

# ***THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE***

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*Metro contract NABI 3146 at the Long Beach  
Transit Mall on September 12, 2010.  
— Joe Caronetti Photo*



## ***Bulletin Board / Members in Action***

### **Bulletin Board:**

A Metro representative will be our January 8th meeting speaker, giving a status report on TAP. The February 12th speaker will be a representative of OCTA making a presentation on their comprehensive transit plan.

Our thanks to Andy Novak, Craig Barnes and Hank Fung for handling the trinkets for the holiday banquet.

Long time SO.CA.TA member Kymberleigh Richards has elected to step away from the group. She will continue her activities as a member of Metro's San Fernando Valley Governance Council. We wish her well as she commences this new chapter of her advocacy activities.

Amtrak California is seeking stories about travelling on trains, especially during the 30s/40s/50s, to post on its website and in its newsletter Making Tracks. Submit to [traintravelmemories@gmail.com](mailto:traintravelmemories@gmail.com) or send to:

Amtrak California Railroad Stories  
c/o Katz & Associates  
1801 I Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento CA 95811

### **Members in Action:**

We belatedly wish to note that Steve Cromser assisted the Florida Coalition of Railroad Passengers with their National Train Day booth at Tampa Union Station back in early May. Cromser also informs us he hopes to attend the RailPAC meeting in Los Angeles on March 19, 2011.

Ken Ruben attended the Metro Governance Council meetings on December 8th and 13th for the Westside and San Gabriel Valley, respectively. He also was the first customer at the new Subway Sandwich

Shop in Union Station that opened Tuesday December 28th at 11 a.m. He reports for now the shop will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Ruben along with Bart Reed and Jerry Martin attended the LOSSAN (San Diego to San Luis Obispo rail corridor) meeting on December 15th.

Daniel Garcia attended the November 3rd public hearing hosted jointly by the Los Angeles City Commission on Disabilities and the Los Angeles City Council Committee on Arts, Parks, Health and Aging on critical issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act. 🚂 🚂

### ***Are you buried in paper?***



Are you interested in getting your SO.CA.TA newsletter in PDF?

We are now offering the SO.CA.TA 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 would like to get the PDF newsletter instead of the printed version email us at: [rtd1121@yahoo.com](mailto:rtd1121@yahoo.com)

## ***Transit Updates***

### **AVTA**

From December 1st to February 17, 2011, AVTA has relocated several bus stops around the Lancaster City Park Transit Center while construction crews work on the transit center. During the construction boarding locations are now along the northern side of City Park Drive, and the eastern side of City Park Way. For more information on this project contact AVTA at (661) 945-9445 or on line at [www.avta.com](http://www.avta.com)



### ***Beach Cities Transit (BCT)***

Effective January 10th, the Douglas Station bus stop on BCT Line 109 will be relocated to Park Place and Douglas Street on the southwest corner.

### ***Thousand Oaks Transit***

Effective December 30th, Thousand Oaks Transit discontinued the Thousand Oaks to Woodland Hills - Kaiser Hospital Shuttle. The service operated two round trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For questions regarding the service cancellation, please contact Camarillo Health Care District at (805) 388-2529.



### ***Omnitrans (San Bernardino)***

Effective January 3rd, the following changes went into effect at Omnitrans.

Routes 3-4: Run time changes made to all days. Routing around the 4th Street Transit Mall has been altered and the time point has been moved to Court and E Streets.

Route 9: Weekday service adjusted for easier transfer to OmniGo Route 308/309.

Route 15: Weekday service adjusted for easier transfers in downtown San Bernardino and at the Redlands Mall.

Route 65: Minor schedule changes to all days.

Route 66: Weekday service adjusted for easier transfers at Fontana Metrolink and the Montclair Transit Center.

Route 80: Minor schedule changes to all days.

Route 81: Weekday service adjusted for easier transfers at Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink.

Route 82: Weekday service adjusted to accommodate a new tripper service to Jurupa Hills High School and Fontana Adult School.

Route 215: Minor schedule changes to weekday service only.

OmniGo Routes 308/309, 325, and 365: Minor schedule changes to all days.



*(Continued on Page 4)*

## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### ***Omnitrans Continued***

On December 7th, Omnitrans celebrated the opening of the new Chaffey College Transit Center in Rancho Cucamonga. The new center was a joint project between the college and Omnitrans and service began to the new center on January 3rd. Omnitrans Lines 68, 80, and 81. The center has room for expansion and will eventually be a terminal for the new San Bernardino Valley sbX rapid transit service.



