

# SEMTA reduces schedule for suburban commuters

Service on seven Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) regularly scheduled bus routes and the commuter rail service which serve Oakland County residents will be changed effective Monday, July 6.

Saturday service will be reduced on the 425 Northland-Oakland route, Sunday service will be eliminated on the 430 Clawson route, Saturday service will be reduced and Sunday service will be eliminated on the 470 Berkley route, and Saturday service on the 460 Orchard Mall-Northland route will be eliminated. Also, service on the 790 Perry-Walton route will be eliminated

as a regularly scheduled route, the 845 Rochester train shuttle will be eliminated and the 801 Troy-Dearborn Park and Ride service will be eliminated.

At the same time, the SEMTA commuter rail schedule will be revamped. An early afternoon express departure from Renaissance Center to Birmingham will be added at 3:45 p.m. An additional express train will leave Birmingham at 4:30 p.m. arriving at Detroit's Renaissance Center at 5:20 p.m. All stops at Pleasant Ridge will be eliminated and the 7:23 a.m. inbound and the 4:54 p.m. outbound stops at Ferndale will be discontinued. Also, the 7:08 a.m.

inbound stop and the 5:33 p.m. and 5:58 p.m. outbound stops at Chrysler Headquarters in Highland Park will be eliminated. Minor will also go into effect July 6.

"These service reductions and changes are extremely painful," said SEMTA General Manager Larry E. Salsi. "SEMTA, however, is faced with rapidly increasing labor and fuel costs which are above the current high rate of inflation. In addition, ridership is leveling off, state funding is being reduced and aid from Washington is starting to dry up," he explained.

"When SEMTA staff identified routes which were candidates for cost reductions through re-routing, reduced schedules, change to a different form of public transportation or elimination, they carefully explored other alternatives for passengers. As a result, 95

percent of the passengers affected by the reductions and changes will still have access to an alternative form of public transportation," Salsi pointed out.

Passengers who use the Saturday service on the 425 Northland-Oakland Mall route are encouraged to plan their trips to coincide with the reduced schedule. Alternate service will not be available.

Saturday service on the 470 Berkley route will be reduced and alternate service will be available on the 425 Northland-Oakland Mall and 470 Berkley route. No alternate service, however, will be available for the Sunday service which will be eliminated.

Alternate service is available on the SEMTA sponsored small bus service, Oakland County Advanced Transit Reservation (OCART), the 425 Northland-

Oakland Mall and the 470 Berkley route for passengers who use the 480 Orchard Mall-Northland route which will be eliminated July 6. Advance reservations are necessary for OCART service and may be made by calling 399-3222.

The 790 Perry-Walton route will be eliminated as a regularly scheduled bus route. Service will be provided, however, by OCART small buses which will travel to and from downtown Pontiac and Oakland University with stops along the way to pick up passengers on a demand-responsive basis. There will be three designated pick-up points located at Saginaw and Huron, Glenwood Plaza and Oakland University. Passengers boarding and disembarking at designated pick-up points will pay the regularly scheduled SEMTA bus fare and do not need advance reservations. Passen-

gers boarding the buses on a demand-responsive basis will pay the SEMTA small bus fare and will need to make advance reservations. Passengers will not be able to flag an OCART bus for boarding at locations between the designated pick-up points. Advance reservations will be necessary. OCART bus service is available weekdays between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. For OCART advance reservations or information, call 332-3222.

The 6:55 a.m. 790 Perry-Walton east-bound trip from Saginaw and Huron Street and the 5:42 p.m. westbound from Oakland University will continue to be operated by a regularly scheduled SEMTA bus.

For additional information regarding SEMTA schedule changes call the SEMTA Customer Information Center at 962-5515 or 1-800-462-6161.

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