



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Earlier Subway Service on Sunday Mornings

Date:	November 9, 2015
To:	TTC Budget Committee
From:	Chief Executive Officer

Summary

This report describes the first phase – on subway lines – of implementation of earlier system-wide service on Sunday mornings. Starting on January 3, 2016, subway service will begin approximately one hour earlier on Sundays, at approximately 8:00 a.m., instead of at 9:00 a.m. A second phase – on bus and streetcar routes – would begin later in 2016 and would introduce earlier service on connecting bus and streetcar routes to match the earlier subway start times, subject to approval of the required funding.

The service improvements described in this report complement other service improvements which have been presented to the Board in recent months, including the expansion of overnight service, the provision of all-day, every-day service across the city, the creation of a ten-minute-or-better service network, and reduced off-peak crowding on bus and streetcar routes. Earlier service on Sunday mornings service is another step in making transit an ever-increasingly attractive and convenient way to travel around Toronto.

This service initiative would decrease travel times, and enhance urban mobility for customers across the City by providing earlier and better access to employment, educational, and cultural opportunities. When fully implemented, this service initiative would benefit approximately six million customer-trips each year, and would increase ridership by approximately 800,000 customer-trips each year. The earlier Sunday transit service initiative requires operating resources only.

The earlier subway service will begin on January 3, 2016. The second phase of the service improvements, with matching earlier service on bus and streetcar routes, would begin later in 2016, subject to approval of the required funding.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Budget Committee endorse earlier subway service, as described below, and forward this report to the Board for approval.

Financial Impact

This first phase of the service initiative, earlier subway service, requires an additional \$1.0 million in operating costs in 2016 and annually thereafter. This cost can be accommodated within the TTC's proposed 2016 Operating Budget.

Full implementation of this service initiative – that is, on both the subway, and bus and streetcar routes – will be requested in a forthcoming report titled, “Proposed Service Improvements for the 2016 Operating Budget.” The full implementation operating cost is \$1.7 million in 2016. This additional expense will be partially offset by an increase in fare revenue in 2016, from increased ridership, of up to \$1.1 million. Annually in 2017 and beyond, the operating cost will increase to approximately \$3.0 million and this cost will be offset by fare revenue of approximately \$1.6 million.

The Chief Financial & Administration Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Accessibility Issues

Earlier subway service, with its decreased travel times, will encourage and support more-spontaneous trip-making, which is an important part of making the conventional system attractive to potential new customers, such as Wheel-Trans registrants, and to all travellers in Toronto. This supports the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) objectives of more-spontaneous travel options for customers with disabilities, and the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy of making transit more accessible and attractive to everyone.

Issue Background

Sunday subway service on Line 1 YONGE-UNIVERSITY, Line 2 BLOOR-DANFORTH, Line 3 SCARBOROUGH, and Line 4 SHEPPARD now begins operating at approximately 9:00 a.m. This provides the TTC with an extended overnight maintenance window on Saturday nights to allow for more intensive signal, track, communications, and general maintenance work. This is in contrast with Monday to Saturday mornings, when subway service begins at approximately 6:00 a.m.

The TTC has received many requests from customers for earlier service on Sunday, particularly on the subway. The 320 YONGE and 300 BLOOR-DANFORTH bus routes provide frequent early Sunday morning service along the Line 1 and Line 2 corridors before the subway opens. Recent improvements to the overnight bus network have expanded early morning Sunday service on bus routes which replace the other subway lines, and across the City. Most major bus and streetcar routes already start before 9:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Even with all these early Sunday morning bus and streetcar services, there continues to be strong customer demand for an earlier start to Sunday subway service. On Sundays during the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, earlier subway service was operated. During the recent Nuit Blanche overnight arts festival, continuous 24-hour Saturday night to Sunday morning service was operated on Line 1 YONGE-UNIVERSITY and

Line 2 BLOOR-DANFORTH. These well-received early morning services highlight how important it is to operate earlier service every Sunday, and not just for special events.

Comments

A detailed examination by TTC staff of subway train scheduling, and of subway infrastructure maintenance procedures, has identified a means by which Sunday subway service can start earlier, at approximately 8:00 a.m., about one hour earlier than at present. The overnight storage locations of some trains can be changed, reducing the need to operate out-of-service trains that reduce available maintenance time. The practise of operating out-of-service trains part way along the lines, so that service begins at close to the same time at every station, will end, and most trains will start in service as soon as they leave the maintenance yard. This will allow earlier service at stations close to the yard, while minimizing operating costs and preserving the time available to carry out maintenance activities along the line.

The increased use of localized weekend subway closures, along with extensive bundling of many different maintenance projects to take advantage of these closures, means that the longer Saturday night to Sunday morning closure for maintenance work is not as necessary as it was in the past. With these changes, Sunday service on all subway lines can begin at approximately 8:00 a.m. with no significant effects on maintenance activities.

