

THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates
September 2012

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Omnitrans New Flyer 1251 in the agencies' new paint scheme at the rebranding event on August 15, 2012. Omnitrans mascot Buster also sports his new image.

—Photo by Janice Kuhn/Omnitrans

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Bulletin Board / Members in Action

Bulletin Board:

Our thanks to John Standiford of the Riverside County Transportation Commission for an excellent presentation on the Metrolink extension to Perris at our August 11th meeting. At our September 8th meeting David Rutherford of Omnitrans will make a presentation on the sbX Bus Rapid Transit project under construction in San Bernardino. We will also discuss candidates for the day After Thanksgiving annual transit tour.

Save the date: our annual holiday banquet will be Saturday December 8th at 5:00 PM at Taix (1911 West Sunset Boulevard).

Via Fred Frailey's Trains Magazine blog we have learned Bill Baird, a BNSF Railway train dispatcher assigned to its San Bernardino office, sends a daily e-mail he calls "The Tortoise Tattler" with rail related history lessons and news links. To be added to the mailing list send a request to TheTortoiseTattler@yahoo.com

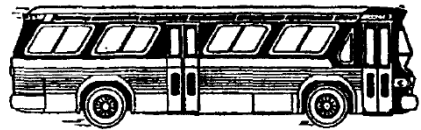
At www.lossan.org/timetable you can see the just posted LOSSAN Corridor Joint Timetable that combines the schedules of Amtrak intercity trains, COASTER commuter trains, and Metrolink commuter trains for travel between: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego.

Members in Action:

Dana Gabbard and Ken Ruben attended the Metro Citizens' Advisory Council meetings on July 25th and August 22nd. Nate Zablen, Nick Matanok and Ruben attended the Transit Coalition Meeting on July 24th. Ruben also attended the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency meeting on July 23rd.

Jane Reifer was quoted stating "It boils down to the fact that bus riders need bus service" in the Orange County Register August 10th article "Long Beach seeks to charge Seal Beach for buses." The article further notes Transit Advocates of Orange County (which Jane chairs) has been meeting with Long Beach and Seal Beach bus riders regarding the current situation.

Go by BUS



Speakers wanted!

FOR TRANSIT INDUSTRY READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER -- We are now arranging our guest speakers for our monthly meetings for 2013. We invite newsletter readers from the transit industry to contact us if they are interested in making a presentation. Meetings are the second Saturday of the month at 255 South Hill Street in downtown Los Angeles. Presentations start at 2:15 PM. We have access to a projector for Power Point. We also are hoping to undertake occasional tours of local transit operating facilities; if you agency would like to give a behind the scenes tour contact us.

dgabbard@hotmail.com or
213-388-2364.

Transit Updates

Beach Cities Transit

Effective August 25th, BCT made several changes to their service.

- Line 104 from Redondo Beach Pier to Del Amo Fashion Center was canceled.

- Line 102 now serves the South Bay Galleria in both directions during non-peak times. Also extra weekday buses will be added during the school year.

- Line 109 now serves the Douglas Green Line Station in both directions. The East-bound service to Manhattan Village Mall has been re-routed from Rosecrans Avenue/ Village Drive to Village Drive, Park View Avenue, and Market Place.

Both Lines 102 and 109 also were revised to improve service.

Big Blue Bus (Santa Monica)

Effective August 26th Big Blue Bus made service changes:

- Route 2 now ends at Pico Boulevard and no longer serves Venice.

- Route 5 has been re-routed in downtown Santa Monica due to Expo Rail Construction. Route 5 will no longer stop on 4th Street at Broadway, Wilshire or Santa Monica Boulevard or on Colorado at 4th Street.

Effective August 27th Big Blue Bus made service changes:

- Rapid 10 the peak hour trips that began at Main and Marine Streets have been cancelled.

- Route 11 will have a new schedule.

- Rapid 12 replaced the old Super 12. Several stops have been removed for a faster ride and the Culver City Stop has been relocated to northbound Robertson between Venice and Washington for a better connection to the Expo Line.

- New Rapid Line 20 began operation from downtown Santa Monica to the Metro Expo Line Station in Culver City. This new non-stop service operates via Interstate 10 and makes the following stops, Broadway at 6th, 4th Street at Santa Monica Place, and on Robertson between Washington and Venice. Fare on this route is only \$1.



