

# ***THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE***

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates  
September 2011 Vol. 19, No. 09

ISSN 1525-2892



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*San Diego Vintage Trolley PCC 529 on a special run in San Diego on August 18, 2011.*

*— Andy Goddard Photo*



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

### **Bulletin Board:**

July 28th the Greyhound Hollywood station closed. This is the latest example of the consolidation the company has undergone during the past few years.

Did you know TAP cards have a limited shelf life? The August Footnotes newsletter from Foothill Transit explains that the TAP Cardholder Agreement includes a provision that cards expire approximately three (3) years after the date of issuance, except for Personalized Cards which will expire based on Cardholder's period of verified eligibility. To find out when a card expires check its serial number at [taptogo.net](http://taptogo.net) or call 866-827-8646

The Pacific Railroad Museum located at 210 West Bonita Avenue in San Dimas, along Foothill Transit Line 492, has recently undergone several improvements including adding more to the collection. The museum is operated by Pacific Railroad Society (PRS) and is open Wednesday from 1 PM to 5 PM and Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM and admission is free. Donations gladly accepted. For more information on the museum visit: [www.pacificrailroadsociety.org](http://www.pacificrailroadsociety.org)

On Saturday September 24th, The Pacific Bus Museum is sponsoring an excursion in Marin County aboard one of Golden Gate Transit's vintage buses. For more information visit: [www.pacbus.org](http://www.pacbus.org)

For those interesting on riding vintage Railroad cars, visit [www.larail.com](http://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](http://www.rapidtransit-press.com)

### **Members in Action:**

J.K. Drummond's letter "How SP traffic could have been" appeared in the August 7th issue of the Daily Breeze. *(Editors note: SP in this context refers to the City of San Pedro.)*

Ken Ruben attended the August 30th Metro Green Line to LAX Workshop at the Veterans' Memorial Complex in Culver City. 🚌 🚊

### ***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***

### ***Coast Express Limited***

Starting on August 29th, the new Coast Express Limited is a pilot commuter bus program funded by two Highway 101 expansion projects to help reduce traffic congestion in the Ventura-Santa Barbara/Goleta corridor while the projects are under construction. This is a weekday only service known as MTD Routes 86 and 87.

Both routes begin at the Government Center and operate two morning trips. Route 86 trips end at Calle Real & Peseta while Route 87 trips end at Palo Alto & Hollister. The afternoon service is basically two trips back to the Government Center on each route. The main difference is that afternoon trips on Route 86 begin at State & La Cumbre.

Fares are \$6.00 one-way, \$40 for a 10-Ride ticket and \$140 for a 30-Day Pass. For more information contact MTD 805-883-4276 or at [www.sbmtd.gov](http://www.sbmtd.gov)



### ***Long Beach Transit***

On August 28th, LBT made several changes to their service. Below is a summary of those changes:

Minor Changes were made on Routes: A, B, C, D, 61, 71, 72, 81, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96 ZAP, 111, 112, 181, 191, 192, and 193.

Route 101 will no longer service Lakewood Mall and Centralia Street operating to Long Beach Towne Center on Carson Street.

Route 103 will be routed on a portion on Centralia Street to serve Lakewood High School on weekdays.

Route 102 will now serve the Long Beach Airport and no longer serve the Long Beach Towne Center.

Route 104 is a new route that will serve the Long Beach Airport and the El Dorado Nature Center.

Both Lines 102 and 104 end at Joliet and Civic Center in Hawaiian Gardens.

Route 171 will now be on a new Fall/Winter Schedule with a new stop added at Pacific Coast Highway and Anaheim Street.

The AquaLink and AquaBus service will shut down for the season on September 11th.



### ***VVTA - BV Link***

Effective September 12th, the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) will be making several changes to their BV Link service between Barstow and Victorville. From west-bound on Main Street the route will now go left on 2nd Avenue and then left on East Mountain View Street and regular route to Victorville.

The times at the timepoints will change on the trip from Barstow to Victorville. The Desert Manna bus stop at 1st Avenue and Main Street will now be moved to 2nd Avenue and Main Street. For more information call 760-948-3030. 🚌 🚌

## ***Public and Legislative Affairs By Dana Gabbard***

Californiawatch.org has announced a number of newspapers across the state are co-operatively producing coverage of the proposed high speed rail system ("Newsrooms combine forces to cover high-speed rail"). Certainly the project deserves coverage beyond the level of rewritten press releases so I am hopeful this produces some insight versus the recent rash of often overheated blather.

Congratulations to our fellow advocates of Philadelphia and environs, the Delaware Valley Association of Rail Passengers, who have been vindicated that the two billion dollar Schuylkill Valley Metro pushed by SEPTA that they opposed has been proven a dud (rejected by the feds for funding) and now the more reasonable commuter rail to Reading alternative (dubbed 422plus) they long promoted is on the road toward being realized. Kudos to DVARP for standing up to the powers that be and speaking truth. Huzzah!

