

# ***THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE***

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates  
November 2011

Vol. 19, No. 11

ISSN 1525-2892



## **Inside This Issue:**

- Bulletin Board (pg. 2)
- Members in Action (pg.2)
- Transit Updates (pg. 3)
- 2011 DAT Trip (pg. 5)
- Public/Legislative Affairs (pg. 6)
- Transit Topics (pg. 7)
- Photos of the month (pg. 10)

*Long Beach Transit Gillig 1201 at the APTA Expo  
in New Orleans, Louisiana in October 2011.*

*—Joe Caronetti Photo*

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

### **Bulletin Board:**

The speaker at our November 12th meeting will be Stephen Fox, Senior Regional Planner at the Southern California Association of Governments regarding the draft Regional Transportation Plan. Also at the meeting nominations for 2012 officers and directors will be taken and an Election Committee appointed.

Our holiday banquet will be held this year the evening of December 10th at Taix, on Sunset near Alvarado just west of downtown Los Angeles. Meals include fresh french baguette, soup of the day, organic greens with house vinaigrette dressing, fresh vegetable, rice or potato (choice of one), sherbet, and coffee or tea. Entree choices: pot roast of beef, roast chicken or Pasta Monégasque (Penne pasta with tomatoes, garlic, basil and olive oil). Cost will be \$25 per person. Enjoy good company plus the usual trinket goody bag and door prizes. Contact the Executive Secretary if you plan to attend.

The Eye on L.A. aviation blog includes from time to time links regarding ground transportation at airports (charter services, Fly-away, etc.).

<http://eyeonlaaviation.blogspot.com/>

The Southern California Railway Plaza Association has successfully negotiated with the city to hold Railroad Days the weekend of May 5-6 2012 at the Fullerton Depot. More details to follow.

### **Members in Action:**

Alek Friedman Jerry Martin, Bart Reed, and Nate Zablen attended the Van Nuys Bl. corridor study meeting on October 26th.

November 3rd Ken Ruben, Bart Reed, Kirk

Schneider and Joe Dunn attended the Bringing Back Streetcar presentation in the State Building downtown.

Schneider and Ruben earlier the same day had attended the LOSSAN Technical Advisory Committee meeting in the Metro headquarters building.

Ruben attended the Westside Governance Council Meeting on October 12th and attended two hours of the National Association of Railroad Passengers House of Delegates speakers session on October 14th. 🚋 🚋

### **Upcoming Events:**

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)

### ***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

### **Amtrak 40th Anniversary Train**

In December the Amtrak 40th Anniversary Train will be in southern California. On December 10-11 the train will be on display at Los Angeles Union Station from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Train will also be on display in Bakersfield on November 19-20 and in San Diego on December 3-4.

For more information visit:  
<http://www.amtrak40th.com/>



### **AVTA**

Effective November 7th, AVTA is adjusting the morning departures on Line 785 to help relieve overcrowding. Run 5 will depart Lancaster City Park 10 minutes earlier at 5:15 AM and Run 6 will depart 5 minutes earlier at 5:50 AM.



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

In August and September 2011 BCT placed 8 new CNG powered El Dorado buses in service. The first 5 are 22-foot long buses that are used on the dial-a-ride service and the remaining 3 buses are 32-feet long and are operating on the BCT Fixed routes.

### **Glendale Beeline**

Beeline has added new schedules on-line for Routes 4, 5, 6, and 7 all dated August 1, 2011. Effective October 1st, Beeline fares were increased. Regular fare is now 75¢ (35¢ Senior/Disabled) and \$2.00 on the two express routes. Beeline still offers 31-Day Passes and 10-Ride cards. Transfers to Beeline routes are 25¢ and interagency transfers are 50¢. For more information call 818-548-3960 or visit: [glendalebeeline.com](http://glendalebeeline.com)

### **Greyhound**

Greyhound has now made it easier for passengers to purchase tickets over the internet without having a debit or credit card to purchase the tickets. Working with 7-11 convenience stores and the website PayNearMe, cash customers can book discounted fares on-line and pay at their local participating 7-11 store. This new program essentially turns a 7-11 into a Greyhound Ticket Office.

After booking on-line, passengers print out a confirmation that they take to the 7-11. The clerk scans the bar code on the print out and the passenger can pay with cash. Passengers can also acquire a reusable Greyhound at 7-11 and then make a reservation with Greyhound over the phone providing the unique number on the card to the agent. Passengers can return to the 7-11 swipe the card and pay cash for the transaction. Greyhound tested the new system in Dallas/Fort Worth and is now rolling it out across the country.



