trips every Saturday and Sunday. Some have raised concerns this alignment is not productive and is poor use of the District's time and money. The Operations Planning Department was tasked with analyzing ridership patterns and identifying what impacts would occur and what benefits could accrue if the alignment was shifted off of Sunshine Valley Road and onto Highway 1 on the weekend.

ANALYSIS

At present, it takes the route 18 minutes to travel between Alhambra/Carmel and Main/7th via Sunshine Valley Road on the weekend. On weekdays the travel time between those two time points via Highway 1 and Seton Medical Center is only 14 minutes. This amounts to a savings of four minutes per trip, 64 minutes per weekend day, and more than 7,000 minutes (117 hours) per year.

One of the biggest concerns regarding this portion of the route is that few customers use the bus to travel to/from the area in question. Staff analyzed ridership by stop along the alignment and determined that no stop had more than 2.5 boardings a day (with most below one daily boarding).

Exhibit 1: Route 17 Sunshine Valley Road Ridership

Stop	Saturday		Sunday	
	Boardings	Alightings	Boardings	Alightings
SUNSHINE VALLEY & ETHELDORE	1.1	1.7	0.4	1.3
1604 SUNSHINE VALLEY RD	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
1619 SUNSHINE VALLEY RD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUNSHINE VALLEY & HAWTHORNE	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
SUNSHINE VALLEY & HAWTHORNE	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.2
CRESENT & SUNSHINE VALLEY	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0
SUNSHINE VALLEY & HARTE	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.4
HARTE & DATE	0.8	1.0	0.6	1.5
6TH ST & AUDUBON	1.8	3.7	2.4	1.5
6th & LE CONTE	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.6

Altogether, the Sunshine Valley alignment makes up only three percent of total ridership along the route. The following maps illustrate proportional ridership along the route by stop.

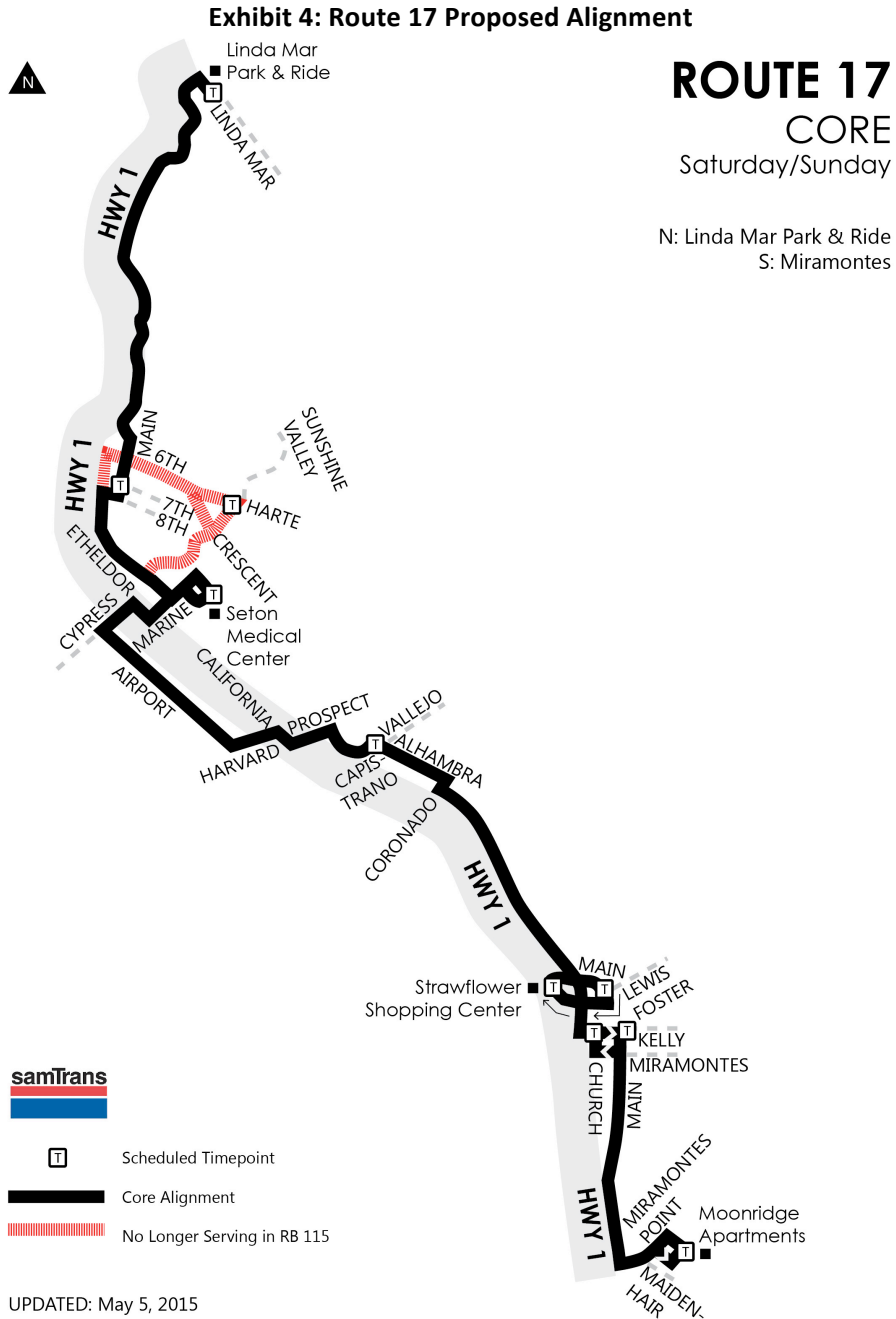


Exhibit 3: Route 17 Sunday Average Daily Ridership by Stop



RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings detailed above, staff recommends eliminating the Sunshine Valley Road alignment from Route 17 weekend service. The route should instead use Highway 1 to travel between Alhambra/Carmel and Main/7th. The service would still operate at the same frequency and span with service every two hours from 5:15 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Staff proposes this service adjustment will take place in August 2014 to coincide with Runbook 115. The following map illustrates the proposed alignment:



In addition to the proposal to remove all weekend service from Sunshine Valley Road, staff is also performing analysis on whether the number of non-peak trips along Sunshine Valley Road can be reduced. Staff will develop a recommendation for a future service change once the analysis is complete.