An earlier start than 8:00 a.m. was also considered, but is not recommended for further consideration until experience has been gained throughout 2016 with the new 8:00 a.m. service. The reduced time available for maintenance would increase the costs of carrying out state-of-good-repair maintenance, and may require more weekend closures, or an earlier end to service on other nights of the week.

New start times for first trains

This improvement will begin on all subway lines on Sunday, January 3, 2016. The attached tables show the current first train times at each station, and the approximate new train times. These projected new first-train times are subject to change as the new schedules are finalized. Service cannot begin exactly at 8:00 a.m. at every station, because of the time it takes for trains to reach all stations from their start points. In all cases, the new first train time will be between 30 and 60 minutes earlier than at present.

The scheduled time between the some of the new earlier trains on Lines 1 and 2 will be between eight and nine minutes, instead of the usual four to five minutes, in order to minimize the increase in operating costs. Further improvements could be made to the early morning service frequencies, and first train times, when more overnight train storage locations become available. There are several active capital projects to deliver additional storage locations, such as Keele Yard on Line 2, but these will not be completed in 2016.

Changes to connecting bus and streetcar routes

Full implementation of this improvement requires changes to the times of overnight routes, and to the start times of connecting daytime bus and streetcar routes, to match the new, earlier, subway departure times at each station. These bus and streetcar changes will require additional operating funding in 2016. This funding has been included in the TTC's proposed 2016 Operating Budget that will be considered by the Board in November. These changes, which include the 320 YONGE and 300 BLOOR-DANFORTH routes, would be made later in 2016 because of the lead time in the approval of the budget, and the considerable scheduling work that is required to change more than 100 bus and streetcar schedules.

Customer benefits

This service initiative would decrease travel times, and enhance urban mobility for customers across the City by providing earlier and better access to employment, educational, and cultural opportunities. This service initiative would be complemented later in 2016 by a matching earlier start of service on more than 100 bus and streetcar routes. Once fully implemented, this service initiative would benefit approximately six million customer-trips each year, and would increase ridership by approximately 800,000 customer-trips each year.

Future possibilities

The new earlier Sunday service, once fully implemented, will be carefully evaluated. Ridership, customer benefits, costs, and impact on maintenance activities will be considered. These will be reported back to the board in 2017 and, if further improvements are possible, they will also be presented to the Board.

Communications Plan

In order to promote the earlier Sunday morning service, the TTC will develop communications initiatives, using various tactics and channels as appropriate.

Conclusion

Earlier Sunday subway and surface transit service would decrease travel times, improve service quality, and enhance urban mobility for customers across the City. This further advances the TTC's commitment to provide frequent, reliable service which allows for spontaneous trip-making, and will help change how people make their travel choices.

Contact

Mitch Stambler
Head of Strategy and Service Planning
416-393-4460
mitch.stambler@ttc.ca