*(Continued  
on Page 4)*

## *Transit Updates Continued*

### **Irvine iShuttle**

Effective October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Irvine iShuttle began operation of two new routes from the Irvine Amtrak/Metrolink to the Irvine Spectrum Center. The new routes C and D operate in the morning from 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM and in the afternoon from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Route D operates until 10:00 PM. Fares on these two routes are \$1.00 for a single ride or \$5.00 for a 10-Ride Card, available from driver. Passengers with valid Metrolink Passes/Tickets and OCTA passes ride free. For more information on the iShuttle visit: <http://www.irvineshuttle.net/> email [info@irvineshuttle.net](mailto:info@irvineshuttle.net) or by calling 949-72GO-BUS (46-287)



### **LADOT Commuter Express**

Effective November 21st the Encino Park-and-Ride Lot will be closed for approximately 12 months to undergo reconstruction. During the closure, LADOT patrons who ride Commuter Express Lines 423, 549, 573, and 574 will be permitted to park for free at the Balboa Sports Complex parking lot located north of the tennis court. The entrance to the parking lot is on Balboa Boulevard. For more information call the LADOT Transit Store at (818, 323, 310, 213) 808-2273.

### **LA County - the Link**

Los Angeles County has recently started several new and rebranded community shuttles in south Los Angeles.

**Athens Shuttle:** The line operates a clockwise shuttle around the Athens area with a connection to the Metro Green Line at the Vermont Station.

**Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park:** This line is a bi-directional service that operates in Walnut Park and portions of Huntington Park with connections to the Metro Blue Line at the Florence Station and the Firestone Station.

### **King Medical Center and Willowbrook:**

The King Medical Center line is a one-way loop that connects the King-Drew Medical Center with the Imperial/Wilmington Blue/Green Line Station. The Willowbrook shuttle has two Routes A and B that operate from the Imperial/Wilmington Blue/Green Line Station around the Willowbrook area.

**Lenox:** The Lenox shuttle is a one way loop in the Lenox area with a connection to the Green Line at the Hawthorne Station.

Fare on all of the routes is 25¢ per ride and free for seniors, 60+, and disabled passengers. The King Medical Center Line is free to all patrons. Metro and EZ-Passes are accepted as valid fares.

All of the lines operate 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Monday through Friday and 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday. For more information visit [LAGOBUS.INFO](http://LAGOBUS.INFO) or call 626-458-5914.

*(Continued on Page 8)*



## ***2011 Day After Thanksgiving Trip (DAT)***

This year we will be traveling to San Diego to explore some of the routes in San Diego. Below are the scheduled times for our trip. Please feel free to join us at any point during the day.

Meet at Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal (Union Station) between 5:30 AM and 6:00 AM (Meet near the new food court)

Amtrak Train 562  
Depart LA: 6:05 AM  
Arrive SD: 8:55 AM

MTS Orange Line  
Depart America Plaza: 9:22 AM  
Arrive El Cajon: 10:10 AM

MTS Line 816  
Depart El Cajon: 10:45 AM  
Arrive Cuyamaca: 11:18 AM

MTS Line 856  
Depart Cuyamaca: 11:31 AM  
Arrive SDSU: **12:36 PM**

Lunch Break at SDSU **12:45 to 1:45 PM**

MTS Line 955  
Depart SDSU: **1:56 PM**  
Arrive Euclid Ave: **2:21 PM**

MTS Orange Line  
Depart Euclid Ave: **2:38 PM**  
Arrive Civic Center: **3:02 PM**

There will be some free time at this point for people to visit the Transit Store, visit Horton Plaza, or any other stop you would like to make in downtown San Diego. From here you can take MTS Routes 923, 992, or the trolley back to Amtrak station.

Back at the Amtrak Station

Amtrak Train 589  
Depart San Diego: **5:55 PM**  
Arrive Los Angeles: **8:55 PM**

Projected Cost:

Round Trip fare on Amtrak: \$72 (Round Trip)  
San Diego Day Pass: \$5

Typically on that weekend Amtrak does require advanced reservations. Visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) or call 1-800-USA-RAIL for more information.

For more information or to download MTS schedules visit [www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com) MTS can also be reached by phone at 619-233-3004

**We Hope to see you there!**



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

Intriguing quote of the month: "being in the industry for 40 years..." Bart Reed quoted in the Daily News October 23rd article "Van Nuys Blvd. congestion spurs new transit dreams". 40 years?

An October 9th memo by L.A. city staff provides an update on the status of the Wilshire BRT project "Extensive roadway improvements on Wilshire Boulevard, including curb lane reconstruction and selective street widening, will be done before the bus lanes are installed. Design and engineering is scheduled to be completed by June 2013, followed by construction of roadway improvements, traffic mitigation measures, Transit Priority System upgrades, and bus lane striping and signage. The project is expected to be completed and operational by June 2015."

