

# ***THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE***

**Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates**  
**August 2012** **Vol. 20, No. 08**



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*One of the newly wrapped AVTA buses for the North County Transporter at the Palmdale Transit Center. For more information on this service see Transit Updates on Page 3.*

*—Photo by Nate Pitkin/AVTA*

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## Bulletin Board / Members in Action

### Bulletin Board:

At our August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting the guest speaker is John Standiford of the Riverside County Transportation Commission on the extension of Metrolink to Perris Metrolink. September 8<sup>th</sup> we will have David Rutherford of Omnitrans on the sbX Bus Rapid Transit project. We are anticipating the last two speakers of the year will be on the local takeover of managing the Surfliner and Metro's plans for Union Station. Meeting start at 1:00 PM with speakers scheduled to start at 2:15 PM, with a Question and Answer session after the presentations.

At our August meeting we will discuss a probable tour of Culver CityBus yard later this month. We will also be discussing the need to fill a vacancy on our board. Director Joe Dunn has informed us he needs to relocate due to health concerns and is resigning.

Our friends at Rapid Transit Press are please to announce the completion on two all new newsletters. The News and Views Jr. Volume 10½ Issues 1 and 2 are on sale now. In Issue 1 there is Part 1 of a two part article on the planning of the 2012 Motor Bus Society Convention in Los Angeles and a write up on the San Bernardino Railroad Days. In Issue 2 there is a review of 2011 in photographs. For more information on Rapid Transit Press visit: [www.rapidtransit-press.com](http://www.rapidtransit-press.com)  
To order either of these two issues email Andrew Novak at [rtd1121@yahoo.com](mailto:rtd1121@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming Events:

On Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.pacbus.org)

As part of their 150th Anniversary celebration, the Union Pacific (UP) will be hosting a Sacramento Community Celebration on September 29-30, 2012. The two day event in old town Sacramento is scheduled to include a UP display train, UP's historic 4-8-4 steam locomotive 844, free admission to the California State Railroad Museum and free rides on the museum's excursion railroad the Sacramento Southern. The even runs 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. For more information visit: [up150.com](http://up150.com) and click on "Events."

*(Ed. Note: This appears to be the only public event in California for the 150th anniversary.)*



### ***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

Effective August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) began operation of the new North County TRANSporter route between the Newhall Metrolink Station and the Palmdale Transportation Center with a stop at the Vincent Grade/Acton Station. The new service connects with Metrolink Trains that do not operate to Palmdale on weekdays. One-Way fare on the line is \$4 (\$2 Senior/Disabled). The buses will also be clearly marked for the new service. For more information visit: [avta.com](http://avta.com) or by calling 661-945-9445. Also see map on Page 7.

## TRANSPORTER

## LADOT

Effective August 6<sup>th</sup> Commuter Express Route 422 will be operating on a new schedule. A revised schedule has been posted on the agency's website and new printed timetable will be available soon. Also on August 6<sup>th</sup>, DASH Route D now serves the Metro Expo Line Station at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Two new stops have been added at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Flower Street in both directions. Service on Route D now operates every 6 minutes. For more information visit: [ladottransit.com](http://ladottransit.com) or by calling (213, 310, 323, 818) 808-2273.



## Montebello Bus Lines

Effective July 9<sup>th</sup> Montebello Bus Lines added two new stops to their system. A new east-bound stop was added in downtown Los Angeles at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Figueroa Street for the express routes. A second stop was added to Route 20 and 70 in Montebello at Town Center Drive and Paramount Boulevard. This stop is for northbound patrons.

## Moorpark City Transit

Effective July 30<sup>th</sup> a new contractor, MV Transportation in conjunction with the City of Thousand Oaks, will be operating the Moorpark City Transit (MCT). MCT, along with the county-wide VISTA service, were left without a contractor when Coach America announced it would no longer be providing the service as a result of their bankruptcy sale. Service was expected to remain the same with no route changes and no fare increases. For more information passengers are advised to contact the bus information line at 805-375-5473.