Flyaway

Recently the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) announced that the Irvine Flyaway would be canceled on or before September 14th. The announcement came after the US Bankruptcy court declared that contractor Coach America could reject its contract with LAWA. LAWA is currently seeking private companies interested in operating the Irvine service. The other Flyaway services have not been affected by Coach America bankruptcy and new contracts for the Union Station and Westwood Services have recently been awarded to Bauer's Intelligent Transportation and Corinthian International Parking Services respectively.

(Continued on Page 4)

Transit Updates Continued

Gold Coast Transit

Effective August 19th the Gold Coast Transit (Oxnard) made several changes to their service. Below is a summary of those changes.

- Route 10 now travels to Saticoy instead of Route 11.
- Route 11 now travels to Market Street and Dolon Street
- Route 16 now ends in downtown Ojai and no longer serves Meiner Oaks. Service in Meier Oaks will now be provided by the Ojai Trolley.
- Route 40 has been canceled.
- Schedule and/or timepoint changes were made to the following routes: 1A/1B, 4B, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20.



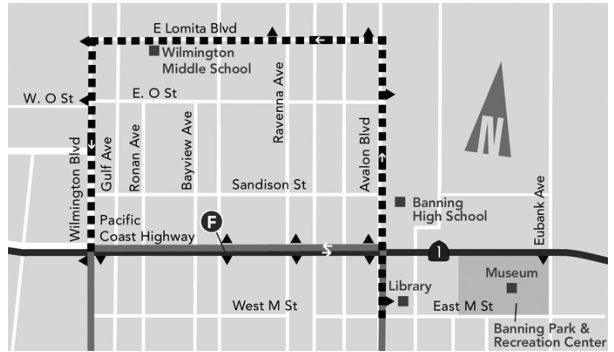
LADOT - DASH

Effective August 14th DASH Wilmington was extended to serve the Wilmington Middle School at 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Monday through Friday.

Effective September 17th LADOT will be making the following changes to the DASH Crenshaw. Buses will now operate every 20 minutes and will be extended to the Metro Expo Line Station at La Brea Avenue. Several new stops have been added in both directions. Service on Martin Luther King be-

tween Rodeo Road and Coliseum Street and Rodeo up to La Brea has been discontinued.

Map of DASH Wilmington Expansion



Map of DASH Crenshaw Extension



For more information and details on these changes contact LADOT at ladottransit.com or call (213, 310, 323, 818) 808-2273.



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Transit Topics By Andrew Novak

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

Bye-Bye People Movers: On August 13, 2012 the newly formed WEGO Transportation system began operation at Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada. WEGO operates buses for tourists around the Niagara Falls in Canada. WEGO is operating low-floor Nova Buses in both 40 and 60 foot versions. The new WEGO system replaced the 25 People Mover buses and trailers that were specially built for the Niagara Parks Commission by Orion. The People Mover buses were Orion IV models and were nicknamed the "bubble buses." The unique buses were built between 1985 and 1989 and provided service for 25 years. The photo below shows one of the Orion IVs and is from Wikipedia.



Phoenix Light Rail: Recently the Maricopa Association of Governments approved Valley Metro's plan for light rail service in the west valley of Phoenix. The new light rail extension will start in downtown Phoenix and travel 11 miles west through the State Capitol area and end near 79th Avenue and Interstate 10. This new service would operate along the freeway. The project will now enter the environmental assessment phase

and the extension could be completed by 2023.

BNSF Historical Society: I have recently come across the BNSF Historical Society. BNSF was created in 1995 when the Burlington Northern merged with the Santa Fe. Recently the Society has published their first newsletter in PDF format. The group is very active on Facebook. For more information you can email the society at bnsfhistorical@gmail.com or write to them at: BNSF Historical Society – Post Office Box 833 – Rialto, CA - 92377 🚂 🚂



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

I've learned Matt Raymond, until recently chief communications officer at Metro, has set up a consulting firm called Celtis Ventures to share his marketing expertise. The website for this is <http://celtisventures.com/>

The latest Personal Rapid Transit zealot sharing his vision is someone named Nick Garzilli running around West Hollywood promoting something called jpods <http://www.jpods.com/> per coverage in the WEHO News ("Mag-lev cars for WeHo?"). No comment.