The Argonaut reports Gov. Brown has signed Assembly Bill 607, sponsored by Assemblywoman Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica), a five-year pilot program that will permit electronic billboards to be installed on Santa Monica buses ("Santa Monica: Legislation allowing electronic signs on Big Blue Buses becomes law" October 19th). A number of folks are upset about this. Well, it will be about a year before the signs turn up on buses and then we can all judge whether it is a good idea or distracting eyesore.

You've probably heard lawsuits by various NIMBY characters have been lodged against the Expo and Crenshaw light rail projects. Now comes word the Metrolink extension to Parris has been hit with a similar lawsuit born of anti-rail mania (November 4<sup>th</sup> Inland News Today "Lawsuit delays Metrolink extension").

To avoid it impacting the ExpressLane demonstration the construction of the Gateway Plaza station for the El Monte busway has been delayed is now due to be open in mid 2015 at the earliest (per agenda item #28, Metro Board Oct. 27 meeting). A four year wait? YEOW!

And now we know where Francisco Oaxaca, former spokesman for Metrolink, has ended up. Per LinkedIn he is acting in a similar capacity for the First 5 Commission of L.A. County.

On a somber note I'll conclude by offering a few sage memories of the late Larry Zarian, former member of the Metro and Metrolink Boards and the California Transportation Commission who died recently. In my experience he was the only Chair of Metro who understood how to run a meeting. He emphasized when appearing at a Metro Citizens' Advisory Council meeting you have to have a statewide perspective instead of simply being a vote for your region when sitting on the state Commission. Our politics were polar opposites but I always respected that his point of view was well grounded. Condolences to his family and the citizens of Glendale where he served for many years on the city council and as a leader of the Armenian-American community. 🚊 🚊



## *Transit Topics By Andrew Novak*

This month in Transit Topics we have a few things you might have missed from the world of transit.

**Cameron Beach Yard:** On October 25, 2011 the San Francisco Municipal Railway officially dedicated the Cameron Beach Yard. At the time of his death Cam Beach was on the San Francisco MTA Board of Directors a position he had held since 2007. From 1981 to 2006 Cam worked for Regional Transit (RT) in Sacramento and is considered the father of Sacramento's Light Rail System. Cam was a true transit advocate making decisions about service based on the users perspective. He would often travel on buses and light rail vehicles while at RT in order to have a better understanding of the system. He always put the customer first. A plaque at the yard reads: "Director Beach never met a public transit vehicle he didn't like. His lifelong enthusiasm for public transportation, especially San Francisco's fleet of historic vehicles, and abiding dedication to serving the public made him a compelling and dedicated advocate. He always viewed public transit not only for what it was, but for what it could and should be."



**Detroit People Mover:** On November 7th fares on the Detroit People Mover went up to 75¢ from 50¢. This is the first fare increase in the People Mover's 24 year history. The fare increase was necessary to help keep the 2.9 mile loop line operating until December. Like many other transit agencies the People Mover has had it's funding. According to the Detroit News, People Mover passengers have embraced the increase commenting they are glad the service will still be operating. For more on this service visit:

<http://www.thepeoplesmover.com/>



*(Detroit People Mover photo)*

**No Bus - Bus Stop:** This bus stop sign is in Old Town Sacramento and was once used by Regional Transit Bus Line 143. Photo by Andrew Novak. 🚌 🚌



## Transit Updates Continued

### Metrolink

Starting October 14<sup>th</sup>, Metrolink began providing special train service to select Anaheim Mighty Ducks Games. This service will be offered for the 7:05 PM and 7:30 PM home games. At the Anaheim Station there will be a free shuttle to and from the Honda Center.

Adult tickets are \$7 roundtrip, senior/disabled tickets are \$6, and youth tickets, ages 6-18, are \$4. Tickets can be purchased on the OCTA website at [www.octa.net](http://www.octa.net), at Orange County Metrolink ticket vending machines by selecting SPECIAL TICKET OPTIONS, over the phone at 714-560-5932, or at the OCTA Store at 550 South Main Street in Orange.

