

New from SOCATA

The 2009-2010 Transit Guide is now available!

For anyone who uses public transportation in southern California, the Transit Guide is a must have. The guide has a complete list of all the bus and rail transit from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

You can purchase the Transit Guide on our web site at: <http://socata.net/guide.html>

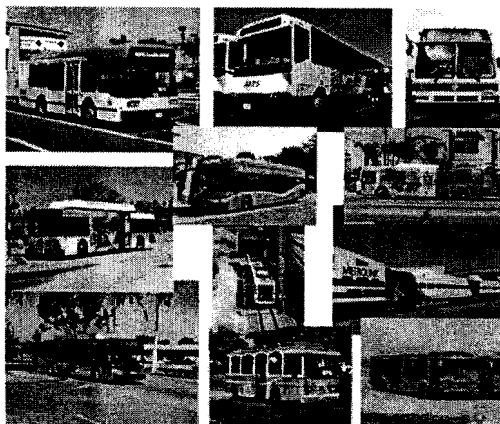
You can also order the 2009-10 Transit Guide by sending a check or money order for **\$15.00** to:

**Southern California Transit Advocates
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before they are all gone!*



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2009-2010 Transit Guide
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***Including information on bus and rail
transportation from Santa Barbara to San Diego***

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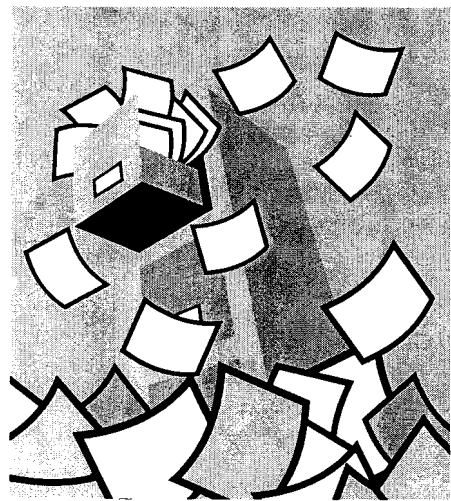
Are you buried in paper?

Are you interested in getting your SOCATA newsletter in PDF?

We are considering offering the SOCATA newsletter in PDF format to our members.

The PDF newsletters will be available a week before the meeting and will be in full color.

If you think you would like to get the PDF newsletter instead of the printed version email us at:
rtd1121@yahoo.com



Transit Updates

AVTA

On December 24th and 31st, AVTA will offer 1:00 pm return trips on Commuter Lines 785, 786, and 787. With no commuter service on December 25th or January 1st.

DowneyLink

Will be operating on Saturdays from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm starting on November 28th and ending on December 19th.



Foothill Transit

On December 25th and January 1st, the following Foothill Transit Lines will operate on weekend schedules:

178, 185, 187, 195, 197, 269, 272, 274, 280, 281, 284, 285, 286, 289, 291, 292, 480, 482, 486, 488, 492, and the Silver Streak.

No other lines will be running on those holidays.

All Foothill Transit Stores will close at 6 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The West Covina, Claremont, Pomona, and El Monte Transit Stores will also be closed on New Year's Day. The Puente Hills Mall Store will be open on New Year's Day 10 am to 6 pm.

LADOT Downtown DASH

LADOT has started a new program to track the progress of the downtown DASH buses. Visit <http://dtdash.com> and can follow buses on a Google map or get the next arrival using a stop list. You can also call (213) 785-3858 and navigate through the automated information. Finally you can text **dtdash** [stop number] to 414111.

Montebello Bus Lines

On December 25th and January 1st, Montebello Bus Lines will be operating on Sunday Schedules except Lines 50 and 60 which will operate on a Saturday Schedule.