### ***Santa Monica Big Blue Bus***

Big Blue Bus announced their first monthly excursions for 2011 on the web site. On February 19th the trip will be to the Viejas Casino and Outlet Center. On March 19th the trip will be to San Juan Capistrano for the return of the swallows. Buses depart from Santa Monica City College at 9 am for each trip. For more information or to make reservations visit Big Blue Bus on the web at: <http://www.bigbluebus.com/home/MonthlyExcursion.asp> or by calling (310) 451-5444.



### ***Amtrak***

Effective May 15, 2010, Amtrak now longer accepts PIN numbers for debit card payments. Only debit cards with a credit card logo will only be accepted and processed as credit card transactions.

Effective September 1, 2010, Amtrak no longer accepts traveler checks, money orders or cashier's checks as a form of payment at stations or onboard trains.

Effective November 8th the Coast Starlight stops at Burbank Airport on both northbound southbound trips. Consult with Amtrak for exact times. No local passengers will be accepted.

### ***Santa Clarita Transit***

Santa Clarita Transit has recently started a new text message alert program for their commuter services. Passengers will receive up to date information on detours, road closures and unforeseen delays in service. Passengers interested in participating in the U-Text program should send a keyword text message to "41411" with the commuter route they want to receive text alerts. The keywords are as follows:

sctransit791  
sctransit792  
sctransit793  
sctransit794  
sctransit795  
sctransit796  
sctransit797  
sctransit798  
sctransit799

*(Continued on Page 8)*



## Getting to know Local Transit by Andrew Novak

### The Breeze Bus

The Breeze Bus is a weekday only service that operates between Lompoc and Santa Maria via Vandenberg Air Force Base.

The service operates Monday through Friday only with three morning trips from both end points. There are five trips in the afternoon from both ends of the line. Service starts at 5:45 am and ends at 6:30 pm.

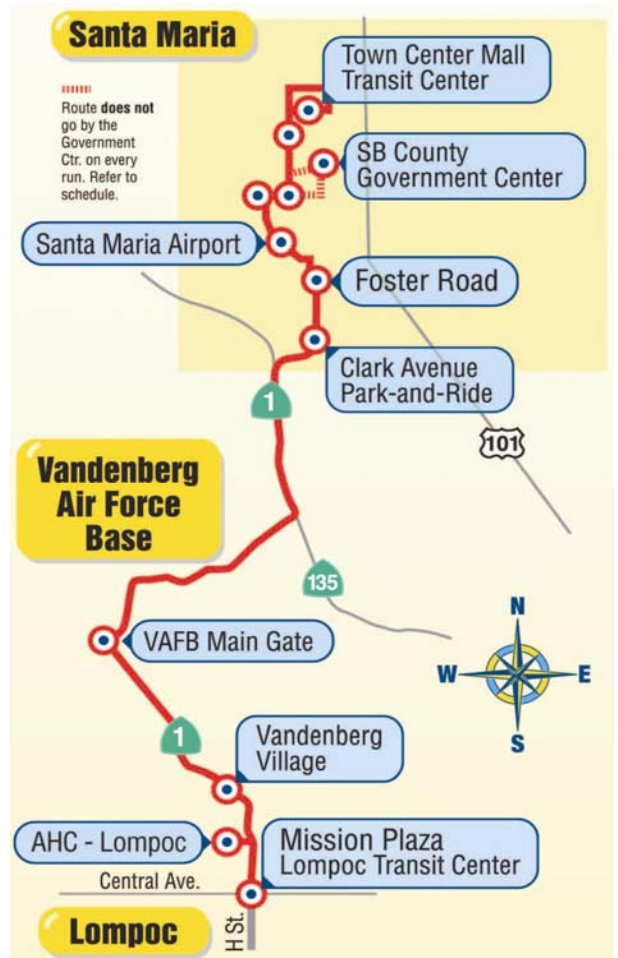
#### Fares:

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Regular One Way                  | \$2.00  |
| Senior/Disabled (S/D)<br>One Way | \$1.00  |
| Regular 31-Day Pass              | \$75.00 |
| S/D 31-Day Pass                  | \$37.50 |
| \$20 Value Pass                  | \$20.00 |
| \$10 Value Pass                  | \$10.00 |

Transfers to COLT (Lompac) and SMAT (Santa Maria) buses are free.

For more information on The Breeze Bus you can call them at (800) 417-2137 or by visiting the website at: [www.thebreezebus.com](http://www.thebreezebus.com)

"Getting to know Local Transit" is a new semi-regular feature where we will profile some of the smaller, lesser known transit agencies in southern California. If you know of an agency you would like to see profiled here, please contact the editor with your ideas. 🚌 🚌



Eric Richardson of blogdowntown.com proved it pays to closely read Metro Board agendas. He noticed one of the closed session items at the December 9th meeting hinted as he headlined "Metro angling to acquire Union Station?" The agency has been mum on this so far but you can bet many of us will be keeping a close eye for any signs of progress.