*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Transit Updates Continued

### Omnitrans

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, work began on the new Ontario Transit Center near the intersection of Holt and Euclid. Construction began at Sultana & D for the Route 81 and the stop has been temporarily relocated to D & Sultana East-bound north side. This project is expected to be completed in the fall.

Work is also progressing on the sbX project in San Bernardino and northbound Route 2 will be on the following detour for about three months while work continues on Hospitality Lane. The first detour takes place at Carnegie and follows Carnegie around until it rejoins Hospitality Lane just east of TGI-Friday's. The second detour will be at Hunts Lane. Buses will turn south on Hunts Lane, turn right on E street and rejoin the normal route at E & Hospitality Lane. There is an alternate stop on Hunts Lane & Hospitality Lane southbound far side. This stop will serve the County building (Hall of Records) that is behind the Soup Plantation. There is another stop on Carnegie & Hospitality Lane, westbound far side as well. You can follow sbX updates online at:

<http://www.omnitrans-sbx.com/>

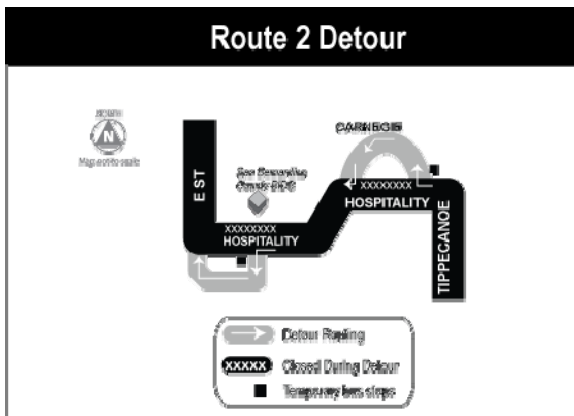
<https://www.facebook.com/omnitrans.sbx>

### Pasadena ARTS

From July 7<sup>th</sup> to August 24<sup>th</sup>, Pasadena ARTs Route 20 (Clockwise) will have extended hours and make two additional stops on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays as part of the "Parks after dark" program. After 8:00 PM stops will be made at Villa Parke in front of Villa Parke on Villa Street and at Robinson Park at the southwest corner of Fair Oaks/Hammond. Villa Parke and Robinson Park will be providing free boarding tickets every night and will be available on a first come first serve basis.

### Santa Clarita Transit

Effective August 5<sup>th</sup> Santa Clarita Transit raised the prices of monthly passes for both local and express services. The agency has also introduced a new monthly pass for passengers using Commuter Line 757 to North Hollywood. Also on August 5th the agency is adding 11 trips on Line 757 to North Hollywood. Five of the trips go from Santa Clarita and six trips from North Hollywood. Starting August 6<sup>th</sup>, Line 795 from Santa Clarita to Lancaster has been canceled and replaced with the new AVTA North County Transporter. For more information and details on the new pass prices visit: [santaclaritatransit.com](http://santaclaritatransit.com) or by calling 661-294-1287.



(Continued on Page 8)



## *Transit Topics By Andrew Novak*

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

**New Trolley Line:** On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Junction celebrated the opening of one mile of newly restored track. The mile-long segment from Shiloh Road to Birds Landing Road is part of the museum's multi-year project to restore the former Sacramento Northern main line from Rio Vista Junction to Molena. The Sacramento Northern Railway was an interurban line that ran from Oakland California to Chico California which ceased passenger operations in the 1941. For more information on the Western Railway Museum visit them on-line at: [www.wrm.org](http://www.wrm.org)

**SMART Moves forward:** The Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) district began track work south of Santa Rosa on the long awaiting rail transit project from Santa Rosa to San Rafael. The SMART project has been in the works for many years and has faced many challenges over the years. The SMART trains will be operating on the Northwestern Pacific Railroad which runs from Eureka to San Rafael. The first of the new DMU cars being built by Nippon Sharyo USA is accepted to arrive later this year for testing. SMART service is scheduled to start in 2016.