Pasadena ARTS

On December 14th ARTS will cancel Route 70 due to budget shortfalls. For more information on alternate routes call Pasadena ARTS at (626) 744-4055 or visit on the web: www.cityofpasadena.net/artsbus

PASADENA
ARTS
Area Rapid Transit System

70
ROUTE

(Continued on Page 4)

Transit Updates Continued

OCTA

Bus passengers in Orange County can now text OCTA for bus arrival times. For details on how to use the new Text4Next program you can visit www.octa.net/octago, email busalerts@octa.net, or call the Text4Next hotline at (714) 560-5900.

RTA

On January 10th RTA will make adjustments to the following routes: 1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 22, 27, 30, 41, 50, 53, 74, 79, 208, 212 and 217. They will also begin serving the new Perris Station Transit Center.

On New Year's Eve, RTA will offer free rides to passengers after 6 p.m. on all its fixed-routes.

San Diego MTS

Sales tax shortfalls and the improper elimination of State Transit Assistance funds are forcing the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) to reduce its expenses by more than \$7 million. To preserve the network of weekday services and to impact as few riders as possible, MTS is proposing to substantially reduce service on Sundays.

By altering service on Sundays, MTS will affect the least amount of riders and routes, while still closing the budget gap. Approximately 145,000 people use MTS on Sundays, as opposed to 274,000 on weekdays.

To inform the public and gather input, MTS will be hosting public outreach meetings at various transit stations and centers throughout the week. All information available at the outreaches is also available online at www.sdmts.com.

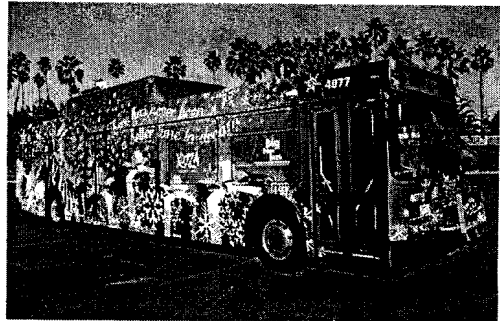
<http://www.sdmts.com/Marketing/ProposedServiceChanges2010.asp>

Thousand Oaks Transit (TOT)

From Nov. 21st to Jan. 3rd, TOT is offering weekend bus service from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Holiday Buses

Santa Monica Big Blue Bus's famous Christmas wrapped bus made its debut on Nov. 28th and will operate on various routes through Jan. 4th, 2010. Norwalk Transit also has a holiday wrapped bus that has been seen on various routes with in the system.



Historic Buses hit the streets of Manhattan for the Holidays.

Starting on Nov. 23rd, New York MTA began operating their fleet of historic buses on Line M42. The buses operate limited hours weather permitting. 🚌 🚌 🚌



(Photo of 9098 by Joe Caronetti on 11/23/09)

Candidate Statements

At the December meeting we will be having elections for the 2010 board members. The following are the statements for each of the candidates.

Director at Large:

"I have been a SOCATA member for 11 years and have served two terms as a Director. I am very passionate in my views on improving the quality of public transit in Southern California. However, passion alone is not enough to bring about better transit in our region. My experience in SOCATA has taught me that we must combine our passion with an effective advocacy that is based on intelligent transit policy analysis and extensive public outreach. I believe I can be an effective transit advocate by continuing to serve as a SOCATA Director. Thank you for your support." Nate Zablen

"I bring experience as a long time transit activist and rider on many systems. The transit cause has been helped by my appearances before the Long Beach and Torrance city councils. I am a regular at MTA's So. Bay Sector meetings. The downtown San Pedro Amtrak bus stop was because of my e-mails. I have had pro-transit letters published in the Daily Breeze, called in to radio talk shows, and attended MTA, MAX and PV Transit board meetings. This is my first time running and I am fired up for change. I need your vote. Thank You." J.K. Drummond

"I bring knowledge and experience to all aspects of public transit activities. I have served three terms as a Director and continue to serve as SOCATA's representative to the Metro Westside Sector and San Gabriel Valley Sector Governance Councils. Thank you for your past support. I will appreciate your vote." Ken Ruben

