



# AGENDA REPORT

## CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

### City Council Meeting

910 Calle Negocio  
2nd Floor  
San Clemente, California  
www.san-clemente.org

**Meeting Date:** 1/17/2023

**Agenda Item:** 8A.

**Department:** City Manager

**Prepared By:** Jonathan Lightfoot, Economic Development Officer

**Subject:**

Consideration of Pilot "Green Line" Trolley Route

**Fiscal Impact:**

The City Council has previously authorized a supplemental appropriation of \$59,230 to account # 021-808-43690 (Other Professional Services) for continued weekend Trolley operations between January and March of 2023 on the red line and \$34,000 for two trolleys on a pilot route for up to 12 weeks prior to Memorial Day weekend.

**Summary:**

Staff recommends that a pilot route connect to a stop that is shared or near to the Red Line. The two busiest stops on the Red Line route are at the San Clemente Outlets and at the San Clemente Pier. Staff has provided two alternatives for consideration: an inland route linked to the Outlets (Attachment 2) and a southern route linked to the Pier (Attachment 3).

**Background:**

At its December 20, 2022 regular business meeting, the City Council authorized an extension of the trolley operations contract with LAZ for the 2023 season, adding Saturday and Sunday service on the red line for January through March and approving a pilot route for the two Blue Line trolleys, which would otherwise be out of service until Memorial Day weekend. The Council asked staff to return with example routes for consideration at their regular meeting on January 17, 2023.

**Discussion:**

To maximize the effectiveness of the temporary pilot route ("Green Line"), staff recommends that either it connect to the Red Line's Pier or Outlets stop, which are the two busiest loading points for the Trolley and have access to public parking. The existing red and blue line routes are shown in Attachment 1.

**Timeframe.** Staff recommends that the pilot "Green Line" operate from Saturday, March 11 until Sunday, May 21, 2023. The following weekend, Memorial Day weekend, the trollies will return to their regularly scheduled Blue Line route as required by the City's Measure V Grant Agreement with OCTA. Staff recommends a target driving time of 25 minutes for the pilot route. With two trolleys operating, this would keep headways between 15-20 minutes at each stop, consistent with the wait times at the Red Line stops.

**Inland Route.** The proposed inland route, shown in Attachment 2, would begin at the Outlets with loading at the same location normally used to service the Blue Line during the summer. Staff recommends the following stops:

- Marblehead Inland Park
- Vista Hermosa Sports Park
- Plaza Pacifica
- Rancho San Clemente Park
- Outlets at San Clemente

These stops were selected because of their proximity to shopping, parking, recreation, and accessibility to inland neighborhoods, including Marblehead, Forster Ranch, Talega, and Rancho San Clemente. This route has a projected drive time of 26 minutes. With operations limited to Saturday and Sunday, staff does not recommend stops in the business parks or at the high school, which are mostly vacant on those days. Other nearby stops that staff considered include the Talega Village Center, Richard T. Steed Park, and the Gateway Village Plaza (near the high school). They were removed, however, to maintain the desired 15-20 minute headways along the route.

**Southern Route.** The southern route, shown in Attachment 3, would begin in the Pier Bowl and proceed in a loop to the south with stops at or near the following locations:

- Dorothy Visser Senior Center
- Ralph's / Zebra House Coffee
- S. El Camino Real / Ramona (near America's Best Value Inn and Surfbreak Hotel)
- S. El Camino Real / Magdalena Off Ramp (near Travelodge and Calafia Inn)
- San Clemente Inn / Raya's Paradise
- San Clemente State Beach (Calafia)
- Ola Vista at Valencia
- T-Street Beach Access
- Pier Bowl

These stops were selected because they provide additional public beach access and access to other visitor serving locations, such as hotels along South El Camino Real and the State Park campground off Avenida Calafia. This route has a projected drive time of 23 minutes. There is public parking at the Pier, T-Street, and near the Dorothy Visser Senior Center; however, the other stops would predominately be on-street stops that are near commercial areas that have restricted private parking. Other stops considered by staff include the Riviera Beach access and the San Clemente Municipal Golf Course.

