

THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates
February 2011

Vol. 19, No. 02

ISSN 1525-2892



Inside This Issue:

- Bulletin Board (pg. 2)
- Members in Action (pg. 2)
- Transit Updates (pg. 3)
- Public/Legislative Affairs (pg. 6)
- Chaffey College Transit Ctr. (pg. 9)
- Get to know Local Transit (pg. 10)
- Photos of the month (pg. 11)

Golden Empire Transit New Flyer 1022 exits the downtown Bakersfield Transit Center on January 21, 2011. — Andrew Novak Photo



Bulletin Board / Members in Action

Bulletin Board:

Our thanks to Vanessa Smith of Metro for the informative TAP discussion held at our January 8th meeting.

At our February meeting we will have a presentation on OCTA's draft Long Range Plan.

Access Services' Board Agenda item 8b of the November 10, 2010 meeting states: "At time of replacement, vehicles coming out of service are inspected by fleet operations. All repairs other than normal wear and tear are completed, and the vehicle is sent to auction for sale. The auction house posts vehicles for sale on their web site. We try to notify all transportation organizations that have shown interest of the pending sale. The auction is open to the general public, and we pass on this information to the general public that show interest in our used vehicles. The auction house has a public auction once a month." Those wishing to be on the list to be informed of such sales can e-mail Pablo Teoco -- teoco@asila.org

Members in Action:

Craig Weingarten and Ken Ruben attended the Westside Subway extension meeting in Beverly Hills on January 30th.

Ken Ruben and Jerry Martin attended the January 19th Los Angeles/San Diego/San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency Joint Board/Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Ruben also attended the LOPSSAN north corridor scoping meeting on January 10th and the Metro Westside/Central Governance Council January 13th.

In attendance at the February 1st all region Metro Governance Council meeting on pro-

posed service changes were Ruben, Mark Panitz, Jerard Wright, Joe Dunn and Dana Gabbard. Gabbard submitted a statement including comments on underlying structural/technical concerns.

Nate Zablen spoke at the Metro Service Changes hearing in Van Nuys on February 2nd. Members Mike Baron, Jerry Martin, and Craig Weingarten were present. Bart Reed also spoke at the hearing in Van Nuys.

Members Mike Baron and Nate Zablen attended the Westside Subway Extension meeting on January 24th at the Los Angeles County Art Museum. 🚗 🚗

March Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for the March 2011 newsletter is now on February 28th. Please make sure any material is submitted by that date for inclusion in the newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation.

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



Transit Updates

Culver City Bus

Effective February 7th Culver City Bus will discontinue the southbound Line 6 stop at the corner of Sepulveda and Olympic Boulevards.

Foothill Transit

Effective February 7th the Line 197 bus stop on Arrow Highway and DePaul Road in Claremont will be eliminated due to low ridership. An alternate bus stop nearby can be found on Arrow Highway Indian Hill Boulevard.

Gold Coast Transit (Oxnard)

Effective January 23rd, Gold Coast Transit (GTC) will make the following changes based on bus rider feedback.

Route 6: will have additional bus trips added weekdays between 10 am and 4 pm. These additional trips are intended to ease bus overcrowding in Ventura during the middle of the day.

Routes 10 and 11: will have schedules adjusted to improve the ability to transfer between the routes at Wells Center. Morning trip times on Route 10 at Wells Center have been adjusted to meet arriving Route 11 buses and the afternoon trip times on Route 10 at Wells Center have been adjusted to meet departing Route 11 buses.

Routes 8, 19 and 40 will have slight schedule adjustments and Routes 1B, 8 and 11 will also have minor adjustments to timepoints.

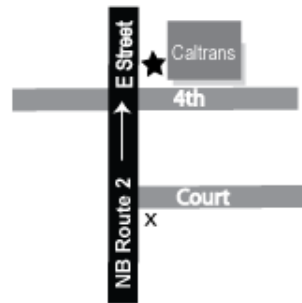
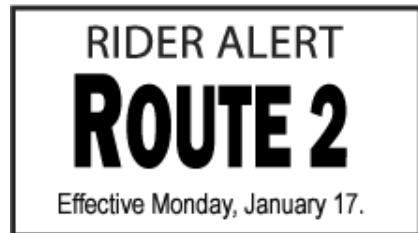


LADOT Commuter Express

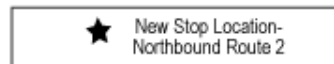
Effective January 17th, Commuter Express Route 431 will not be servicing the Loyola High School stop for the first and last trips in the morning (6:52 am and 8:22 am) and afternoon (4:53 pm and 6:28 pm). Loyola will be served in the morning at 7:20 am and 7:56 am and in the afternoon at 5:31 pm and 5:59 pm.

