

AGENDA ITEM 2 C
Action Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 24, 2019

TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority
Transit Advisory Committee

FROM: Scott Ousley, Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of the El Dorado Hills Demonstration Project Local Fixed Route (Route 70)

REQUESTED ACTION:
BY MOTION,

- 1. Support the Discontinuance of the El Dorado Hills Demonstration Project Local Fixed Route (Route 70) Effective June 3, 2019**

BACKGROUND

On May 4, 2017, the El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) approved expansion of local fixed route service in El Dorado Hills (Route 70). This expansion came at the recommendation of the 2014 Short- and Long Range Transit Plan which stated:

“The low proportion of demand met in the urban area of El Dorado County (10 percent) reflects the lack of transit service in El Dorado Hills (beyond Dial-A-Ride and commuter service) and the limited service currently provided in Cameron Park/Shingle Springs. This also impacts the low proportion of social service program trips that are served.”

“The current El Dorado Transit route services...have very limited opportunities to travel between El Dorado Hills and points to the east and no effective service between El Dorado Hills and the portions of Cameron Park not immediately along US 50.”

At that time there were no fixed route services in El Dorado Hills. In order for passengers to get to El Dorado Hills, they had to use 50 Express which only offered service to the El Dorado Hills Park and Ride.

Upon implementation Route 70 assumed a portion of the existing Cameron Park route (Route 40) service area. Route 40, using one (1) bus covered a large geographical area serving portions of Shingle Springs and Cameron Park however, some key locations were not served or underserved due to time constraints and adding new stops to the existing schedule was not feasible. To add stops, existing stops would have to be removed. Route 40 route did not serve

the Cameron Park branch of the El Dorado County Library or the Cameron Park Community Services District facility (CPCSD).

Route 70 provided service to underserved locations that Route 40 did not including the El Dorado Hills Library, La Borgata Shopping Center (El Dorado Hills Raley's Supermarket), El Dorado Hills Town Center and to low income housing complexes in Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills. Connections to the 50 Express were accommodated at the El Dorado Hills Park and Ride and the Cambridge Road Park and Ride.

Route 70 gave more residents of Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills access to programs such as the new First 5 El Dorado Hubs program that offers activities and classes for families, the 50+ room for seniors at the CPCSD, Cameron Park Lake, youth activities, adult classes, and park facilities. In addition, residents had better access to shopping, restaurants and the movie theater. Route 70 provides hourly service Monday through Friday 6:35am – 7:30pm.

Under Title VI requirements, El Dorado Transit is within compliance as a smaller transit service (less than 50 buses in operation at peak) and is not required to conduct a service equity analyses (comparing the transit service area with the demographics of persons served and not served) when proposing discontinuance of a service. El Dorado Transit held a public comment period April 8-19, 2019 regarding the proposed discontinuation of Route 70.

Comments Received

To be submitted on May 2, 2019 at the El Dorado Transit Board meeting.

DISCUSSION

Throughout the demonstration project ridership has struggled despite efforts to market the service. On January 2, 2019, Route 70 was changed significantly adding service to the El Dorado Hills Community Service District (EDHCSD), Safeway Shopping Center (Village Center Drive and Francisco Drive), El Dorado Hills Senior Center, El Dorado Estates, Marshall Medical (Golden Foothill Parkway) and Four Seasons.

At that time, Route 40 was also changed to accommodate access to the CPCSD and Cameron Park Library. Despite these changes and public outreach, ridership for Route 70 has not improved averaging just 5.5 trips per day.

Staff recommends support for discontinuing Route 70 effective June 3, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT

To be determined.