**AC Transit BRT:** AC Transit in Oakland is getting closer to starting work on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The City of San Leandro has given there stamp of approval to the proposed service which would run from San Leandro BART to Oakland. The AC Transit board of directors and the Oakland Public Works Committee have both approved the project. The last hurdle will be to gain the approval of the Oakland City Council. Once approved construction could begin in 2014 with service expected to start in 2016.

**Starline ADA:** In response to a federal lawsuit filed against Starline Tours of Hollywood, the company is now making a commitment to provide ADA accessible buses on all of there tours. The company has also started retraining operators on the proper procedures for assisting ADA passengers.

Starline has also introduced several double-decker buses converted from former OCTA low floor New Flyers. These conversions are being done in-house and the low floor buses have ADA capacity.

**End of Line:** I will close this month with the sad end to once proud warrior. At the Northern Green Golf and Family Fun Center in Newmarket Ontario Canada there is a former Richmond Hill Transit Orion I (below) that is now used as a target on the driving range. The photo of this "target" comes from Tom Jankowski via Facebook. 🚌 🚌



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

While everyone considers the recently passed federal transportation reauthorization a classic example of half a loaf, it does include the loan expansion program that will facilitate America Fast Forward. Certainly a big win for Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa. We may even have a groundbreaking for phase I of the Purple Line extension in a year or so. Who ever thought that would happen in this decade?

Interesting fact of the month: in 2011-12 Omnitrans picked up 1 million additional riders compared to the previous year, surpassing the 16 million mark for the first time since 2004!

Senate Bill 1225 continues working its way toward the Governor's desk. This would have a local joint powers take over managing the Surfliner. And I think nobody yet has a firm grasp what this would do for users. There are good intentions but some obstacles (like impending changes in funding of inter-city state supported Amtrak routes) plus the ongoing state fiscal crisis that give one pause. But it does look like the change is almost surely going to happen.

After what has to only be called a heart-stopping cliffhanger high speed rail looks like it is on the cusp of finally starting some real work and stop merely being the province of plans and meetings. After 15 years of observing this project I am somewhat hopeful I will someday actually have a chance to ride one of these trains on a jaunt north.

While cruising the agenda for the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commission I was surprised to learn (Item #9) Los Angeles World Airports is awarding

a three-year contract to Shaw Yoder Antwih, Inc., for professional state legislative and regulatory advocacy services related to airport operations and planning for a total amount not to exceed \$270,000. These are the folks who also run the California Transit Association and are very familiar with the ins and outs of Sacramento. This looks to be one of the smarter moves by the airport folks of late.

I'll conclude by congratulating Larry Jackson, Long Beach Transit's president and CEO, on winning the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation Manager award for 2012. Well deserved! 🚗 🚗

### **Thanksgiving is coming soon and so is the day after!**

It is time to once again think about where to go on our Day-After Thanksgiving Trip. In years past we have visited San Diego, Palm Springs, Thousand Oaks, and Santa Barbara.

At our September meeting we will be having a discussion on where to go this year, so come prepared with your trip ideas!



