

Council considers twisting the stem of Red Apple

By Kurt Madar The Daily Times
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FARMINGTON Farmington's City Council considered changes to its Red Apple Transit system Tuesday night. No action was taken but the city began considering two route-change proposals and received a recommendation from the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council concerning bus passes for area students. The first proposed route change involved only minor tweaks to the current transit map, Metropolitan Planning Organization Planner Joe Delmagori told the council.

"The big change with this proposal is reversing the direction of the Red Route," Delmagori said. "The reason is that San Juan Center for Independent Living is moving to San Juan Boulevard. As it is now, the bus would have to do a detour to get to the center."

Other changes would include adding stops at the medical centers on 30th Street and making the airport stop on demand.

The second route change proposal was more drastic and would involve having buses running back and forth on the same line, so that riders would be able to cross the street to go the other direction.

Proposal two creates two spines: One running east-west along Butler and Dustin avenues, and the other running north-south along Main Street.

"The second option brings us more in the direction of the study's recommendations," Delmagori said, referring to a city-commissioned study of how the transit system could change to better reflect rider needs. "Like the first option, the Red Route would stay the same but be flipped counterclockwise."

Both

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options will be given a chance for public input in the coming months, and are scheduled to be presented to the council in a finalized version in December.

In an effort to promote teen use of the Red Apple Transit system, the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council presented a proposal to the council recommending a student pass.

"Every year we ask teens what would they would change about the community," said advisory council mentor Melanie Leeson. "This year a major concern was transportation."

Under the advisory council's proposal, in October students would be able to purchase a \$15 pass that would allow them to ride anywhere the transit system services through May. The pass would be restricted to students between 13 and 19 years of age.

"I like free," said Councilor Mary Fischer. "How about if students maintain a C grade point average then it would be free?"

In the end, the council was accepting of the idea of a student pass, and looked favorably on a pilot program starting next month.

"Ultimately, I think we need to start going more places to draw more kids in," Fischer said. "We have children that want to use the Boys & Girls Club and don't have any way to get there."

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