

THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE

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*Anaheim Resort Transit NABI 2153 on Convention
Way in Anaheim on June 22, 2011.*

— Andrew Novak Photo

Bulletin Board / Members in Action

Bulletin Board:

Our thanks to the guest speaker at the June 11th meeting, Stephen Villavaso of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition.



At the June meeting we also endorsed the Southern California Regional Platform of Safe Routes to School California.

Jack Gabig, the Transportation Director of the city of Gardena, will be the guest speaker at our July 9th meeting.

Members in Action:

Joe Dunn spoke on our behalf in support of the Wilshire bus lane project at the June 14th Los Angeles City Council meeting.

Thomas Rubin was quoted in Dana Gabbard's Streetsblog post "Metro Service Changes Take Effect This Sunday", echoed in a L.A. Weekly blog entry "Los Angeles Bus Cuts".

Ken Ruben attended the June 13th Culver City city council meeting, speaking on our behalf in favor of the compromise schedule for bus service to West Los Angeles college reached by Culver CityBus and the college. He also attended the June 22nd Metro Citizens' Advisory Council meeting. ..  

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

Upcoming Events:

On Saturday August 27th, The Norcal Bus Fans are planning an excursion in the San Francisco Bay Area to visit several transit agencies on historic buses. For more information on this trip visit: www.norcalbusfans.com

On Sunday August 28th, The Pacific Bus Museum will be hosting their Annual Open House and Flea Market at the Shinn Street yard in Fremont, California. For more information visit: www.pacbus.org

For those interesting on riding vintage Railroad cars, visit www.larail.com This Los Angeles based group of private car owners offers a variety of special trips from multi-day trips to one day excursions.

Former member Kym Richards is posting her Metro Board Reports on her Blog Page at: <http://mtaboardreport.blogspot.com/>

Finally don't forget to visit our friends at Rapid Transit Press. They are currently offering a wide variety of transit related books and newsletters. Visit them at: www.rapidtransit-press.com



Transit Updates

405 Freeway Closure

For 53 hours, Interstate 405 will be closed from Interstate 10 to US 101 to demolish the Mulholland Bridge. The work is scheduled to begin Friday night, July 15, 2011 at 10 PM, and continue until Monday morning, July 18, 2011 at 5 AM. During this closure there will be increased traffic on the Westside of Los Angeles. Caltrans is encouraging people to use public transit or avoid the area completely. Metrolink will be providing nine additional trains to the weekend service on the Antelope Valley Line.

Big Blue Bus (Santa Monica)

Big Blue Bus will be operating the Beach Ride to the Annenberg Community Beach House on Mondays only. The service will operate on the following Mondays only: July 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 with no service on July 4th or September 5th. The Beach Ride departs Virginia Avenue Park at 10:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 12:40 PM, 1:20 PM, 2:00 PM, 2:40 PM, and 3:20 PM. Passengers can use any westbound Route 7 stop to board the Beach Ride to the Beach House. When returning from the Beach House passengers will be taken on the freeway and can disembark at the stop on Pico at 33rd or the stop at Virginia Avenue Park.

Between June 20th and August 26th the Sunset ride will operate every 20-30 minutes instead of every 15-25 minutes.

Between June 20th and September 9th, the Super 12 will be on a reduced summer schedule. The service will run approximately every 30 minutes. Full service resumes on September 11, 2011.

Big Blue Bus will be making additional changes to their service on August 28th. More information will be posted once those changes take affect.

For more information contact Big Blue Bus customer service at 310-451-5444.



Foothill Transit

Effective June 20th, the Line 178 stop at Pacific Avenue and Leland Avenue in West Covina has been removed. An alternate bus stop is available on Pacific and Puente Avenues.

Starting June 21, the City of Azusa will begin a 60 business day project that will temporarily close bus stops along Foothill Boulevard between San Gabriel Avenue and Dalton Avenue on Lines 185, 187, and 494. Alternate bus stops can be found on the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Pasadena Avenue and on the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Orange Avenue. The project is estimated to be completed in mid-September.



(Continued on Page 4)

Transit Updates Continued

Metrolink

For the rest of 2011, JetBlue customers can ride Metrolink for free on the day of their flight to or from the Bob Hope Airport. Passengers will need to show their JetBlue boarding pass or email confirmation to the conductor or fare enforcement officer. The JetBlue boarding pass or email confirmation must be printed prior to boarding a Metrolink train and it cannot be displayed on cell phones. Valid for one ride on day of travel only.

