



RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY
1825 Third Street
Riverside, CA 92507

July 27, 2006

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU:  Larry Rubio, Chief Executive Officer

FROM:  Mark Stanley, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: Authorization to Enter Into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Orange County Transportation Authority for the Operation of Route 794 and Amend the FY 2007 Budget and Short Range Transit Plan (S RTP) to Incorporate these Changes

Summary: As part of steps to alleviate traffic congestion between Orange County and Riverside County along the State Route 91 and State Route 55 corridor; the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) have worked together over the last several years in the development of express bus service with an initial implementation scheduled for Fiscal Year 2003. Since then, the project was delayed and refined by OCTA.

The partnership identified several routes for commuter service settling on Route 794. The service is designed to provide AM peak period options for commuters traveling from Riverside County into Orange County whose destination is along the Sunflower corridor in Hutton Center, Santa Ana. In the afternoon, PM peak service will provide trips to Riverside County with stops in Corona at Crossroads Church Park & Ride and in the City of Riverside at the Galleria Mall (see Attachment A).

Service will be operated by OCTA and is scheduled to start September 11, 2006, for a Monday through Friday operation, AM between the hours of 5:19 a.m. to 8:56 a.m. and PM between the hours of 3:30 p.m. to 7:03 p.m. Seven trips will operate in the AM and PM for a total of 14 trips. Five of the AM trips will began service from Galleria at Tyler with the other two trips beginning service from Crossroads Church. Average travel time is 1 hour and 15 minutes.

To promote the service, the partnership will make a public service announcement, advertise in the media, include service in Ride Guides, and print new promotional brochures. In addition, the bus has a unique graphic design (see Attachment C).

Fiscal Impact:

Based on the average service miles in each county, it is proposed that costs be shared between the three agencies, with RCTC contributing up to \$60,000 and up to \$60,000 from RTA, for a total amount from Riverside County of \$120,000, approximately 1/3 of the total cost. The total cost of the service is estimated at \$347,335 for fiscal year 2007 (see Attachment B).

RCTC will provide the revenue for RTA to fund the route. RCTC has committed to an additional \$60,000 in Local Transportation Funds for RTA's contribution and \$60,000 of Measure A from the RCTC Commuter Assistance Program. Both sources of revenue will be an addition to RTA's FY 2007 budget.

An MOU will define the relationship between OCTA and RTA. If approved, the partnership will require an amendment to the current budget and SRTP. The SRTP will be subject to approval by the RCTC.

Recommendation:

- Authorize staff to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Orange County Transportation Authority for the operation of Route 794 and fund up to \$120,000 toward its operation from an equal share of Local Transportation Funds and Measure A revenues.
- Authorize an amendment to the FY 2007 Budget and Short Range Transit Plan to include these changes and submit the request to the Riverside County Transportation Commission for consideration.