Omnitrans

Effective January 17th, Omnitrans has moved the northbound Route 2 stop from the corner of E and Court Streets to E and fourth Streets in downtown San Bernardino. The new stop is adjacent to the Caltrans building.



This is for **NORTHBOUND** routing only.
SOUTHBOUND Route 2 will stop at E and Court.



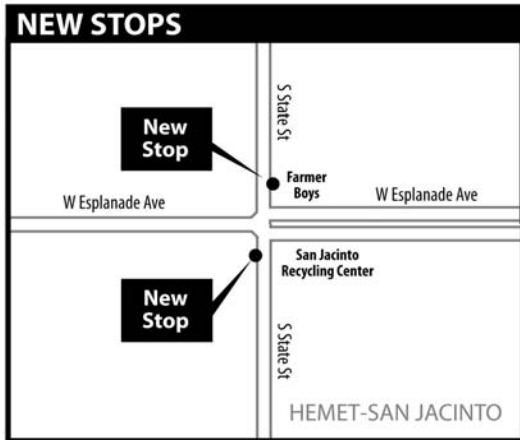
(Continued on Page 4)

Transit Updates Continued

Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)

Effective January 9th, Route 61 will no longer serve the Meniffee Valley Medical Center.

Effective January 10th, CommuterLink express Route 212 will begin serving new stops on State Street in San Jacinto. See map below for new stop locations.



Mount San Jacinto College has opened a new park-and-ride lot on the north side of the campus. The new park-and-ride lot is served by local routes 31, 32, and 74 along with CommuterLink Express routes 212 and 217. Parking permits are required through the Riverside County Transportation Commission and can be obtained at:

www.rctc.org/permits

RTA has proposed a number of changes that if approved would take effect on May 8, 2011. RTA will hold a public hearing on February 24th at 2 pm at County of Riverside Administrative Building/Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor in Riverside.

RTA will also hold several community meetings at the following locations.

- Sun City Library on February 14th at 4 pm
- Mary Phillips Senior Center Temecula on February 15th at 3 pm
- Mission Trail Library in Wildomar on February 15th at 5 pm
- Murrieta Senior Center on February 16th at 3 pm

In addition to the meeting public comments can be made by:

- calling (951) 565-5002,
- emailing RTA at: comments@riversidetransit.com

Or by writing the:

Riverside Transit Agency
1825 Third Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Attention Planning Director.

The deadline to receive comments is February 24 when the RTA

Board of Directors will hold a public hearing regarding these changes.

Below and on page 5 is a list of the proposed changes to the RTA system.

Route 23: Enhanced timed connections with routes 24 and 79 at County Center Drive in Temecula. Service south of Winchester Road will be discontinued and be provided by Route 79.

Route 24: Service will be extended to Deer Hollow Road near Great Oak High School. Due to low ridership, a portion of the route that travels on Camino Piedra Rojo and Wolf Valley Road will be discontinued.

(Continued on Page 5)

Transit Updates Continued

RTA Proposed Changes ctd.

Route 55: Following a demonstration period, the Temecula Trolley will remain in service with stops in the Harveston community in Temecula, Chaparral High School, the Promenade Mall and County Center Drive. Service will not be provided from mid-June through mid-August.

Route 79: Service will be extended along Jefferson Avenue through Old Town Temecula with stops along Pujol Street and the new Temecula City Hall. Due to low ridership, the route segment that travels on portions of Ynez, Diaz, Winchester and Rancho California roads to Business Park in Temecula will be discontinued.

Route 217: Service will be re-routed through Menifee and Murrieta via Domenigoni Parkway and Interstate 215. New stops may be added on roads near Interstate 215.



San Diego MTS

Effective January 30th, MTS made several minor changes to their system. Below are a summary of those changes.

Route 3: Minor schedule changes were made on the weekday service along with the elimination of one southbound trip in the morning and one northbound trip in the afternoon. Some new tripper service has been added between Broadway and Elm to reduce over crowding.

