

City of Galveston



P. O. Box 779 / Galveston, Texas 77553-0779

Staff Report

January 17, 2018

Brian Maxwell, City Manager
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

Subject: Consider and Take Possible Action on results of January 4, 2018 Public Meeting on Proposed Elimination of Weekday Lifeline Route (7:30-11:30 PM), Elimination of Weekend Evening Service (after 7:00 PM), and Potential Revision of Weekend Lifeline Route for a wider coverage area, with a 1-Hour Headway.

I. Background

- A. In February 2017, a presentation was made to City Council during workshop session, covering some of the financial and service challenges facing Island Transit.
- B. After Public Meetings and Input, the Lifeline Route was implemented on June 12, 2017.
- C. On January 4, 2018, a Public Meeting was held to discuss the Performance of the Weekday Lifeline (7:30 PM to 11:30 PM) vs. the Ridership for Weekends.
- D. After 27 weeks of service, the Lifeline Weekday (M-F 7:30-11:30pm) had minimal ridership at 8,979 riders.
- E. Over the same 27 weeks of service, the Saturday Lifeline service alone had 10,245 riders.
- F. Lifeline Weekday Farebox averages \$29.91/day, compared to Saturdays at \$257.12 and Sundays at \$101.15.
- G. Powerpoint, Sign-In Sheet and Comments from the General Public are attached for reference.

II. Current Situation

Presentation on Island Transit Services and Costs at Workshop, and Potential Alternatives.

III. Alternatives in order of priority

Alternative A

- Eliminate Weekday Lifeline Route operating from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm Monday-Friday.

- Eliminate the Evening Lifeline service on Saturdays, with Weekend Lifeline service limited to 7:00 am to 7:00pm Saturday and 8:00am to 7:00pm on Sundays.
- For Weekend (Daytime) Lifeline, implement a wider coverage area option (Routes 1,2,3,4 & 5/6) with 1-hour headway. Although this is a longer vehicle headway, it will provide more access to neighborhoods in the middle of the Island, between 25th and 61st Streets particularly.

Alternative B

- Eliminate Weekday Lifeline Route operating from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm Monday-Friday.
- Eliminate the Evening Lifeline service on Saturdays, with Weekend Lifeline service limited to 7:00 am to 7:00pm Saturday and 8:00am to 7:00pm on Sundays.
- Leave Weekend (Daytime) Lifeline on current Route and Schedule.

Alternative C

Do Nothing (No Changes)

IV. Recommendation

Concur in Alternative A.

V. Fiscal Impact Report

Anticipated Savings: \$180,000 per year

Requested by Rick Beverlin
Assistant City Manager

Funding Source-General Fund

VI. Environmental Impact – Maintaining or increasing transit service levels typically contributes to a positive environmental impact. However, reduction of services with relatively low ridership and usage does not typically have a negative environmental impact. Use of full size buses (35+ passenger) carrying less than 5 riders per hour is neither effective use of resources, nor efficient utilization of fossil fuels.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Beverlin
Assistant City Manager