Omnitrans

From June 10th to late August, the City of Chino will be working on several bus stop shelters. During this project several Omnitrans bus stops in Chino will be closed.

Route 65 southbound the following stops will be closed: Central at Phillips, Central at Francis and Central at C.

Route 65 northbound the following stops will be closed: Central at Francis and Central at Washington.

The Route 83 stop at Central at Schaefer, northbound only, will be closed.



Water Bus Correction

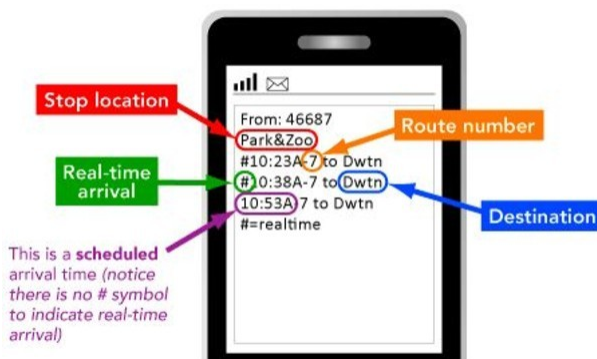
The Marina del Rey water bus service actually began on June 24th and not on May 27th as reported in last month's issue. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

San Diego MTS

San Diego MTS is unveiling a new program that allows passengers to get real time information on buses and trolleys on mobile devices via Google Maps.

Passengers can text the stop number (located on the bottom of the bus stop sign) to **GOMTS** (46687). They will then receive next-arrival times on their cell phone. Currently about half of the MTS bus and trolley fleet has needed GPS equipment with plans to equip the remainder of the fleet with in the next two years. For more information: <http://www.sdmmts.com/go.asp>

Below is a sample text message



At left is a sample MTS sign with the location of the stop number.

(Both graphics from MTS)

(Continued on Page 10)

LA's Outlet Express

LA's Outlet Express is a new service operating between the Anaheim Resort Area and the Citadel Outlet Mall in Commerce. The roundtrip service operates seven days a week and fares are \$14 per person, children 12 and under are Free.

Outlet Express buses pick up at the following hotels in Anaheim: Disney's Paradise Pier, The Anabella, The Sheraton Park, The Hyatt Regency, The Crowne Plaza, Best Western Park Place and Howard Johnsons. The buses arrive at the Citadel at 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Buses depart the Citadel at 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM, and 5:00 PM. For more information visit citadeloutlets.com or call 323-888-1724.



Huntington Beach Downtown Shuttle

Starting June 14th and running until September 5th, the Huntington Beach shuttle operates between the Huntington Beach Civic Center and downtown during on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day and on Tuesdays for the Surf City Nights. This free service runs every 30 minutes between 10:00 AM and 10:00 PM on weekends (Labor Day as well) and between 5:30 PM and 10:00 PM on Tuesdays. The day time shuttle makes stops at Orange/Main and 5th/The Strand while the night shuttle stops at Orange/Main only. For more information visit: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov or by calling (714) 536-5582.



"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. 🚌 🚌

Public and Legislative Affairs By Dana Gabbard

I've been following with interest the kerfuffle a few noisy Culver City residents have made about bus service to West Los Angeles College. Culver CityBus and the college have worked to make reasonable changes in service while trying to not overly impact transit users. Unassuaged, the critics have made it clear their goal is nothing less than the total elimination of bus service to the campus.

Now The Front Page thefrontpageonline.com has posted an open Letter to college President Dr. Rose Marie Joyce by one of the protest leaders. It takes only a brief glance at the angry diatribe "A Furious Neighbor Protests College's 'Bus Attitude' to Dr. Joyce" to realize not only do these folks have no interest in compromise, they are disrespectful of any point of view other than their own while being rude and mean-spirited. Yesh!



Good news! Approval of the Wilshire peak hour bus lane project means by next summer the long needed repaving of the Wilshire Boulevard curb lanes between Western and San Vicente will commence. Which is none too soon as riders of Metro Line 20 have for the past decade endured pounding thumps and bumps travelling over the pock-marked surface that afflicts this section of the legendary roadway. Hooray!

Capital Metro of Austin Texas responding to legislation recently signed by the Governor of the state is in the midst of contracting out all its service per the Austin Statesman ("Cap Metro board votes to outsource bus routes"). As I've noted before contracting requires close monitoring by agency staff and retaining knowledgeable legal experts to draft the contracts. And even then sometimes things go to pieces. Hopefully the folks in Austin will avoid the pitfalls.