The September 2010 issue of the Delaware Valley Rail Passenger, newsletter of the Delaware Valley Association of Rail Passengers, includes detailed coverage of the problems Philadelphia's SEPTA is having in working up new fare policies to facilitate the impending introduction of their own smart card. One difference between this process and the roll out of TAP in our area is SEPTA has been trying to anticipate problems before making the card available.

A local example of similar wise cautious action is Access Service's recent site visit to New York's Access-A-Ride paratransit to learn about problems they experienced implementing scheduling software Access Service is in the midst of launching. Metro's TA-Pucrats during the many years Metro readied TAP could have contacted peer agencies seeking their input about the problems they had encountered in launching smart cards but it is abundantly clear now the crack Metro TAP team never availed themselves of such learning opportunities. The mind reels at such hubris...

At the November 10th Access Board meeting the TAP report (item #10) includes the amazing revelation that fraudulent Access cards can now be obtained on the street for \$75. This is driven by the Free Fare program in which certified Access Service users can ride most area public transit for free, saving the taxpayer \$20+ per trip (the difference in the cost of

fixed route public transit versus ADA mandated complimentary paratransit).

The November issue of the aforementioned Delaware Valley Rail Passenger includes the news that the Delaware River Port Authority has awarded a contract for \$194 million to Alstom Transportation for the overhauling of the entire 120 car fleet of PATCO, the rapid transit line owned by DRPA. When Ansaldo Breda made a presentation to us they claimed such overhauling is no longer standard industry practice. I think this is just another example of the many things said that day by the Breda representatives which upon subsequent examination don't pass the smell test.

Quote of the month: Bill Magavern, the director of Sierra Club California -- "[Governor Schwarzenegger]'s never seemed to understand that if you want to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and clean up the air, you need to support public transit." (source: "On environment, mixed reviews for Schwarzenegger", Political Pulse November 19, 2010).

Santa Barbara MTD recently received two free electric vehicles from Fresno County Rural Transit Agency to be used for parts. And wasting no time in less than two weeks a traction controller, motor and transfer case had already been salvaged for re-use.

Golden Empire Transit District of Bakersfield is exercising an option with New Flyer to purchase two CNG heavy duty 40 foot buses at a cost of \$996,372.17. Which comes out at just under a half a million a bus. For comparison, the CNG Neoplans Metro purchased circa 1996 cost \$330,000 a piece...

I'll conclude by expressing best wishes to Catherine Cole of Pasadena ARTS who is retiring with Valerie Gibson taking on her responsibilities. 🚌 🚌

## ***Metro's Public Hearing schedule for February 2011***

Metro has announced its public hearing schedule for February 2011. If approved the changes would go into effect in June 2011 or later. Below are some of the key changes Metro is planning to make. This is **NOT** a complete list of the proposed changes, so contact Metro for all the proposals.

Line 26: Discontinue service on Virgil Av and reallocate resources to enhance Lines 51/52/352.

Line 176/287: Discontinue Line 176; Extend Line 287 from El Monte Terminal to Las Tunas and Mission Drives.

Line 209: Discontinue service.

Line 247: Discontinue service.

Line 254: Discontinue Saturday service.

Line 258/485: Discontinue Line 485; Extend Line 258 route to Cal State LA via Hellman Av; extend north on Fremont Av to Huntington Dr to provide connections to Line 79.

Line 445: Discontinue service north of Artesia Transit Center and renumber as Line 545 with local fare; reallocate resources to Metro Silver Line.

Line 460: Cancel service between Norwalk Green Line Station and downtown Los Angeles.

Line 577: Move southern terminus to VA Hospital.

Line 704: End service at Sunset Bl and Alvarado St.

Line 751: Discontinue Saturday service.

Line 757: Discontinue service and reallocate resources to augment Line 207 service.

Line 760: Discontinue service south of Metro Green Line and discontinue Sunday service and augment Line 60 service.

Once again please contact Metro for all details on the proposed service changes, we have only printed a fraction of the proposed changes.

The public hearings will be held on the following dates at the following locations:

Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 5 PM  
Metro Service Council Hearing (All Regions)  
Metro Board Room  
One Gateway Plaza, 3rd Floor  
Los Angeles

Wednesday, February 2, 2011, 6:30 PM  
Metro San Fernando Valley Service Council Hearing  
Marvin Braude Constituent Center  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd  
Van Nuys

February 9, 2011, 5 PM  
Westside/Central Service Council Hearing  
La Cienega Tennis Center  
325 So. La Cienega Blvd  
Beverly Hills

February 10, 2011, 2 PM  
Gateway Cities Service Council Hearing  
Huntington Park Community Center  
3401 E. Florence Ave  
Huntington Park

February 14, 2011, 5 PM  
Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Council Hearing  
El Monte City Hall East, Council Chambers  
11333 Valley Blvd  
El Monte

February 17, 2011, 6 PM  
Metro South Bay Service Council Hearing  
Carson Community Center  
801 E. Carson  
Carson St.

## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### **RTA (Riverside)**

Effective January 9th, RTA will be making variety of changes to their service. Below is a list of those changes:

Route 1: Schedule will be adjusted to improve connections with trains at the Riverside-Downtown and North Main Corona Metrolink stations.

Route 3: Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance during peak hours at Norco College.

Route 12: The 7:13 a.m. weekday, westbound trip originating from Stephens Avenue and Center Street will be discontinued due to low ridership.

Route 14: The 7:30 a.m. weekday, eastbound trip will be discontinued due to low ridership.

Route 15: Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance, and connections with trains at the La Sierra Metrolink Station.

Route 19: Schedule will be adjusted to enhance connections with Route 16 at the Moreno Valley Mall.

Routes 22: Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance during peak hours.

Route 27: Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance during peak hours.

Route 35: Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance from the Moreno Valley Walmart to the Moreno Valley Mall.

Route 40: Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance during peak hours from Quail Valley to the Sun City Shopping Center at Cherry Hills Boulevard and

Bradley Road.

Route 42: Route will be adjusted to travel on Santa Fe and Menlo roads, and San Jacinto Av.

Route 61 :will be adjusted to travel on Menifee and Antelope roads, and service to the new Loma Linda University Medical Center in spring 2011.

Route 74: Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance during peak hours.

Route 206: Schedule will be adjusted to improve connections with trains at the North Main Corona Metrolink Station. The 7:47 a.m. weekday southbound trip from the Corona Transit Center will be discontinued due to low ridership.

Route 208: Schedule will be adjusted to improve connections with trains at the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station.

Route 210: Schedule will be adjusted to improve connections with trains at the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station.

Route 212: Schedule will be adjusted to improve connections with trains at Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station. Route will begin serving the new park-and-ride lot at MSJC's San Jacinto campus.

Route 216: Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance during peak hours between Corona and the Village at Orange.

Route 217: Route will begin serving the new park-and-ride lot at MSJC's San Jacinto campus. 🚌 🚌





## ***Metrolink's new cars enter service***

In early December, Metrolink placed several of their new Crash Energy Management (CEM) cars into service. The new cars built by Hyundai-Rotem have now been named "Guardian Cars" by the agency. The new cars will eventually replace the existing fleet of Bombardier and Pullman-Standard cars operating on the Metrolink System. 🚆 🚆



*At left is the interior of a new Metrolink Car at Union Station on December 6, 2010. Below is new Metrolink Cab Cat 638 at the Moorpark Station during a public demonstration run on December 6, 2010. (Both photos by Jerry Martin)*



## *Metrolink's new cars enter service*



*Metrolink Cab Car 638 at the Glendale Station during a public demonstration run on December 6, 2010. (Jerry Martin Photo)*

*Metrolink Coach 214 in service on Metrolink Train 700 at Fullerton on December 20, 2010. The car is operating with three Bombardier Cars. (Andrew Novak Photo)*



## *Photos of the Month*

*Monterey Park Spirit  
Cutaway 1206 on  
Ramona Avenue on  
December 10, 2010. The  
bus has just departed  
the Monterey Park  
"Transit Center" across  
from City Hall.*

*(Andrew Novak Photo)*



*Metro NABI 3134  
was transferred to  
Southland Transit in  
early December.  
This is the first new  
bus for Southland  
Transit and since  
arriving at STI has  
been used on Line  
256. The photo at  
left was taken on  
December 11, 2010  
at the STI yard in  
Baldwin Park.*

*(Andrew Novak  
Photo)*



**How to join SO.CA.TA:** Yearly dues are \$30.00 (\$12.00 low income). Dues are prorated on a quarterly basis.

**Submission of materials:** ALL materials for the TRANSIT ADVOCATE newsletter go to Andrew Novak at P.O. Box 2383, Downey California 90242 or to [rtd1121@yahoo.com](mailto:rtd1121@yahoo.com). Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for returns.

**Newsletter deadlines** are the Fridays a week before SO.CA.TA meetings, at 6:00 p.m. Pacific time, unless otherwise announced.

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#### **SO.CA.TA officers, 2011**

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|----------------------|--|
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| Vice President:      | Kent Landfield                             |
| Recording Secretary: | Dana Gabbard                               |
| Executive Secretary: | (VACANT)                                   |
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| Directors at Large:  | Ken Ruben<br>J.K. Drummond<br>Dave Snowden |

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Newsletter Editor:    | Andrew Novak  |
| Newsletter Prod. Mgr: | Dana Gabbard  |
| Webmaster:            | Charles Hobbs |

NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** and **Feb 12<sup>th</sup>** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

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