Treasurer:

"I have been happy to serve as your Treasurer for the past several years, and I am willing to serve another year at the membership's pleasure." Hank Fung

Recording Secretary:

"It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as Recording Secretary for the past two years, and I will be equally privileged and pleased to continue serving in that office as long as the membership would like me to do so." Kymberleigh Richards

Vice President:

"The recent budget cuts and the passage of Measure R require SOCATA's attention to ensure that our transportation resources are allocated intelligently. I ask for the opportunity to continue representing and assisting SOCATA as it helps to guide the region's transportation future in these difficult but exciting times." Alex Schaffer

"The next year will be interesting. Governments are encouraging transit use but cutting funding and service in an unprecedented manner. One goal of SOCATA should be to help straighten out this mess. Let's light a candle, not just curse the darkness." Charles Hobbs

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Santa came early this year! The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) disbanded its Maglev Task Force at the Nov. 5th SCAG Transportation Committee meeting. SCAGLEV is dead!

I have been making occasional contributions to streetsblog (<http://la.streetsblog.org/>), most recently a commentary on "Metro in Transition". And the power of posting there is proven by the fact that my notice on the Dec. 2nd SCAG Federal Certification Review Public Listening Session was how 1/3 of the attendees heard about it. I also attended and joined Hank Fung in severely criticizing SCAG's inadequate public outreach (no public meetings for comment on the draft Regional Transportation Plan recently adopted? For shame!).

The L.A. Times reports Metrolink CEO David Solow is under pressure ("Some on Metrolink board question leadership of David Solow" Nov. 22). The last management crisis at the agency a decade ago was solved by making Richard Stanger the fall guy and giving Solow (Stanger's #2) the top job.

Perhaps this time despite Metrolink's insular culture things will not be swept under the rug without questions being answered about what role the Board had in the problems, etc. I have brought to the attention of the Times' reporter who did the above article (Rich Connell) that reports about problems with Metrolink's new locomotives (per the Nov. 22 Riverside Press-Enterprise article "Metrolink delays vex riders and officials") are no surprise given previous comments at Metrolink Board meetings about these problems before the agency even took delivery of the locomotives. These were mentioned in this column thanks to a tip from Faithful Reader back in Jan. 2008. I hope Connell does a follow-up

on why Metrolink took delivery of equipment it knew had problems without seemingly having them fixed.

After reflection I see the tunnel mania engulfing the Regional Connector in re Little Tokyo as DOA given the additional \$200 million cost would likely blow the cost effectiveness of the line out of the water for federal funding. Our competition for New Starts (Denver et al) could point to this extra expense as an argument why the money should go to them instead.

It was gratifying that the advance publicity I arranged at Angelus Plaza resulted in 20+ residents joining us at our Nov. meeting for the CityRide presentation. The presentation left me wondering just how much can you legibly fit on the memo line of a check? They expect you to write there your code ID number plus if you want them to load value onto a TAP card also your TAP card's number. And instructions if you want value split between the CityRide and TAP cards. HUH?

Quote of the month: Mayor Kelly McDowell of El Segundo, "I would rather see a slaughterhouse than the rail yard because it brings more benefit to the city. At least it would pay taxes." (quoted in "El Segundo ready to fight proposed MTA rail yard" Daily Breeze Nov. 16).

I'll conclude by noting Carolyn Flowers, Metro's chief operating officer, has resigned to accept a job as the CEO of the Charlotte Area Transit System in North Carolina. Best wishes to Ms. Flowers in her new role.



Metro Changes for December 13th.

On December 13th, Metro will be making several service changes. Below is a summary of those changes.

Major service changes:

Line 902 will begin weekday peak-hour operation in the San Fernando Valley, operating between Pacoima and North Hollywood Station. The line operates on Van Nuys Blvd., making all local stops, and via Burbank Blvd. with only one stop at Valley College (Fulton Ave.). Peak-hour service on **Line 233** (the base Van Nuys Blvd. service) will be reduced as a result of the new service.