***Plan and Policy Consistency:***

The project is consistent with the following General Plan Goals and Policies:

- Mobility and Complete Streets Element Goal: Create a comprehensive, multimodal transportation system that provides all users with safe connections to homes, commercial centers, job centers, schools, community centers, open spaces, recreation areas and visitor destinations.
- Policy M-2.08. Transit Service. We support the maintenance of existing bus service and encourage transit service enhancements by OCTA to ensure all residents have access to adequate and safe transit.
- Policy M-2.32. Grant Funding. We pursue Federal, State, County, regional and other funding opportunities to increase bicycle and pedestrian mode share percentages, improve

transportation system performance, and to improve air quality through a balanced, multi-modal transportation system.

- Policy M-4.03. Automobile Parking Demand. We reduce automobile parking demand by improving public transit, bicycle and pedestrian mobility, particularly to and from our key destination areas.

In addition, the action is consistent with the following goal of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan in that the City's Trolley program provides links to shopping, dining, and recreation opportunities while also connecting to significant pedestrian facilities such as the San Clemente Coastal Trail.

- Goal 4: Cycling and walking are encouraged through improvements that support smart growth, public transit, lowered greenhouse gas emissions and healthy lifestyles.

**Council Strategy:**

The action is consistent with Council Strategy 2 - Grow resident confidence and value in City services and operations - in that it would expand an effective and popular service for visitors and tourists that provides convenient access to popular destinations in the City while relieving demand for parking in these areas.

**Recommended Actions:**

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Establish the operating timeframe of March 11 through May 21, 2023 on Saturdays and Sundays for the pilot "Green Line" Trolley; and
2. Direct staff to pursue the inland route or the southern route for the pilot "Green Line" Trolley; and
3. Direct city staff to collaborate with LAZ to establish the precise curb locations and signage for the temporary pilot route.

**Attachment:**

1. Map of existing Red and Blue Line Trolley Routes
2. Map of Inland Option for the Pilot
3. Map of Southern Option for the Pilot

**Notification:**

San Clemente Chamber of Commerce; San Clemente Downtown Business Association; staff at the San Clemente State Park

## 2022 TROLLEY STOPS

### NORTHBOUND - RED LINE

- 1 San Clemente Pier
- 2 Ave. Del Mar & Calle Seville
- 3 Ave. Del Mar & Ola Vista
- 4 El Camino Real & Ave. Del Mar
- 5 El Camino Real & Ave. Palizada
- 6 El Camino Real & El Portal
- 7 El Camino Real & Calle de Los Molinos
- 9 Outlets at San Clemente (Red-Blue Line Transfer)

### SOUTHBOUND - RED LINE

- 9 Outlets at San Clemente (Red-Blue Line Transfer)
- 10 Ave. Vista Hermosa at Via Pamplona
- 8 Metrolink Station (North Beach)
- 12 El Camino Real & Calle de Los Molinos
- 13 El Camino Real & Mariposa
- 14 El Camino Real & Ave. Del Mar
- 15 Ave. Del Mar & Ola Vista
- 16 Ave. Del Mar & Calle Seville
- 16A Ave. Del Mar & Ave. Granada

### NORTHBOUND - BLUE LINE

- 9 Outlets at San Clemente (Red-Blue Line Transfer)
- 10 Ave. Vista Hermosa at Via Pamplona
- 8 Metrolink Station (North Beach)
- 17 Camino Capistrano & Ave. Vaquero
- 17A Camino Capistrano & Via Breve
- 18 Camino Capistrano & Camino Mira Costa
- 19 Cam. Mira Costa & Cam. de Estrella (Dana Point Transfer)

### SOUTHBOUND - BLUE LINE

- 19 Cam. Capistrano & Cam. de Estrella (Dana Point Transfer)
- 20 Camino Capistrano & Camino Mira Costa
- 21 Camino Capistrano & Via Breve
- 22 Camino Capistrano & Ave. Vaquero
- 9 Outlets at San Clemente (Red-Blue Line Transfer)