**Table 1: First Train Times on Sunday Mornings – Current and Projected
(subject to change through scheduling process)**

1 Yonge-University											
First and last train times											
Southbound from Finch to Union Northbound from Union to Downsview						Southbound from Downsview to Union Northbound from Union to Finch					
	FIRST				LAST		FIRST				LAST
	Monday- Friday	Saturday	Sunday 2015	Sunday 2016	Every day		Monday- Friday	Saturday	Sunday 2015	Sunday 2016	Every day
Southbound	5:40	5:45	8:57	7:55	1:16	FINCH	arr 5:53	arr 6:04	arr 8:59	arr 8:18	arr 2:13
	5:42	5:47	8:59	7:57	1:18	NORTH YORK CENTRE	5:50	6:02	8:57	8:16	2:11
	5:43	5:49	9:01	7:59	1:20	SHEPPARD-YONGE	5:48	5:59	8:55	8:14	2:10
	5:57	5:52	9:04	8:01	1:22	YORK MILLS	5:45	5:57	8:52	8:11	2:06
	5:49	5:54	9:06	8:03	1:25	LAWRENCE	5:48	5:55	8:49	8:09	2:04
	5:53	5:57	8:55	8:07	1:28	EGLINTON	5:45	5:52	8:47	8:06	2:01
	5:55	5:58	8:57	8:09	1:29	DAVISVILLE	6:08	5:49	8:59	8:22	1:59
	5:57	6:00	8:59	8:02	1:31	ST CLAIR	6:06	6:02	8:58	8:20	1:57
	5:59	6:02	9:00	8:04	1:33	SUMMERHILL	6:04	6:05	9:05	8:18	1:55
	6:00	6:03	9:01	8:05	1:34	ROSEDALE	6:03	6:04	9:04	8:17	1:54
	6:01	6:04	9:03	8:06	1:35	BLOOR-YONGE	6:02	6:03	9:03	8:16	1:53
	6:03	6:06	9:04	8:07	1:36	WELLESLEY	6:05	6:06	9:06	8:15	1:51
	6:04	6:07	9:05	8:08	1:37	COLLEGE	6:04	6:05	9:05	8:14	1:49
	6:05	6:08	9:06	8:09	1:39	DUNDAS	6:03	6:04	9:04	8:12	1:48
	6:06	6:09	9:07	8:10	1:40	QUEEN	6:02	6:03	9:03	8:11	1:46
	6:07	6:10	9:08	8:11	1:41	KING	6:01	6:02	9:02	8:10	1:45
6:03	6:11	9:01	8:13	1:42	UNION	5:59	6:01	9:01	8:09	1:44	
6:04	6:12	9:11	8:14	1:43	ST ANDREW	6:02	6:04	8:59	8:07	1:42	
6:05	6:13	9:12	8:15	1:44	OSGOODE	6:01	6:03	8:58	8:06	1:41	
6:06	6:14	9:13	8:16	1:46	ST PATRICK	6:00	6:02	8:57	8:05	1:40	
6:08	6:16	9:14	8:17	1:47	QUEEN'S PARK	6:02	6:00	9:00	8:03	1:38	
6:10	6:17	9:15	8:18	1:48	MUSEUM	6:01	5:59	8:59	8:02	1:37	
6:11	6:19	9:17	8:20	1:50	ST GEORGE	5:59	5:58	8:58	8:01	1:36	
6:12	6:20	9:18	8:21	1:51	SPADINA	6:03	6:02	8:59	7:59	1:35	
6:13	6:21	9:19	8:22	1:52	DUPONT	6:02	6:01	9:01	7:58	1:34	
6:16	6:23	9:22	8:25	1:55	ST CLAIR WEST	5:58	5:58	8:58	7:57	1:31	
6:18	6:26	9:25	8:28	1:57	EGLINTON WEST	6:00	6:04	9:00	7:54	1:28	
6:21	6:28	9:27	8:30	2:00	GLENCAIRN	5:57	6:03	8:58	7:52	1:26	
6:23	6:30	9:29	8:32	2:01	LAWRENCE WEST	5:56	6:02	9:01	7:50	1:24	
6:25	6:32	9:31	8:34	2:02	YORKDALE	5:54	6:01	9:00	7:49	1:23	
6:27	6:34	9:33	8:36	2:05	WILSON	5:52	5:58	8:58	7:47	1:21	
arr 6:30	arr 6:37	arr 9:35	arr 8:39	arr 2:08	DOWNSVIEW	6:03	6:00	9:00	8:02	1:18	
Northbound											Southbound

All times are approximate
All times are a.m.
All times are departure times, except arrival times prefixed "arr".