Line 910 (Metro Silver Line) will begin operation between El Monte Station (via the El Monte Busway) and Artesia Transit Center (via the Harbor Transitway), with a limited-stop connecting segment through downtown Los Angeles. The express segments of **Line 484** (Valley Blvd.) and **Line 490** (Ramona Blvd.) will be eliminated and the local service east of El Monte Station will operate as Lines 190 and 194; the express segments of **Line 444** (Hawthorne Blvd.-Artesia Blvd.) and **Line 446-447** (Avalon Blvd.) will be eliminated and the local service south of Artesia Transit Center will operate as Line 246-247 (existing route and stops, with a new south terminal at Point Fermin Park) and Line 344 (limited on Artesia Blvd. and local on Hawthorne Blvd.). **Line 445** (downtown express to/from San Pedro Park-Ride) will also be modified to eliminate all freeway stops north of Artesia Transit Center, other than at Harbor Freeway Green Line Station. Service levels on **Line 442** (downtown express to/from Hawthorne) will also be reduced.

Minor service changes:

Line 33-333 (Venice Blvd.) will have a minor reroute on westbound service in downtown Los Angeles; from Main/Venice service will operate via 17th and Hill Sts. to Venice Blvd. A new routing for eastbound service in Santa Monica via Colorado Ave. and Main St. was implemented in November as a detour and is now permanent.

Line 71 will be rerouted at County/USC Medical Center to serve the outpatient clinic and the new hospital addition on Marengo St.

Line 96 (Riverside Dr.) will have a minor reroute via Fletcher Dr. and Glendale Blvd. to serve the new Silverlake branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Line 153 (branch of Line 152 Roscoe Blvd.-Vineland Ave., operating via San Fernando Rd.) will be canceled and all service will operate via the Line 152 routing (via Glenoaks Blvd.).

Line 210 (Vine St.-Crenshaw Blvd.) will now begin southbound service from a stop on Argyle Ave. adjacent to Hollywood/Vine Red Line Station.

Line 715 (Manchester Ave.-Firestone Blvd. Rapid) will add a stop at Paramount Blvd.

Other routes will have minor service adjustments. For additional information visit: http://www.metro.net/riding_metro/special_services/service_enhancements.htm