Route 10: Minor changes on all days.

Route 11: The detour of Route 11 due to the closure of Aldine Drive has been delayed until Spring 2011. Once the detour starts all Route 11 trips will follow the night routing via the 8 and 15 freeways. An MTS shuttle will operate between Kensington and Route 11 during certain times. The construction is scheduled to last 6 months.

Route 25: Minor schedule adjustments to improve connections at the Kearny Mesa Transit Center.

Route 84: Minor schedule adjustments

Route 705: The Route 705A designation will be dropped and all trips regardless of destination will be designated Route 705. Also there will be minor schedule adjustments.

Route 810: The afternoon northbound trips will now stop at the Escondido Transit Center before making stops on Escondido Boulevard. Also there will be minor schedule adjustments.

Service on Presidents Day February 21st.

Most MTS buses and all Trolleys will operate on a Saturday schedule. Premium Express routes (810, 820, 830, 850, 860, 880) and Rural Route 894 will not operate. Rural Route 888 will run on Tuesday 2/22/11 instead.

All NCTD services and the Sorrento Valley COASTER Connection will operate a weekday schedule.

Telephone Information (511 or 619-233-3004) will be open 8am - 5pm. The Transit Store will be closed.

(Continued on Page 8)

Public and Legislative Affairs By Dana Gabbard

You may have noticed all the hullabaloo Metro made about retiring the last diesel buses in its fleet (although in fact some contractors still use diesel buses purchased for them by Metro). Metro even gave the bus a new paint job before it was ceremoniously towed away at the press event. I'm glad to hear some bus fans plan to buy 3004 at auction and restore it. The L.A. Times noted the 40-foot New Flyer purchased in 1998 had operated 383,180 miles running along Wilshire Boulevard, Venice Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway. Sounds like it earned the rest.

I got a surprise reading blogdowntown about the revised plans for the Regional Connector in Little Tokyo ("Connector Refines Plans to Fit Into Little Tokyo"); "there would be no tracks connecting Union Station and the East L.A. section of the Gold Line".

And how about the possibility of Metro partnered with the High Speed Rail Authority purchasing Union Station? Considering the central role Union Station is and will play in our region's emerging rail network, sounds like a logical smart move.

Brea Railroad Days has been cancelled for 2011 due to lack of financial support from the city. Frankly having the event in a shopping district last year deflated the railroad buzz the event had when it was held adjacent to Fullerton station. Despite the trappings it was essentially a generic family community fair and our booth was relegated to a little trafficked side alley. Even if it was held this year we had concluded our participation no longer made sense. The May event that has become the new hot transportation themed event sup-

planting the Fullerton/Brea gathering is National Train Day at Union Station whose attendance year by year is visibly growing. We should soon be submitting our application to have a booth again at the event.

The February 1st "all regions" public hearing for the June service change proposals, besides including some (in my opinion) fruit loopy ideas, was notable for being essentially composed of three distinct groups of speakers: a third were from the Bus Riders Union who had little specific to offer on the proposals and mostly to numbing effect repeated the same few sound bites (for example urging the Governance Councils "don't do the Metro Board's dirty work"), a third were a vocal contingent from east L.A. urging a reversal of truncation of lines 30/31 having them again extended to Atlantic and a third were ordinary riders commenting on a few key proposals, and generally opposing --lines 485, 460 and 757 got the bulk of their comments. And even with comments limited to just a minute per speaker the whole thing took some 2 and a half hours. Yesh!



PLAC Continued

I'll conclude by noting three transitions that recently came to my attention:

Steve Lantz, the former Director of Communications and Development at Metrolink, left the agency last October. No one seems to know why this happened.

Newly installed Governor Jerry Brown has recruited Pedro Reyes, a longtime fixture of the Assembly Speaker's Office, to be his chief deputy director for policy at the Department of Finance.

Alex Clifford, most recently Metro's Executive Officer-High Speed Rail, has been hired as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the commuter rail agency for Chicago and environs, Metra. Metro will have a rough time finding someone with anything approaching the background and specialized skill set Clifford brought to rail issues. Best of luck to all three! 🚆 🚆

Photo on the page 6: Metro New Flyer 3004, the last diesel bus at Metro, just after being painted for its farewell ceremony.