I'm glad the city of L.A. has finally dumped their substandard bus bench company. But meanwhile the city's street furniture program (which includes bus shelters) is similarly mired in petty politics and dubious dealings. How come no one is raising a ruckus about that?

As I recently caught up with my Metro staff report reading I stumbled across some goodies buried amid the turgid prose. The following four items are the result:

Guess what? Per agenda item #14 at the May 19th Metro Board Executive Management and Audit Committee meeting Metro is finding that bus operators would prefer plastic TAP cards for loading day passes, not paper cards with chips in them which opera-

tors fear will cause customer confusion.

Three tidbits from agenda item #IV 18 at the May 24 Metro Board meeting:

- Van Pools bring in more money than they cost because their route miles are counted toward determining federal 5307 formula funding allocations.

- The Federal Transit Administration last November awarded \$47.8 million of state of good repair funds (aka federal section 5309) toward the construction of Division 13, to be located across from Union Station. Remember when Metro hoped to build it with Express Lane funds and have it open by last December? We all knew that was a pipe-dream! Glad they found an alternative revenue source that allows a realistic timetable for completion.

- Lastly the proposed LAX bus division isn't dead--attachment A of the report has a line item programming \$15 million for constructing the bus yard sometime between now and Fiscal Year 2019. So while it is not dead neither is it happening anytime soon...

Access Service, the paratransit agency, also acts as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency for Los Angeles County in which capacity they foster coordination among social service transportation providers. One effort they have undertaken is investigating how to encourage the growth of programs where volunteers provide transportation services for seniors. An example of this was shared at our August meeting by Director J.K. Drummond: a flyer from the Alpert Jewish Community Center in Long Beach describing their ride share

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## ***PLAC Continued***

program for seniors in which volunteers drive seniors to local appointments while being provided insurance coverage and reimbursed for mileage.

Metro's new Executive Officer for Regional Rail Don Sepulveda impressed me at the August Metro Citizens' Advisory Council meeting as having the same combination of zeal and knowledge that marked his predecessor Alex Clifford. Sepulveda confirmed the murmurings I have been hearing are true that the coastal rail corridor counties (L.A. to San Luis Obispo) are seriously contemplating creating a Joint Power Authority and assume management of the Surfliner much as the Capitol Corridor is up north. WOW!

I'll conclude by noting I am glad that Metro's Office of Inspector General now posts their

reports on the agency website -- <http://www.metro.net/about/oig/> (click the reports tab). Of special interest is the results of their April-June 2010 undercover "ride along" program observing Metro's contracted bus operations. At the March 17, 2011 Metro Board Executive Management and Audit Committee meeting the IG Office offered these comments regarding their findings "We found that most contract bus operators performed their duties in accordance with Metro policies and rules. However, we found rule violations in approximately 37% of the observations made." 37%? Isn't it time we get access to more useful data about these operators instead of having to make do with an occasional flash of information? Jeez! 🚌 🚌

### ***Bus Rapid Transit in Las Vegas***

On September 18th the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada will be adding two new routes in their growing network of bus rapid transit routes.

The first route is the new Henderson & Downtown Express Route going from downtown Las Vegas to Henderson.

The second route is the Boulder Highway route from downtown to the Galleria at Sunset.

Both routes will utilize the streetcar type buses and have dedicated lanes on Boulder Highway.

For more information visit:  
[www.rtcsonthernnevada.com](http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com)

*(At right is a RTC streetcar bus)*





### ***San Diego Vintage Trolley***

On August 27th San Diego Vintage Trolley (SDVT) began operation of the new Silver Line in downtown San Diego. SDVT uses restored PCC 529 for this service which operates in a clockwise loop in downtown San Diego, beginning and ending at the 12th and Imperial Station. It takes about 25 minutes to complete the trip and it operates from 10 AM to 2 PM on weekends and select holidays. Fares are \$2 for one trip (\$1 for senior/disabled) and MTS Fare Media is not honored. For more information visit: [www.sdvintagetrolley.com](http://www.sdvintagetrolley.com)

PCC 529 was built by the St. Louis car company for the St. Louis Public Service Company in 1946. In 1957 the car was sold to the San Francisco Municipal Railway where it operated until 1982 when it was retired and sold to private ownership. In 2005 the SDVT acquired the car and volunteers completely restored the car. The car has been painted in the colors of the former San Diego Transit. This scheme was worn by the San Diego Transit PCCs that once operated in the city.

"Getting to know Local Transit" is a 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. 🚌 🚋



*(Both images this page are from the San Diego Vintage Trolley.)*

## *Photos of the Month*

*Santa Barbara MTD  
Gillig 710 on Line 5 at  
State and La Cumbre  
on August 14, 2011*

*(Andrew Novak Photo)*



*For the 75th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge in May 2012, Golden Gate Transit has painted new MCI 901 with an impress mural of the bridge by local artist George Summer.*

*-Don Lewis 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 PM Pacific time, unless otherwise announced.

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

NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **Sep 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Oct 8<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:dgabbard@hotmail.com)

44¢  
First  
Class  
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