## HOURS OF OPERATION

- Monday-Friday, 12 noon - 10 pm
- Saturday, 10 am - 10 pm
- Sunday, 10 am - 8 pm

### ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY SERVICES

- Memorial Day: 10 am - 8 pm
- Independence Day (July 4): 11 am - 11 pm
- Labor Day: 10 am - 8 pm

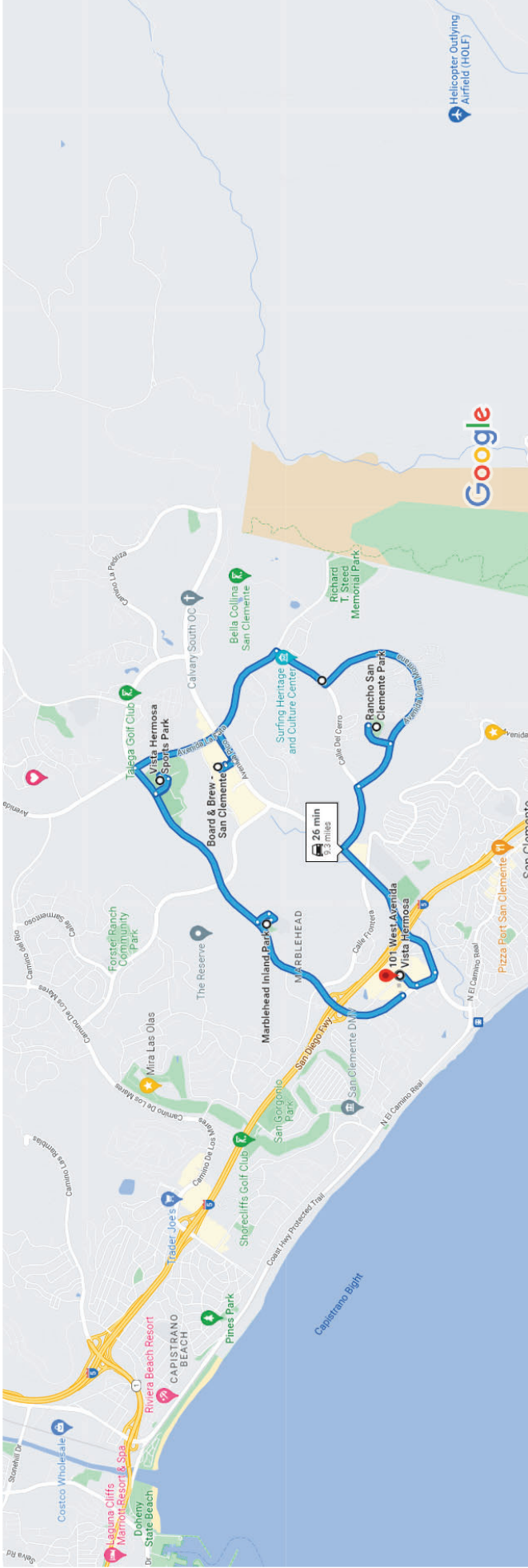
Hours/days are subject to change.



- San Clemente Trolleys stop every 15 minutes.
- Trolleys are ADA accessible.
- Bike racks available.
- No pets allowed.

**STAY INFORMED**  
For real-time Trolley tracking visit [www.sctrolley.com](http://www.sctrolley.com)





 via W Avenida Vista Hermosa 26 min  
26 min without traffic 9.3 miles

### Explore 101 W Avenida Vista Hermosa

Restaurants Hotels Gas stations Parking Lots More

Google Maps San Clemente Pier, California 92672 to San Clemente Pier, California 92672 Drive 5.7 miles, 23 min



Map data ©2023 Google 1000 ft

 **via Avenida Victoria**  
 23 min without traffic  
 5.7 miles

Explore San Clemente Pier