

## ATTACHMENT, DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Following is a detailed description of the proposed March, 2012 service changes:

Route 1 will be renumbered to Routes 10 and 11 which will be combined into the Jefferson-Dartmouth Avenue line and follow Jefferson, Dartmouth and Fairfax Avenues to downtown Bessemer and Jonesboro. Route 10 will be the main route while Route 11 will have a small diversion to the Pipe Shop area in Bessemer. It does this now but does not have a separate number and thus may be confusing to riders. As both routes will show up together on the Public Timetable, riders will see that they can use either route for most of their trip but must be careful to choose the selected route 11 trips if they want to go to the Pipe Shop area. The current route 1 will thus become straighter, more direct and thus slightly faster and easier to understand.

Routes 17 and 44 will remain mostly as is except that they will be slightly rerouted to stop in front of the Eastwood Wal-Mart at the request of a Birmingham City Councilor and shoppers and residents in the area.

Route 20 will be relocated and greatly simplified to meet all of the objectives above. Instead of winding its way through a number of streets, the new route 20 will follow 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues downtown which streets become Messer Airport Highway. It will end at the Airport Terminal Building. This simple to understand direct route to the airport, will drop the portion of the route to Zion City, a lengthy distance which serves less than 10 people a day. We are planning a pilot demand response service to take those few people from Zion City to a nearby existing bus route only when they need the service. Another added feature of the new Route 20 is that it will provide hourly service to and from the Airport every day including Saturday. Currently, the Route 20 service on Saturday only runs every two hours.

Routes 25 and 26 will be grouped together as the First Avenue North line and provided alternate hourly service to Jefferson State College via Center Point on the even hours and via Carson Road on the odd hours. Because the City of Center point only wants to pay for approximately every two service, we now run closed door on many trips through the city. This will allow us to go around the city on those closed door trips avoiding the misunderstandings with passengers who want to but can't get on and off certain bus trips in Center Point. Every route 25 bus will be open in Center Point while the current closed door trips will operate as a Route 26 route outside of the city. Both routes will terminate at Jefferson State College, and both routes will follow First Avenue North from the Roebuck area to downtown Birmingham. By combining these two routes into one line and showing them together on one Public Timetable, it will be apparent to riders that they can use either route 25 or 26 to travel between Center Point Parkway and Carson Road to Central Station in downtown Birmingham. Using First Avenue North will make this a more understandable, straighter and faster

route from Birmingham to and from the Roebuck, Center Point and Jefferson State areas. Finally, since Center Point does not want to pay for Saturday service, only Route 26 will operate on that day.

Route 28 will become the community service route that travels much of the old 20 route through the northeast side of Birmingham as well as its current route along 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South. It will also replace Routes 25 and 26 in serving the Eastern Health Clinic and end up at the Roebuck Shopping Center as it currently does. Another improved feature of the new Route 28 as well the revised Routes 25 and 26, is that they will stop right in front of the Roebuck Wal-Mart store rather than behind it. This means that riders of these routes will no longer have to walk up a steep hill to board their buses. Many folks have complained that this walk with grocery bags in hand is very difficult.

Route 45 will also become straighter and more direct as it will follow Bessemer Super Highway to its end and not cross over Route 1 in downtown Bessemer. Both routes will make a small diversion to serve the area of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets in downtown Bessemer as this is an important destination which could become a major regional transit hub in the future. The new Route 45 will also add service to the Social Security Administration in south Bessemer as well as the hotels located around it. It will continue to end at the south Bessemer Wal-Mart and the nearby fast food restaurant where there are bathroom and food facilities for the Bus Operators. A Route 46 short line is being added to route 45 to create the Bessemer Highway line. The short line will run all the way down Bessemer Super Highway from downtown Birmingham to Western Hills Mall which is just beyond the Birmingham city line. By coordinating the Route 46 short line with the Route 45 long line, we will create a bus every 30 minutes between downtown Birmingham and Western Hills Mall. This will double the frequency of service on the Birmingham city portion of this line. The route 46 terminus (layover zone) nearby or in front of the Western Hills Wal-Mart will create a good break area for the Bus Operators with bathrooms and food.

Finally, changes are being made to the DART routes which were approved by the BJCTA Board of Directors last summer with the stipulation that we get public input on these changes before we implement them. Public hearings on these and all of the other changes described above are scheduled for the period between the Board Committee meetings on February 15, and the full Board meeting on February 22. At the latter meeting staff will be able to report the public comments to the Board before a full vote on this proposal is taken.

A map showing the changes will be distributed at the February Committee meetings as will a sample of the new public timetables and showing the new design as well as the grouping of the individual routes into lines. Detailed draft schedules for all of the routes are available upon request.