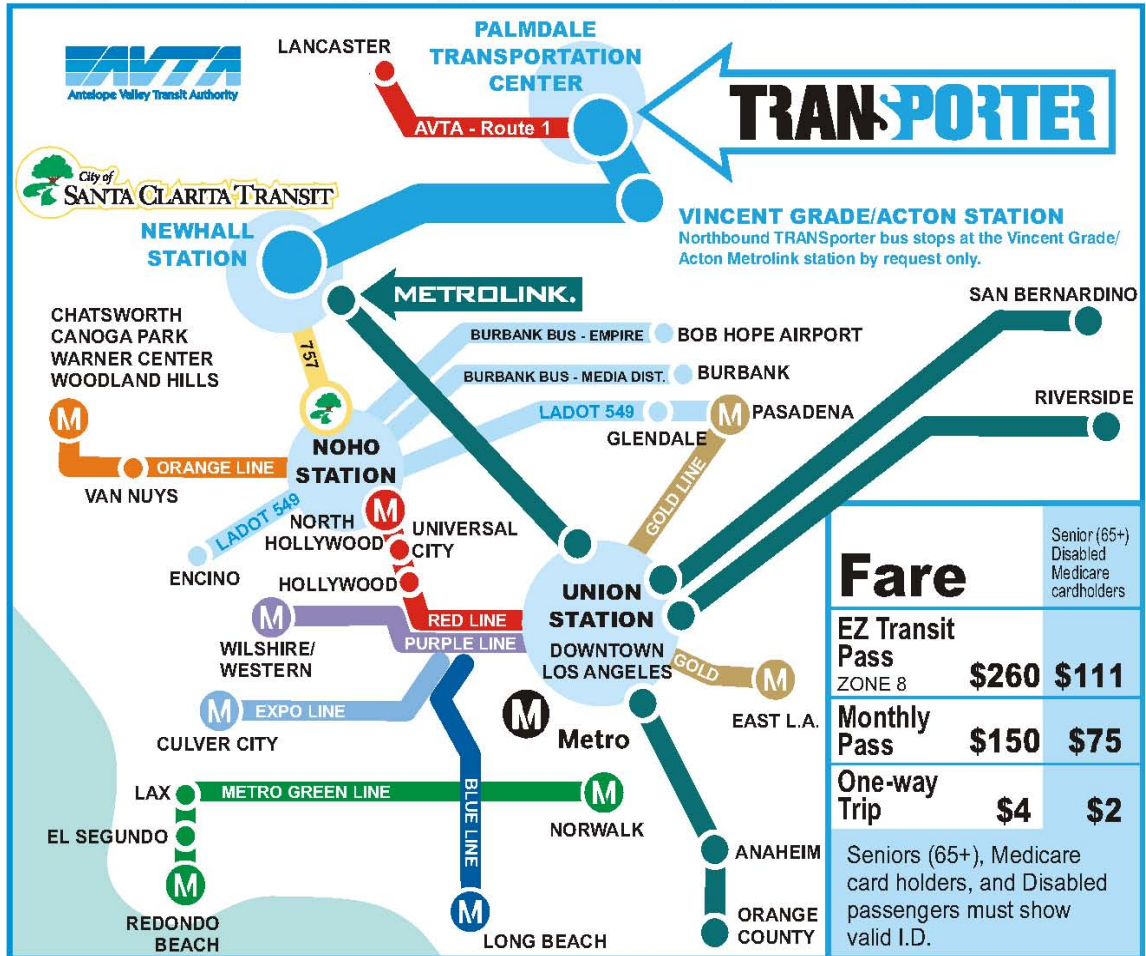
# TRANSPORTER

Southbound to Newhall Metrolink Station

Northbound to Palmdale Transportation Center

TRANSPORTER		METROLINK.	
Depart Palmdale Transportation Center	Arrive Newhall Metrolink	Newhall to L.A. Union Station	
		Train	Time
8:00	8:50	210	9:05
10:40	11:30	286	12:02
2:15	3:05	218	3:28
4:00	4:50	220	5:13

METROLINK.		TRANSPORTER	
Newhall to Palmdale	Depart Newhall Metrolink	Arrive Palmdale Transportation Center	
Train	Time		
281	8:52	9:10	10:00
283	11:28	11:40	12:30
209	2:38	2:50	3:40
213	4:43	5:00	5:50



## Transit Updates Continued

### VISTA

The Ventura County Transportation Commission recently entered an agreement with Camarillo based Roadrunner for continued operation of the county-wide VISTA bus service. VCTC was forced to find a new contractor after previous contractor Coach America announced they not going to continue providing service as a result of their bankruptcy sale. The new contract took effect on July 30, 2012 and will run until June 30, 2013. To help bolster public support for the service, VCTC is now offering monthly passes and discount 10-ride tickets. It has been reported that Roadrunner is using former sam-Trans Gilligs for this service. For more information visit: [goventura.org](http://goventura.org) or call 800-438-1112.

