

Lisa Clausen

From: Council
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 11:02 AM
To: 'meg van wyk'
Subject: RE: Metro Bus Service

Dear Ms. Van Wyk:

City staff consulted with Metro Transit regarding your inquiry. The information below was sent to us, to describe the service changes about to occur:

Here is a summary of changes to Metro bus service affecting Burien for the February 2010 Service Change, which take effect on Saturday, February 6th:

- Route 140 is being revised to serve the Tukwila International Boulevard Link Station at International Blvd & Southcenter Blvd (S 154th Street) and operate more direct east-west routing via Southcenter Boulevard. This routing will be 10-12 minutes faster than the current routing for trips from Burien to Tukwila/Southcenter and Renton. Buses will operate to and from Burien Transit Center every 15 minutes on weekdays until 6 p.m.; evening service will be upgraded from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes. Route 140 will provide quick connections with Link, with a travel time of only 10-12 minutes between Burien Transit Center and Tukwila International Boulevard Station. Route 140 will no longer operate through the Sea-Tac Airport bus stops or McMicken Heights.
- Mid-day trips on Route 121 between approximately 9:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. will be discontinued as part of administrative service reductions to achieve budget targets. However, Metro will also add two new morning peak trips serving Burien Transit Center at 7:06 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and two new afternoon trips leaving 3rd Avenue/Pike Street in downtown Seattle at 3:47 p.m. and 4:35 p.m. to provide more seats during the heaviest travel times. The new trips are being funded by the Washington State Department of Transportation as construction mitigation for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and seawall replacement projects.
- Route 180 between Burien and Auburn will be revised to operate on Air Cargo Road and International Boulevard to serve the new SeaTac/Airport Link Station at International Blvd/S 176th Street, and will no longer operate on the Airport drives to the main terminal.
- In regard to process, the changes to routes 140 and 180 were the subject of a public outreach process in 2008-2009 and were approved as part of a service change ordinance by the King County Council in May 2009. The discontinuation of mid-day trips on Route 121 is an administrative action since it affects fewer than 25% of the riders on this route.
- Metro anticipates that the new Route 140 service will provide a good alternative to the past Route 121 mid-day service because the transfer waiting times will be short: Route 140 operates every 15 minutes and Link operates every 10 minutes during mid-day hours.

Regarding your questions about "negotiations" on service, there is no provision for a Councilmember from any city to be involved in negotiating specific Metro Transit service. Former Councilmember Blazak served on two transportation-related boards but they have no role in establishing specific transit service. The Mayor currently serves on the Regional Transit Committee of the King County Council but that committee addresses broad policy matters and not specific routes or service levels. The King County Council establishes the Metro budget, and that budget had reductions for this year. Metro Transit is responsible for determining how to carry out those budget cuts.

I hope this helps to clarify the new bus schedule situation.

Thank you-
Lisa Clausen
Burien City Manager's Office

From: meg van wyk [mailto:mjvanwyk@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 8:26 AM

CFTR: 02/08/10
cc: RE: Metro 02/03/10

To: Council
Subject: Metro Bus Service

Metro just announced the new bus schedule serving Burien Park and Ride. The last express service from the Burien P & R to downtown Seattle will now leave at 9:18 am. Commuters will not be able to find another express until 1:10 pm. This leaves a four hour gap without express service. Is this the kind of service Burien should accept?

My understanding of the process was a council member needed to be in these negotiations and needed to be part of the lobbying. Sue Blazak was this former member. I am asking who is replacing her position in this matter? Could this council member please contact me as to what your efforts will be in this matter? If no council member is taking this up, could there be a discussion ASAP to resume this representation?

Thank you,

Meg Van Wyk

Service revisions begin Saturday February 6.

Some midday trip eliminations on the 121, but two new a.m. and two new p.m. peak-period trips added.

Northbound trips leaving the Burien Transit Center at 9:58 am, 10:26 am and 1:09 pm, southbound trips leaving 3rd Ave & Pike St at 9:17 am and 1:36 pm, and the southbound trip leaving 7th Ave & Blanchard St at 12:17 pm will be discontinued.

Northbound Route 121 to downtown Seattle will have two new peak-period trips arriving at 3rd Ave & Pike St about 7:35 and 8:30 am. Southbound Route 121 to Burien will also have two new peak-period trips leaving 7th Ave & Blanchard St about 3:39 and 4:27 pm. WSDOT is funding these additional peak-period trips on Route 121 to keep people, businesses and the economy moving during Alaskan Way Viaduct construction. Visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct

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More service change information:

<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/up/scvchange.html>

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