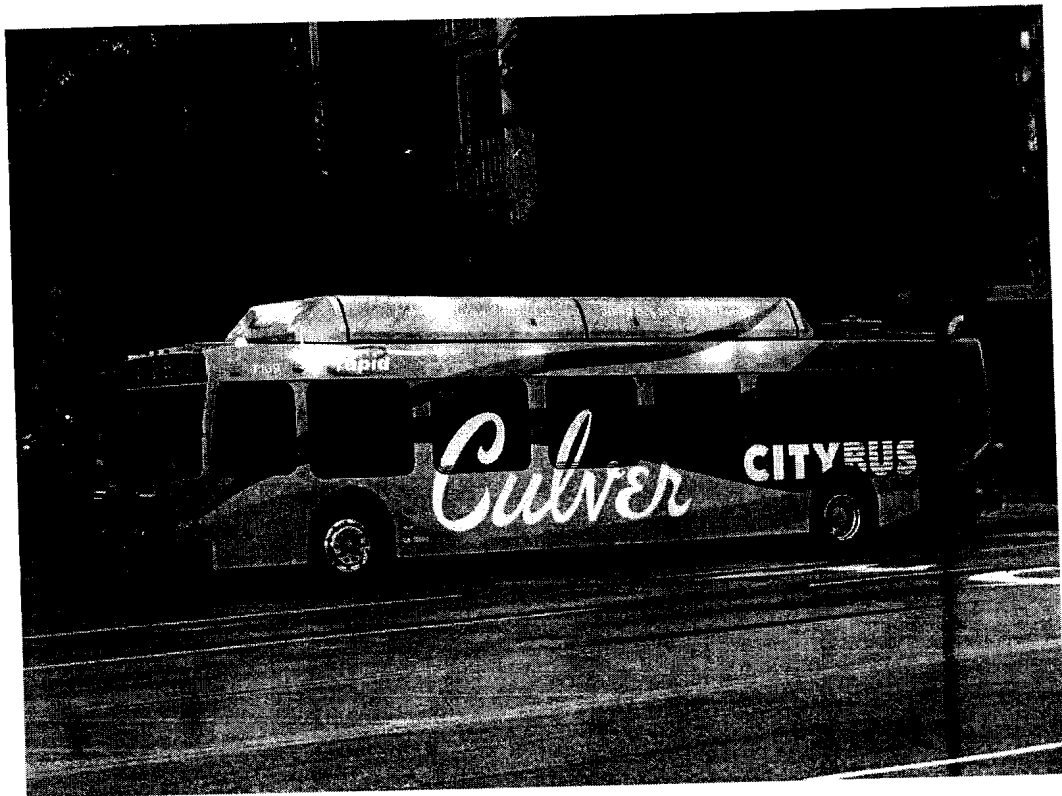
Candidate Statements Continued

President:

"I have been active member of SOCATA since 2008 after being a longtime frequent visitor and has also been a member of Metro Westside/Central Sector Governance Council since January 2006. I believe that the most effective approach for an organization to succeed is through solid planning and execution of its campaigns and a strong working partnership between its members and elected officials." Jerard Wright

"It is time for a new direction in our organization and I can deliver how we are going to go about this. I have been a transit advocate even since I was a teenager. Going to RTD public meetings. I was Vice President of my dorm in college. When Pat Moser (RIP) died and Mr. Sharp (our past president) asked if I would be able to assume the responsibilities of Recording Secretary 2000, I was very honored to step in. To say the least it is high time to elect a new face with promising fresh ideas. I would appreciate your vote. Thank-You. Joseph Dunn (who will do the job Dunn right)" 🚌 🚌 🚌

Coming Soon - Culver City Bus Rapid Line 6



Members in Action

Addendas to last month's column: add Mike Baron to the attendees at the Oct. 26th Westside Subway Extension meeting at the Los Angeles County Art Museum. Also add J.K. Drummond to those at the Nov. 3rd presentation on the Harbor Subdivision Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis in San Pedro.

John Ulloth made comments on the Ansaldo-Breda contract vote as a call in to Larry Mantle's Airtalk program on KPCC Oct. 1st.

Our Nov. 8th preview of the Gold Line eastside extension was a great success. Among those who participated were Woody Rosner, Charles Hobbs, Nate Zablen, Nick Motanak, J.K. Drummond, Joe Dunn, Paul Castillo, Carlos Osuna, Chaffee Yiu, Kymberleigh Richards, Mike Baron, Dave Snowden, Charles Powell, Dana Gabbard, Juan Cornejo, Ken Ruben, Hank Fung and Guillermo Merino plus guests Eugene Salinsky and Eddie Issacs.

Our Nov. 15th booth at the Gold Line Eastside Extension celebration was also a great success. Members who assisted or dropped by to say hi include John Ulloth (set up), Kymberleigh Richards, Lionel Jones, Paul Castillo, Joe Dunn, Woody Rosner, Mike Baron, Carlos Osuna, Ken Ruben, Nate Zablen and Armando Avalos. Plus Bart Reed and Nick Motonak worked at the Transit Coalition booths.

The Aug.-Sept. issue of The Paddle, newsletter of the Pacific Bus Museum, included the article "Metro 401 Express to Pasadena" by Andy Novak (w/photos by Novak).

Kymberleigh Richards was quoted in the Nov. 5th Beverly Press article "Mayor Wants Subway on the Fast Track" and in Neon Tommy's (<http://www.neontommy.com>) profile of infamous gadfly John Walsh "So Many Windmills".