-Robert Paige Photo



-Pacific Railroad Excursion 542 -

On April 2-3, 2011 the Pacific Railroad Society is operating an excursion to Bakersfield over Tehachapi pass to celebrate the clubs 75th Anniversary.

This special train will depart Los Angeles at 9 am on Saturday April 2nd and return on Sunday April 3rd.

Fare for the trip is \$329 per person and does not include lodging in Bakersfield.

Interested parties should contact Pacific Railroad Society at:
prsexcursions@live.com or by calling (626) 570-0033 (Monday to Friday 9 am - 3 pm)

More information is available on line at: www.pacificrailroadsociety.org
click on "Excursions."

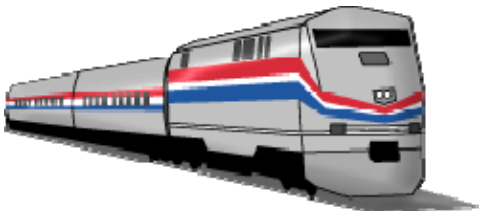
Transit Updates Continued

Metrolink-Amtrak Service Change

Effective February 15th, Metrolink and Amtrak will be making schedule adjustments on various northbound morning trains on the surf line. On Monday through Friday Amtrak Train 565 will be renumbered 563 and operate as an express train. This express train will make the following stops only on its northbound trip from San Diego to Los Angeles, Solana Beach, Oceanside, Irvine, Anaheim, and Los Angeles. Amtrak Train 565 will continue to operate on Saturdays and Sundays.

Metrolink Train 687 will have an adjusted schedule due to the changes being made to Amtrak Train 563. For more information on these changes visit:

www.amtrakcalifornia.com or
www.metrolinktrains.com



OCTA (Orange County)

Effective February 13th, OCTA will be make several changes to there service.

Minor route and schedule adjustments will be made on the following routes: 29, 43, 47, 50, 53, 57, 60, 66, 71, 86, 188 and 212.

Route 50: On weekdays two eastbound trips and three westbound trips will be added to improve frequency by five minutes in each direction and to help reduce overcrowded buses.

Route 57: On weekdays, two eastbound trips and three westbound trips will be added to improve frequency by five minutes in each direction and to help reduce over-crowded buses. The 4:59 pm weekday northbound trip will be extended from St. College and Via Burton to the Brea Mall also to help reduce overcrowded buses.

Route 60: On weekdays, westbound trips will be added between 6 pm and 8 pm to reduce overcrowded buses.

Route 188/188A: The counter clockwise loop of Route 188 will be renamed 188A. The routing for both directions will remain the same.

Route 175: buses will remain on Culver Dr. and not travel on Ethel Coplen Way to Rancho Senior Center. Buses will also remain on Alton Parkway and Lake, servicing the stops close to Lakeview Senior Center.

Route 463: A new stop will be added at Grand and Chestnut in Santa Ana, both southbound and northbound to provide service to the County building.

Route 701 and Route 721: A new northbound stop was added at Figueroa and Wilshire in Los Angeles to better serve the financial district. 🚌 🚌



Chaffey Transit Center Photos

On December 7th, Omnitrans celebrated the opening of the new Chaffey College Transit Center in Rancho Cucamonga. Below are photos of the new center before service began operating into the transit center in January.

Our thanks to Omnitrans for providing these photos.

