

PortAuthority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (November 9, 2021) - Port Authority staff on Wednesday will present a resolution to the Authority's Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee seeking approval of a Title VI analysis and a 60-day public comment period on service changes the agency implemented late last year.

Port Authority implemented 30 major service changes in November of 2020 in response to the sharp decline and shift in ridership patterns resulting from the still-ongoing global pandemic, and to provide more robust weekend service. A major change is one that affects more than 30 percent of a route's weekly trips, directional miles or service hours.

The Authority's Board approved 10 of the changes -- the weekend service additions -- in July 2020. The remaining 20 changes -- five of which were additions to service and 15 of which were reductions in service -- were intended to temporarily rebalance service from underused commuter routes toward local routes that were experiencing pass-ups due to capacity restrictions.

Although Port Authority still considers these changes to be temporary, because the pandemic has lasted longer than 12 months, the agency is required by the Federal Transit Administration to conduct a formal Title VI analysis and hold a public hearing.

If approved by Port Authority's Board on November 19, the public comment period would begin December 1, 2021 and end on February 1, 2022.

A virtual public hearing information session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. will precede the hybrid in-person/virtual public hearing from on Thursday, January 27 from 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Following the public comment period, the Board would receive a summary of the public comment the Authority received at their February 2022 meeting.

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