Call for Public Hearing on June 2020 Service Changes and Route 706

Committee-of-the-Whole
January 14, 2020

Rob Smith, AVP Service Planning & Scheduling
Today’s Action

• To approve a call for Public Hearing on proposed June 2020 service modifications and permanent operation of Route 706

• This is not an approval of the changes themselves, which would occur later this year
Background

• DART is required to conduct a Public Hearing for new routes and certain types of route and/or schedule changes

• Proposed June changes to the FLEX service program and the permanent operation of Route 706 require a Public Hearing (today’s action)

• June changes also include a short extension to Route 52 in Downtown Dallas
FLEX Program Changes

• Proposed June changes include the elimination of FLEX as a service category, and the conversion of FLEX routes to regular fixed-route service
• FLEX services were originally introduced as a way to expand coverage on low-ridership route corridors
• Historically, very few flex requests have been made by customers, and almost all customers are using these services as regular fixed routes
• No changes proposed for any of the route alignments, and the fixed-route portions would continue to operate as they do now
• We may look at other changes to these services in the future during the Bus Service Plan work -- newer alternative services like GoLink are proving to be far more successful in lower-ridership settings
FLEX Program Changes

- DART currently operates five Flex services:
  - 840 South Irving
  - 841 Telecom Corridor
  - 843 South Plano
  - 870 East Plano
  - 887 Garland-Rowlett
Route 706

- Parkland Hospital funded for a third shuttle service that began operation in August 2019
- This service was not part of the approval of other August changes, and was introduced experimentally (and requires a Public Hearing)
- Weekday operation 7am-6pm with 20-minute service frequency
- Connects off-site employees with Parkland and the employee health clinic
Other Changes

- Route 52 would be extended in Downtown Dallas to serve Convention Center Station
- This change allows use of electric vehicles on the route
# Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call for Public Hearing, Operations Committee</td>
<td>December 10, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for Public Hearing Approval</td>
<td>January 14, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Meetings</td>
<td>February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Hearing</td>
<td>February 25, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action on Proposed Changes, Operations Committee</td>
<td>March 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Change Approval</td>
<td>March 24, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendation

• To approve a call for Public Hearing on proposed June 2020 service modifications and permanent operation of Route 706