**Table 2: First Train Times on Sunday Mornings – Current and Projected
(subject to change through scheduling process)**

2 Bloor-Danforth										
First and last train times										
Eastbound to Kennedy					Westbound to Kipling					
FIRST				LAST		FIRST				LAST
Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday 2015	Sunday 2016	Every day		Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday 2015	Sunday 2016	Every day
5:41	5:48	8:48	8:00	1:31	KIPLING	arr 6:05	arr 6:04	arr 9:04	arr 8:35	arr 2:16
5:43	5:50	8:50	8:03	1:33	ISLINGTON	6:02	6:02	9:02	8:32	2:14
5:45	5:52	8:52	8:05	1:34	ROYAL YORK	6:00	6:01	9:01	8:31	2:13
5:46	5:54	8:54	8:07	1:37	OLD MILL	5:58	6:00	9:00	8:30	2:10
5:48	5:56	8:56	8:08	1:38	JANE	5:56	6:01	9:00	8:26	2:08
5:49	5:57	8:57	8:09	1:39	RUNNYMEDE	6:00	6:05	9:04	8:25	2:07
5:51	5:59	8:58	8:10	1:41	HIGH PARK	5:59	6:03	9:03	8:24	2:06
5:52	6:00	9:00	8:12	1:42	KEELE	5:58	6:02	9:02	8:22	2:04
5:53	6:01	9:01	8:14	1:43	DUNDAS WEST	5:59	6:01	9:01	8:21	2:03
5:54	6:02	9:03	8:15	1:44	LANSDOWNE	5:58	6:00	9:00	8:20	2:01
5:55	6:03	9:04	8:17	1:45	DUFFERIN	5:57	6:02	9:03	8:18	2:00
5:57	6:04	9:05	8:18	1:47	OSSINGTON	5:56	6:01	9:02	8:17	1:59
5:58	6:06	9:06	8:19	1:49	CHRISTIE	5:55	6:00	9:01	8:16	1:58
5:59	6:07	9:07	8:21	1:50	BATHURST	6:00	6:05	9:04	8:14	1:57
6:01	6:08	9:09	8:23	1:51	SPADINA	5:59	6:03	9:03	8:12	1:55
6:02	6:09	9:10	8:24	1:52	ST GEORGE	5:58	6:02	9:02	8:11	1:54
6:03	6:11	9:11	8:25	1:53	BAY	5:56	6:01	9:01	8:10	1:53
6:05	6:12	9:12	8:27	1:54	BLOOR-YONGE	5:55	6:00	9:00	8:08	1:52
6:06	6:13	9:13	8:29	1:57	SHERBOURNE	5:57	6:02	9:02	8:06	1:49
6:07	6:14	9:14	8:30	1:58	CASTLE FRANK	5:56	6:01	9:01	8:05	1:48
6:09	6:16	9:16	8:31	1:59	BROADVIEW	5:55	6:00	9:00	8:03	1:47
6:10	6:17	9:17	8:32	2:00	CHESTER	5:54	6:04	9:04	8:02	1:46
6:11	6:18	9:18	8:33	2:01	PAPE	5:53	6:03	9:02	8:00	1:45
6:13	6:20	9:20	8:35	2:02	DONLANDS	5:51	6:01	9:01	7:59	1:44
5:46	5:47	8:47	8:07	2:03	GREENWOOD	5:50	6:00	9:00	8:12	1:43
5:47	5:48	8:47	8:08	2:04	COXWELL	5:48	5:59	8:59	8:11	1:41
5:49	5:50	8:50	8:10	2:06	WOODBINE	5:47	5:58	8:58	8:10	1:40
5:51	5:52	8:52	8:12	2:09	MAIN STREET	5:51	5:55	8:55	8:07	1:38
5:53	5:54	8:54	8:14	2:11	VICTORIA PARK	5:49	5:53	8:53	8:05	1:36
5:56	5:56	8:56	8:17	2:13	WARDEN	5:47	5:51	8:51	8:03	1:34
arr 5:59	arr 6:00	arr 9:00	arr 8:20	arr 2:16	KENNEDY	5:43	5:48	8:48	8:00	1:31
All times are approximate										
All times are a.m.										
All times are departure times, except arrival times prefixed "arr".										

**Table 3: First Train Times on Sunday Mornings – Current and Projected
(subject to change through scheduling process)**

3 Scarborough												
First and last train times												
Westbound/southbound to Kennedy					Northbound/eastbound to McCowan							
FIRST					LAST	FIRST						LAST
Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday 2015	Sunday 2016	Every day		Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday 2015	Sunday 2016	Every day		
5:45	5:49	8:56	7:57	1:16	McCOWAN	arr 6:13	arr 6:16	arr 9:18	arr 8:24	arr 1:44		
5:47	5:51	8:57	7:59	1:19	SCARBOROUGH CENTRE	6:10	6:13	9:15	8:21	1:41		
5:49	5:53	8:59	8:01	1:21	MIDLAND	6:09	6:11	9:13	8:19	1:39		
5:51	5:54	9:00	8:03	1:22	ELLESMERE	6:07	6:09	9:12	8:18	1:37		
5:53	5:58	9:03	8:06	1:25	LAWRENCE EAST	6:04	6:06	9:10	8:14	1:34		
arr 6:00	arr 6:02	arr 9:07	arr 8:11	arr 1:30	KENNEDY	6:00	6:02	9:07	8:11	1:30		
All times are approximate												
All times are a.m.												
All times are departure times, except arrival times prefixed "arr".												

**Table 4: First Train Times on Sunday Mornings – Current and Projected
(subject to change through scheduling process)**

4 Sheppard												
First and last train times												
Eastbound to Don Mills					Westbound to Sheppard-Yonge							
FIRST					LAST	FIRST						LAST
Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday 2015	Sunday 2016	Every day		Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday 2015	Sunday 2016	Every day		
5:42	5:58	9:00	7:54	2:14	SHEPPARD-YONGE	arr 5:40	arr 5:56	arr 8:58	arr 8:13	arr 2:33		
5:39	5:56	8:57	7:57	2:17	BAYVIEW	5:37	5:53	8:55	8:11	2:31		
5:36	5:52	8:54	7:59	2:18	BESSARION	5:35	5:51	8:53	8:09	2:29		
5:32	5:49	8:50	8:00	2:20	LESLIE	5:33	5:50	8:51	8:07	2:27		
arr 5:34	arr 5:52	arr 8:52	arr 8:02	arr 2:22	DON MILLS	5:31	5:47	8:49	8:05	2:25		
All times are approximate												
All times are a.m.												
All times are departure times, except arrival times prefixed "arr".												