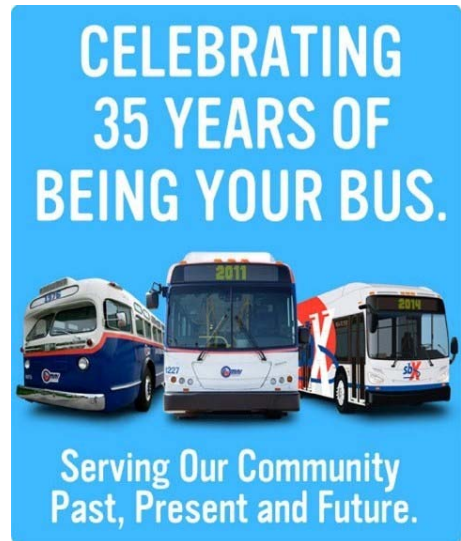


### Omnitrans

To celebrate their 35th Anniversary, Omnitrans will be offering free rides on November 25, 2011 on all fixed-route buses.

Omnitrans has also re-launched their sbX website. The website will allow people to keep up to date on construction of the new rapid bus project with information on construction and photos of the project. For more information on the sbX project visit: <http://www.omnitrans-sbx.com/index.html>

Before the end of 2011, Omnitrans will introduce 17 New Flyer buses to their fleet. These new buses will have LED lighting on the inside and out of the coach. The buses will also have new silicone liquid cell Coach Operators seat and a reconfigured ADA wheelchair area, featuring a front-row passenger safety barrier, a new rear door introducing a Contact-Less Acoustic Sensing System will allow the door to be opened from the inside without being touched.



(Continued on Page 9)



## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### ***PV Transit***

Palos Verdes Transit has added two after-noon trips to Line 225 that depart San Pedro, Averill and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets, at 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Prior to this schedule change the last trip from San Pedro departed at 1:35 PM. This is the first schedule addition PV Transit has made to the Line 225/226 service since they took over the service from Metro in 2006. For more information on this added service visit:

[http://www.palosverdes.com/pvtransit/pdfs/2011/FALL\\_225-226.pdf](http://www.palosverdes.com/pvtransit/pdfs/2011/FALL_225-226.pdf)

### ***Pasadena ARTS***

Pasadena ARTS tickets can now be purchased on-line at:

[http://cityofpasadena.net/Transportation/Arts\\_Ticket\\_Books/](http://cityofpasadena.net/Transportation/Arts_Ticket_Books/)

### ***RTA***

Effective September 11th the Riverside Transit Agency made several changes to their service. Below is a summary of those changes.

Route 1: The eastbound route has been adjusted near University of California, Riverside to avoid congestion and traffic on University Avenue. The line travels east on University, north on Iowa Avenue, east on Blaine Street and south on Canyon Crest.

Route 13: The schedule has been adjusted to improve on-time performance. The Third Street and Chicago Avenue timepoint has been moved to Chicago and University avenues.

Route 15: Schedule has been adjusted to improve connections with OCTA's Route 794 at the La Sierra Metrolink Station.

Route 19: The last weekday northbound trip

has been moved to 8:57 PM to better meet connections at the Moreno Valley Mall.

Route 24: Weekday routing has been adjusted to travel on portions of Main, Pujol and 1st streets.

Route 27: The route no longer travels on Van Buren Boulevard between Orange Terrace Parkway and Trautwein with a new timepoint added at Van Buren Boulevard and Washington Street.

Route 29: Buses now travel in a clockwise manner on the western loop of Pat's Ranch Road, 68th Street and Hamner Avenue.

Routes 31-32: Both schedules have been adjusted to enhance service frequency on weekdays.

Commuter Express Route 208: A new southbound trip has been added at 3:30 PM to meet passenger demand.

Changes have been made to school trips on the following routes 10 and 22.

Schedule changes have been made on Routes 18, 20, and 24 to improve on-time performance.

For more information call 951-565-5002 or visit: [www.riversidetransit.com](http://www.riversidetransit.com) 🚌 🚌



## *Photos of the Month*



*Two double-deck tour buses are parked near the Tower of London in London England in October 2011.*

*-Mark Strickert Photo*

*Several brand new New Flyer coaches at Omnitrans in San Bernardino.*

*-Omnitrans Photo*





## *Photos of the Month*

*LADOT MCI 11402  
at the APTA Expo  
in New Orleans,  
Louisiana in  
October 2011.*

*-Wayne Doran  
Photo*



*OCTA NABI 2108 in  
Orange on October  
13, 2011. The bus  
has been wrapped  
to look like a  
Metrolink Car and  
is advertising the  
added Orange  
County Line train  
service.*

*-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.

**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 Zaben
Vice President:	Kent Landfield
Recording Secretary:	Edmund Buckley
Executive Secretary:	Dana Gabbard
Treasurer:	Dave Snowden
Directors at Large:	Ken Ruben J.K. Drummond Joe Dunn

---

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

NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **Nov 12<sup>th</sup>** and **Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

**November 2011 — Issue 228**



**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  
Postage

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**