(Michael Strauch Photo)

I'll conclude by noting I've just discovered that former Access Services Board member Richard Devylder (who also at one time was on Access' Community Advisory Committee) was recently appointed Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation at the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. 🚌 🚌



Malta bus farewell

After decades of private owner-operators operating buses on the island nation of Malta, the color fleet of historic buses will be going away. Some buses have been passed down from father to son along with the franchises to operate the buses. Now with Malta being part of the European Union (EU), new EU health and Safety standards are being introduced. The new standards require replacing all the vintage buses with new low floor buses owned by one transit agency. Below are a variety of the classic buses taken on the island nation in 2009 by Wayne Doran. Some of these buses were built in the late 1950s and are still in daily service. 🚌 🚌



Above left is bus LCY 002 which is a 1932 built Bedford. Above right is bus FBY 661 which is a 1933 Willys Six model 265. Below left is bus FBY 750 a 1976 Dodge with Leyland decals. Below right is bus FBY 666 a 1970 built Leyland Super Comet. All photos were taken at or near the Valletta Bus Station.



Hollywood Bowl Service 2011

Once again the Hollywood Bowl park-and-ride services and parking lot shuttles have returned for the summer season.

Park-and-Ride Routes:

The Park-and-Ride Routes pick up across the county at fourteen locations. Parking at these lots is free and there is a charge for the bus service. The bus is \$5 roundtrip if it is prepaid on the website and \$8 roundtrip if purchased the day of. (Priority boarding given to prepaid passengers.)

Line 651: Sherman Oaks - Lot 1
Westfield Fashion Square in Sherman Oaks, 14006 Riverside Drive. Parking lot located off Woodman Avenue. Entrance to parking area is off Riverside Drive. Pickup location is behind Bank of America.

Line 652: Westwood - Lot 2
Federal Building parking lot at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard. Entrance to parking area is off Veteran Avenue. Bus stop is in parking lot.

Line 653: Chatsworth - Lot 3
Chatsworth Metrolink Station, 21510 Devonshire Street (one block west of Canoga Avenue) Bus stop is in parking lot.

Line 654: Westchester - Lot 4
Westchester Shopping Center, 6212 West Manchester Avenue (between Sepulveda and La Tijera). Parking area is between building 6232 and Ayara Thai Cuisine.

Line 655: Pasadena - Lot 5
Pasadena public parking lot, 240 Ramona Street, northeast corner of Marengo Avenue and Ramona Street. Entrance to parking area is off Ramona Street.

Line 656: El Monte - Lot 6
Metro Bus Terminal, just off the San Bernardino Freeway, Santa Anita and Ramona. Pickup location is at berth #1.

Line 657: Torrance - Lot 7
Wilson Community Park, 2000 North Crenshaw Boulevard. (between Carson and Sepulveda) Entrance to parking lot is off Jefferson Street.

Line 658: Santa Monica - Lot 8
DMV, 2235 Colorado Avenue. Bus stop on Colorado Avenue.

Line 659: East Los Angeles - Lot 9
East L.A. College, Weingart Stadium parking lot (1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, two blocks west of Atlantic Boulevard). Entrance to parking lot is off Floral Drive and Avalanche Way.

Line 660: Lakewood - Lot 10
Lakewood Center Mall (Lakewood Boulevard and Candlewood Street). Parking area is off Candlewood and Graywood. Bus departs across from Hometown Buffet.

Line 661: Downey - Lot 11
Metro Green Line Station. South parking lot, 12801 Lakewood Boulevard. (Lakewood Boulevard. and Freeway 105).

Line 662: Culver City - Lot 12
Ince public parking lot, 9099 Washington Boulevard. Bus stop on Canfield Avenue.

Line 663: Arcadia - Lot 13
Arcadia Park parking lot, 405 South Santa Anita Avenue (south of Huntington Drive). Bus stop is in parking lot.

(Continued on Page 9)

Hollywood Bowl Service Continued

Park-and-Ride Routes continued:

Line 665: Rowland Heights - Lot 14
Schabarum Regional Park, 17250 E. Colima Road and Azusa Avenue (parking off Colima Road). Bus stop in parking lot.

Parking Lot Shuttles:

There are four remote parking lots that bus service is provided to and from. Shuttle service from these lots is \$4 round-trip and is free from the two Ventura Lots and Hollywood and Highland when you show a valid Metro Red Line Ticket. Parking is free at all the lots except the Hollywood and Highland lot.