### Silverstate Trailways

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, Silverstate Trailways issued a revised schedule for their service from Los Angeles and Orange County to Las Vegas. The evening trips that had been operated daily now operate to Las Vegas on Thursday through Sunday and back to southern California on Friday through Monday. The company has also added several stops in Los Angeles and East Los Angeles. Fares are \$25 one-way from Los Angeles and \$35 one-way from Orange County. For more information, to make reservations or the locations of the terminals visit: [silverstatetrailways.com](http://silverstatetrailways.com) or call 800-892-7979. Below is a copy of the new schedule. 🚌 🚌

### Silver State Trailways

#### Las Vegas - Los Angeles - Orange County

Daily	Daily	Fri-Mon				Daily	Daily	Thur-Sun
<i>Read Down</i>	<i>Read Down</i>	<i>Read Down</i>				<i>Read Up</i>	<i>Read Up</i>	<i>Read Up</i>
10:00 AM	1:30 PM	5:15 PM	DP	North Las Vegas, NV <i>Silver State Trailways</i>	AR	3:15 PM	9:15 PM	1:45 AM
10:10 AM	1:40 PM	5:25 PM	DP	Las Vegas, NV <i>Plaza Hotel</i>	▲	2:45 PM	8:45 PM	1:15 AM
10:30 AM	2:00 PM	5:45 PM	DP	Las Vegas, NV <i>Harrah's</i>	▲	2:15 PM	8:15 PM	12:45 AM
10:45 AM	2:15 PM	6:00 PM	▼	Las Vegas, NV <i>Planet Hollywood</i>	▲	2:00 PM	8:00 PM	12:30 AM
2:30 PM	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	AR	Colton, CA <i>Futura Net</i>	DP	9:30 AM	3:30 PM	8:00 PM
LV-LA1	LV-LA2	LV-LA3				LA-LV1	LA-LV2	LA-LV3
2:45 PM	6:15 PM	10:15 PM	DP	Colton, CA <i>Futura Net</i>	AR	9:00 AM	3:00 PM	7:45 PM
3:45 PM	7:15 PM	11:15 PM	▼	East Los Angeles, CA <i>Futura Net</i>	DP	8:00 AM	2:00 PM	6:45 PM
4:05 PM	7:35 PM	11:35 PM	▼	Los Angeles, CA <i>Transporte InterCalifornia</i>	DP	7:40 AM	1:40 PM	6:25 PM
4:15 PM	7:45 PM	11:45 PM	▼	Los Angeles, CA <i>Futura Net</i>	DP	7:30 AM	1:30 PM	6:15 PM
4:30 PM	8:00 PM	12:00 AM	▼	Los Angeles, CA <i>Aju Tour</i>	DP	7:15 AM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM
4:45 PM	8:15 PM	12:15 AM	AR	Los Angeles, CA <i>Hana Tour USA</i>	DP	7:00 AM	1:00 PM	5:30 PM
LV-OC1	LV-OC2	LV-OC3				OC-LV1	OC-LV2	OC-LV3
2:45 PM	6:15 PM	10:15 PM	DP	Colton, CA <i>Futura Net</i>	AR	9:00 AM	3:00 PM	7:45 PM
3:45 PM	7:15 PM	11:15 PM	AR	Anaheim, CA <i>Gray Line Tour Center</i>	DP	7:30 AM	1:30 PM	6:30 PM
4:15 PM	7:45 PM	11:45 PM	▼	Garden Grove, CA <i>Donut Time</i>	▲	7:00 AM	1:00 PM	6:00 PM
4:30 PM	8:00 PM	12:00 AM	AR	Santa Ana, CA <i>Fox Express</i>	DP	6:45 AM	12:45 PM	5:45 PM



## ***Metro Service Changes for June 2012.***

On June 17<sup>th</sup> the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) made several changes to their bus routes. Many of the changes were made to improve connections to the newly completed Metro Expo Line. Below is a summary of those changes.

Line 30: Select trips were extended to West Hollywood on San Vicente from the Pico/Rimpau Terminal to replace a portion of Line 550.