Richards along with Bart Reed were quoted in Neon Tommy's piece "L.A.'s Metro Takes Aim At Cheaters" on the installation of turnstiles at Metrorail stations.

Tom Rubin and Bart Reed were quoted in the Nov. 17th Los Angeles Times article "Low ridership tarnishes Gold Line extension's luster"

Ken Alpern latest contributions to the CityWatch website include "Expo and Crenshaw Lines: Under Whose Authority?", "LA Transpo: How About Some Good News", "The Expo Line Should Connect, Not Conquer, Neighbors" and "Giving Thanks During the Recession".

Jerard Wright's "Bringing LA Together" also appeared on the CityWatch website.

Ken Ruben rode two Gold Line eastside extension previews besides ours - on Nov. 7th with the San Diego Electric Railway Association and Nov. 9th with the Electric Railway Historical Association.

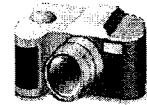
Also on Nov. 9th Ruben along with Tom Grose attended the Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector Governance Council Meeting.

Ruben along with Armando Avalos and John Andoh rode the very first "regular service" Gold Line Eastside Extension train (with Siemens cars) at 3:40 a.m. the morning of Nov. 15th.

On Nov. 4th Ruben and Joe Dunn attended the METRO Westside Sector forum.

On Nov. 19th Ruben and Bart Reed attended the transportation forum hosted by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. 🚗 🚗 🚗

Photos of the Month



*NABI 61435 at the
Irvine Station on the
new LAX to Irvine
Flyaway.
(Chaffee Yiu Photo)*

*Baldwin Park Transit
Blue Bird 5827 near
the Baldwin Park
Metrolink Station on
November 27, 2009.
(Andrew Novak Photo)*



Bulletin Board

Our thanks to guide David Puglisi of Metro for a fabulous preview of the Gold Line East-side Extension on Nov. 8th. And to Lauren Cencic and John Fong of LADOT for an informative presentation on CityRide at our Nov. 14th meeting.

At our Dec. 12th meeting we will have the election for 2010 officers and directors. The Election Committee this year is Woody Rosner (Chair), Edmund Buckley and Nick Matonak.

Nominees include:

Directors at Large (select 3) -- Ken Ruben, Nate Zablen, Alex Schaffer, J.K. Drummond and Kymberleigh Richards

Treasurer - Hank Fung

Recording Secretary - Kymberleigh Richards

Corresponding Secretary - Dana Gabbard

Vice President - Alex Schaffer,

Charles Hobbs, Jerard Wright

President - Jerard Wright, Joe Dunn, and Lionel Jones

Afterward, we'll go to Clifton's in downtown L.A. (Broadway near 7th Street) for our annual banquet starting circa 4 p.m. Trinkets, door prizes, cafeteria food and a chance to chat with fellow members. Come and join the fun!

The 2009-2010 Transit Guide is ready and available for purchase--see details on our website. Also the website page on detours (<http://socata.net/21.html>) has been updated with links to various resources for service announcements. Check it out!

Monday, Dec. 14th Move LA and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art are co-sponsoring a forum on the Measure R 30-Year Plan in 10 Years Strategies. The event will be held at LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. in

the Miracle Mile section of Los Angeles, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Speakers will include Art Leahy (Metro CEO), Richard Katz (Metro Board member) and Jaime de la Vega (L.A. Deputy Mayor for Transportation).

The Environmental Defense Fund has just launched a new transportation blog called Way2Go:

<http://blogs.edf.org/transportation/>

We encourage members to regularly check the calendar on our website. We have now upgraded the calendar and you can now get an e-mail reminder 3 days before any listed event (the feature is included in the pop-up box when you click on an event listing).

<http://socata.net/calendar.htm>

Rapid Transit Press now has a list of upcoming bus and rail excursions:

<http://www.rapidtransit-press.com/excursions.html>

