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# Watsonville Bus Plan Advances

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There were no protests at Wednesday's public hearing on the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District proposed annexation of Watsonville to the district.

Commissioners took no formal action at the hearing, but will take the enabling action at Friday's regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Santa Cruz city council chambers.

They left no doubt action will be taken as speedily as possible. The commission is hurrying to meet a Dec. 31 deadline in order to get the annexed area on the next tax roll.

Walter Keller, district manager, told the audience at Wednesday's hearing two new buses to serve the Watsonville routes already have been delivered.

Service can start as early as Feb. 1, if the district can get the Diesel fuel needed to run the new buses.

Current regulations permit purchase of only the same amount of Diesel fuel as the district bought in 1972.

"That would be disastrous as far as the transit district is concerned," Keller said, "because we have increased our mileage by 50 percent already and we

will add another 50 percent when we start rolling to Watsonville over three more routes."

Keller said the district has applied for the amount of fuel it needs, but no response to the request for additional supplies has been received yet.

When the Watsonville service starts, the district will operate two routes within the city and immediate environs, and a third down Freedom Boulevard into Aptos. This latter route is particularly planned to serve the needs of Cabrillo College students living in the southern end of the county.

There will be hourly service on a 10-hour per day basis on the longer route, and half-hour service within the overlapping areas within Watsonville. Initially, buses will run only Monday through Friday.

For a 25-cent fare passengers may ride anywhere the district buses travel, Keller said.

The longest discussion at the public hearing dealt with the reorganization of the commission. Keller said the board membership will be expanded, and the Watsonville area will have two representatives on it — one from within the city boundaries and the other from the county territory in the Watsonville area.