The first buses depart from the parking lots at the following times:

3:30 PM for 6:00 PM concerts
4:30 PM for 7:00 PM concerts
5:00 PM for 7:30 PM concerts
5:30 PM for 8:00 PM concerts
6:00 PM for 8:30 PM concerts

The last bus from each lot leaves at concert time.



Line 668: Ventura Lot
(Buses depart every 10 minutes)
10801 Ventura Boulevard

Line 668A: Ventura Lot Annex
(Buses depart every 15 minutes)
10601 Ventura Boulevard.
(Lot closed Tuesday and Thursdays)

(Both Ventura Lots are subject to stacked parking.)

Line 671: Hollywood/Highland
(Buses depart every 15 minutes)
Hollywood & Highland entertainment complex at 6801 Hollywood Boulevard.
The Bus stop is in Orchid Circle

Line 672: LA Zoo
(Buses depart every 20 minutes)
5333 Zoo Dr. Located in section C.

For more information on these service or to book the shuttle tickets visit the Hollywood Bowl on line: www.hollywoodbowl.com  

Ventura and LA Zoo Lot Maps



Transit Updates Continued

Santa Clarita Beach Bus

Between June 4th and September 4th, the City of Santa Clarita is offering rides to Santa Monica on Saturdays and Sundays. Fares for the Summer Beach Bus are \$3 each way for adults and children, with \$1.50 one-way senior/disabled tickets available. Passengers must have exact fare or TAP stored value cards only, no monthly passes accepted. Passengers can bring beach chairs, coolers and surfboards. For more information visit SantaClaritaTransit.com.

Route 100 (Saturday): Departs Santa Clarita Park at 8:40 AM, Santa Clarita Metrolink at 8:50 AM, Cinema Drive Park-and-Ride lot 8:55 AM, McBean Transit Center at 9:05 AM with a 10:15 AM arrival at the Santa Monica Pier.

Route 101 (Saturday): Departs Canyon Country Park at 8:40 AM, Soledad Canyon Road & Solamint Drive at 8:45 AM, Soledad Canyon Road & Shangri-La Drive at 8:50 AM, Via Princessa Metrolink Station at 8:55 AM with a 10:05 AM arrival at the Santa Monica Pier.

Both routes 100 and 101 depart the Santa Monica Pier at 3:30 PM.

Route 102 (Sunday): Departs Canyon Country Park at 8:40 AM, Soledad Canyon Road & Solamint Drive at 8:45 AM, Soledad Canyon Road & Shangri-La Drive at 8:50 AM, Via Princessa Metrolink Station at 8:55 AM, Santa Clarita Metrolink at 9:10 AM, Cinema Drive Park-and-Ride lot 9:15 AM, McBean Transit Center at 9:25 AM with a 10:35 AM arrival at the Santa Monica Pier.

Route 102 departs the Santa Monica Pier at 3:30 PM.

Norwalk Transit Proposed Changes

On August 2, 2011, Norwalk Transit will hold a public hearing to hear comments on various proposed service changes. The hearing will be at 6:00 PM at the City Council Chambers at the Norwalk City Hill located at 12700 Norwalk Boulevard.

Written comments can be sent to Norwalk: Attention City Clerk
12700 Norwalk Boulevard
Norwalk, CA 90605

Comments can be e-mailed to:
transit@ci.norwalk.ca.us

The proposed changes are listed below:

Route 2: Eliminate the Firestone/Cirtus & King via Hoxie Boulevard segment.

Route 3: Cancel midday service between Pioneer/Telegraph to Whittier Depot from 9:15 AM to 1:54 PM. Cancel Saturday service on the same segment.



Route 5: Cancel weekday service from 7:40 PM to 9:26 PM. Cancel Saturday service.

Route 7: Cancel route.

Route 8: Eliminate segment between Gateway Plaza Mall and Whittier Depot. Also eliminate segment between the Norwalk Metrolink Station and Carmenita via Leffingwell and Imperial.

1-800-COMMUTE

Effective June 30th, 1-800-COMMUTE, the regional transit information number has been discontinued. Replacements include 323-GO-METRO and 511.

For more information on all the services available at 511 visit www.go511.com or dial 511 from a cell phone or landline.  

Photos of the Month

*Santa Monica Big Blue Bus NABI 4001 in downtown Santa Monica on June 28, 2011.
(Don Lewis Photo)*



Regina Transit historic bus 200 in Regina Saskatchewan Canada.

Bus 200 is a 1954 built GMC TDH-4801 and was delivered to Los Angeles Transit Lines as 6583. The photo was taken in June 2011.

(Kevin Nicol 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.

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NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **July 9th** and **Aug 13th** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

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

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

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