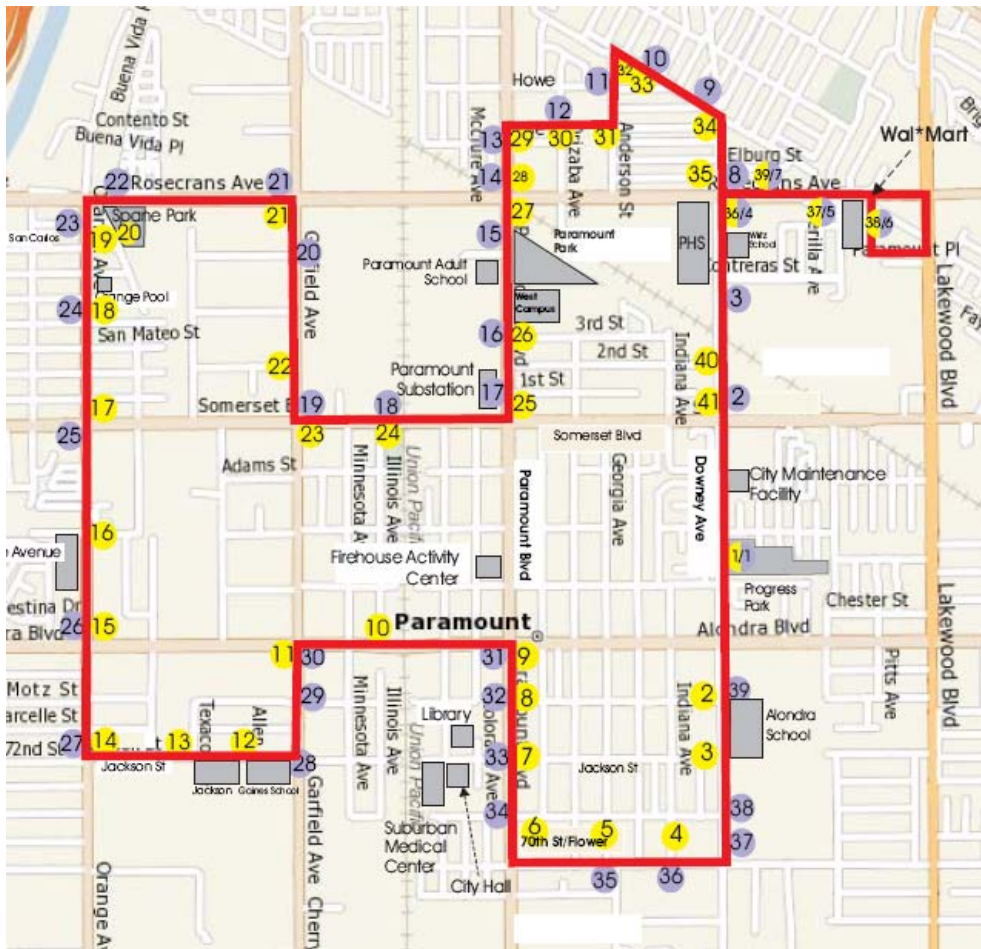


Paramount Easy Rider Shuttle

Paramount's Easy Rider Shuttle an easy and quick way to get around the city of Paramount. The bus transports residents along a fixed route throughout town, hitting all of the prominent spots like Wal-Mart, Paramount High School, and City parks.

For more information on Easy Rider Shuttle you can call at (562) 633-2904 or by visiting the website at: www.paramountcity.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. 🚌 🚏



Photos of the Month

Anaheim Resort Transit (ART) NABI 2153 at the corner of Harbor and Katella on January 25, 2011. This is one of 35 NABIs ART is leasing from OCTA.

(Andrew Novak Photo)



San Diego Trolley Siemens U2 car 1028 at the Euclid Station in 1986. Car 1028 along with sister cars 1055, 1070 and 1071 recently left San Diego Trolley for their new home in Mendoza Argentina. More of the San Diego U2 cars will be retired and sold to South America once San Diego's new cars arrive later this year.

(Andy Goddard 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. 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.

Opinions: Unless clearly marked as "Editorial" or "Position Paper", all written material within, including all inserted flyers and postcards, are the expressed opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the Southern California Transit Advocates.

Copyright: © 2011 Southern California Transit Advocates. Permission is freely granted to reproduce/reprint ORIGINAL articles from the Transit Advocate, provided credit is given to both the author and the Southern California Transit Advo-

cates. In all other cases, permission must be secured from the copyright holder.

Disclaimer: The Southern California Transit Advocates is not affiliated with any governmental agency or transportation provider. Names and logos of agencies appear for information and reference purposes only.

SO.CA.TA officers, 2011

President:	Nate Zablen
Vice President:	Kent Landfield
Recording Secretary:	Dana Gabbard
Executive Secretary:	(VACANT)
Treasurer:	Edmund Buckley
Directors at Large:	Ken Ruben J.K. Drummond Dave Snowden

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

NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **Feb 12th** and **Mar 12th** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

February 2011 — Issue 219



Southern California Transit Advocates
3010 Wilshire #362
Los Angeles, CA 90010

213-388-2364
<http://www.socata.net>
dgabbard@hotmail.com

44¢
First
Class
Postage

FIRST CLASS MAIL