

## MTS RAPID ROUTE 227 NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING-UNOFFICIAL NOTES SUMMARY

**Date:** November 8, 2023

**Time:** 6 PM – 7:30 PM

**Location:** Southwest corner of the Imperial Beach Blvd. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street intersection

**Purpose:** On October 15, 2023 MTS launched the new Rapid 227 route, which connects the communities of Otay Mesa, Nestor, and Imperial Beach with the Iris Avenue Transit Center. The Rapid 227 route includes 12 new 60' electric articulated buses and is intended to offer residents and visitors new transit options to access coastal destinations, regional employment and activity centers, and the UC San Diego Blue Line. The posted map of this route and stops can be found [here](#).

The Rapid 227 route enters Imperial Beach from Coronado Avenue/Imperial Beach Boulevard (westbound), heads north on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, west on Palm Avenue, south on Seacoast Drive, and exits Imperial Beach from Imperial Beach Boulevard/Coronado Avenue (eastbound). Residents expressed concern with impacts from the new route, particularly residents on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street where a bus route did not previously exist. MTS staff presented an update on the Rapid 227 route to the City Council on October 18, 2023 and various concerns from the public were noted. The City Council directed staff to conduct a neighborhood meeting and obtain comments regarding the route.

Approximately 60 members of the community attended the November 8 neighborhood meeting, and a variety of comments were received and summarized below. This document does not provide official meeting minutes and is therefore considered unofficial meeting notes.

### Overarching concerns/asks from participants at meeting:

- Outreach inadequate and did not include affected residents
- Noise, Sound, and Lighting are big issues on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street caused by the buses
- The bus route should not be on a residential road
- Buses are driving by on too frequent intervals (7.5 – 15 minutes)
- Safety is a large concern (children, families, and unsafe driving (speeding and driving in bike lanes))
- Buses are parking and stopping in front of some businesses impacting business/tourism
- Want future meeting dates/times available to participate and vocalize opinions

### Additional details from participants at meeting:

- Initial outreach was inadequate and did not include the Imperial Beach residents that are directly affected/impacted by this change
- Questions from participants at meeting:
  - Can there be any changes before January to the route?
  - Can the City have any role in effecting these changes?
  - Why were the residents not informed of this bus/route?
  - Was an EIR completed for this route?
- Bus route should not go through/on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street
- A rapid bus route is not needed in Imperial Beach – the existing buses are sufficient
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is a residential street with family and children
- No riders are on the bus; no demand
- Buses run too frequently (sometimes in 7.5-15 minute intervals)
  - Example: a resident counted 8 buses within 1 hour, nearly all buses empty

- Buses are running back to back – sometimes stacking since they are on the same route
- Significant lighting and noise impacts from the consistent buses
  - Anecdote provided of families with babies that are being kept awake/woken up in the middle of the night by the lighting and noise
- Buses bottom out at every dip in the road causing road damages, bus damages, and create a loud banging noise
- Bus drivers are not driving safely – speeding, running over curbs
  - A resident’s son had been run off the road into vehicles and was injured
- Large concerns about safety
  - Pedestrian safety and children safety
  - Concerns that children will be hit before any changes occur
- More MTS and City data is needed – data on metrics of ridership (location, frequency, use)
- Concerns about emissions and impacts as not all buses are electric
- Concerns with the planning (are there other motives?)
- Conflict with the information on the MTS website (clean vehicles) and that there are gas buses on the 227 route
- Concerns with the large number of training buses driving through the City
- Need to reroute the bus route (consider 9<sup>th</sup> Street instead)
- Concerns about impacts to density and zoning
- Do not want a bus shelter at 3<sup>rd</sup> street
- Impacting the Brigantine/local business with customers complaining
- Buses are stopping/parking in front of Pier Plaza for extended periods of time
- Buses are breaking down
- Concerns about roadway damage
- Concerns if anything will actually happen/change
- Frustrations with lack of available information on the MTS website
  - In 2019 the proposed route was not made available, but this is the year the route was determined to go on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street
- Issues with turning radius of buses (unable to safely make turns)

Following the meeting, notes were relayed to the City’s MTS Board representative who expressed community concerns at the November 9 MTS Board meeting. MTS staff also received comments. Follow-up meetings are being scheduled to determine next-steps.

Any questions can be directed to Tyler Foltz, City Manager, City of Imperial Beach, 825 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91932, Phone: (619) 423-0314, E-Mail: [tfoltz@imperialbeachca.gov](mailto:tfoltz@imperialbeachca.gov).