Line 42: Service to downtown Los Angeles has been discontinued and the southern portion of the line has been incorporated into the revised Line 102.

Line 66: Starting at 9:00 PM all Owl trips now serve the 7<sup>th</sup>/Broadway Owl Lineup.

Line 102: Service on this line west of Western Avenue as been discontinued and now travels south on Western to Martin Luther King Boulevard and travels to the LAX City Bus Center over the alignment of former Line 42.

Line 162: This is a new peak hour service replacing former limited stop Line 363. The new 162 makes all stops on Sherman Way and Lankershim.

Line 167: The route has been modified to serve the new Cal State Northridge Transit Center.

Line 177: Service east of Pasadena City College has been discontinued.

Line 202: Minor route modifications were made to serve the new Gateway Towne Center on Alameda Street across from the Artesia Blue Line Station.

Line 217: All trips were extended to serve the Metro Expo Line La Cienega/Jefferson Station. Select trips on weekdays have been extended south to the Culver City Transit Center (Fox Hills Mall) over the alignment of discontinued Route 439.

Line 220: The route has been modified to serve the new Culver City Expo Line Station.

Line 232: This line will provide bi-directional service on Long Beach Boulevard to the Long Beach Transit Mall. Stops on Pacific Avenue at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street and on 6<sup>th</sup> Street have been relocated to Long Beach Boulevard.

Line 287: Has been combined with Line 176 and renumbered as such.

Line 305: Service discontinued with some replacement service being provided on San Vicente by Lines 30 and 330.

Line 330: This new peak hour limited stop service replaced Line 730. The new 330 makes all stops on Broadway in downtown Los Angeles and two new stops were added at Pico/Arlington and Pico/Crenshaw.

Line 363: Service discontinued and replaced with Line 162.

Line 439: Service discontinued with service being replaced by Metro Expo Line and an extended Line 217.

Lines 450 and 460: A new stop has been added for both routes at Flower and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to allow connections to the Metro Expo Line at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Station.

*(Continued on Page 10)*

## ***Metro Service Changes Continued***

Line 534: All trips now exit Interstate 10 at Robertson to service the Expo Line Station in Culver City. The route still terminates at the Washington/Fairfax Transit Hub.

Line 550: Service to West Hollywood has been discontinued and replaced by Lines 30 and 330. On weekdays during rush hour the line terminates at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Hoover Streets near USC. During the midday and on weekends all trips terminate at the Artesia Transit Center.

Line 607: The route was modified to serve the Ladera Center at La Tijera Boulevard and Centinela Avenue.

Line 620: The route was modified to serve 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Mott Avenue.

Line 705: A new stop was added at the Metro Expo Line La Cienega/Jefferson Station.

Line 730: Service discontinued and replaced with new Line 330.

Line 740: Service to downtown Los Angeles has been discontinued. Route was modified to connect with the Metro Expo Line at the Crenshaw Station.

Line 741: The route has been modified to serve the new Cal State Northridge Transit Center.

Line 754: A new stop was added at the Vermont Expo Line Station.

Line 757: A new stop was added at the Western Expo Line Station.

Line 761: A new stop was added at Van Nuys and Plummer.

Line 762: This route now ends at Colorado and Fair Oaks.

Metro Silver Line: The route was modified to serve the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Expo Line Station. Service levels were also improved on the route during rush hour and on weekends. 🚗 🚗



## *Photos of the Month*

*VVTA New Flyer 0034 at Fort Irwin on July 31, 2012. This is one of five New Flyers VVTA recently purchased from Omnitrans for use on the NTC Commuter to Fort Irwin.*

*-Craig Barnes  
Photo*



*Two Metro NABIs at the new Chatsworth Orange Line Station on June 30, 2012. This photo was taken during the opening of the new Chatsworth Extension of the Orange Line.*

*-Jerry Martin-Kosis  
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.

**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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Executive Secretary:	Dana Gabbard
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Directors at Large:	Ken Ruben J.K. Drummond Joe Dunn

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

NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **Aug 11<sup>th</sup>** and **Sep 8<sup>th</sup>** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

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