I am glad to hear that the OC Fair Express set a new ridership record this year. There were 9,325 boardings the closing weekend of the fair bringing the total ridership on the Express this year to 46,365, a more than 80 percent increase compared to its 2011 ridership of 25,699. Hooray!

Obscure entity of the month: city of Los Angeles Street and Transportation Projects Oversight Committee. This was formed in the past year to tackle project delivery issues. The members are the Chief Legislative Analyst (representing the City Council), the Mayor and the City Administrative Officer (Chair). Committee meetings occur once a month. Representatives from the Chairs of the City Council Transportation and Public Works Committees have been regular attendees. I'll be posting these publicly noticed meetings on our calendar of transit related

events: <http://www.brownbearsww.com/freecal/socata>

To conclude I note much to my relief L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has announced he will not run for Mayor of Los Angeles next year. Whatever his virtues Zev has always been a tad too calculating, not all that great at consensus building and far too risk averse to be effective as Mayor. Ex-Mayor Richard Riordan is quoted in the Daily News as being unhappy with the existing field of candidates. Frankly they didn't wow me either. But by gosh I would oppose any candidate touted by the clueless/elitist Riordan. And it is pretty late in the game to expect any more candidates to decide to enter the race (I think Rick Caruso will also eventually decide not to run). So however mediocre a field one of them is likely to be the next Mayor. Maybe they'll grow into the job... 🚗 🚗



MTS (San Diego) Service Changes

On September 2nd, The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) in San Diego made the following changes to their system.

Trolley Changes:

Blue Line: Trains now travel between San Ysidro and America Plaza. Weekday morning frequency has been increased.

Orange Line: Trains now travel between El Cajon Transit Center and the Santa Fe Depot. Frequency has been increased on Saturday mornings and on Sundays.

Green Line: Trains will now travel south from Old Town and end at the 12th and Imperial Transit Center. Frequency has been increased on Saturday mornings and on Sundays.

Bus Changes:

Routes 1, 10, and 13: Trips added on Sunday

Route 6: Saturday frequency increased to 15 minutes.

Route 7: Weekday afternoon tripper service added for the new school year.

Routes 8 and 9: Service will be reduced to non-summer frequencies.

Route 11: Sunday service will be reconnected via 1st Avenue with hourly service.

Route 15: On weekdays new trips have been added in the mornings and afternoon frequency has been increased to 12 minutes.

Route 20: On weekdays service has been added to Del Lago every 30 minutes.

Route 27: Special Summer Sunday service will operate on September 2-3 and after that 90-Minute Saturday service will resume.

Route 30: Weekend and Holiday service adjustments

Route 35: Weekday afternoon frequency will be increased. Sunday frequency also increased.

Route 41: On Sundays Route 41A service to Linda Vista will be replaced by Route 120.

Route 41 will operate on Highway 163 and Genesee Avenue every 30 minutes.

Route 44: Frequency increase on weekday afternoons and on Sundays.

Route 120: Service ends at Broadway in downtown. Sunday service increased north of Fashion Valley to every 30 minutes.

Route 150: Peak hour service added.

Route 703: Service now every 60 minutes

Route 705: Saturday now every 30 minutes

Route 709: All trips will be numbered 709 (no A, B, and C) passengers will need to check headsign for destination.

Route 712: Saturday frequency increased and Sunday service restored between Palomar and Sharp Hospital.

Route 815: Sunday service increased to 30 minutes and service extended to 8:00 PM

Route 833: On weekdays all trips will serve Santee and service is now every 45 minutes. Routes 848, 864, and 874/875: Sunday service is now extended to 8:00 PM.

Route 854: Full Route 854X will be restored for the fall semester.

Route 855: Sunday service increased to every 45 minutes after 10:00 AM.

Route 905: Peak hour trips added. New stops added at Caliente Avenue to serve San Ysidro High School. Route 905A will now operate on La Media Road.

Route 929: Service increased to every 12 minutes on weekday afternoons. 🚌 🚌



Transit Updates Continued

Metro (Los Angeles)

Metro expanded their late night service on both Metro Rail and select Metro Bus Lines. On July 27th, Metro Rail Service now operates until 2:00 AM on Fridays and Saturdays. Below are details on the last departures for each line.

-Red Line: Last train departs Union Station at 2:12 AM and North Hollywood at 1:56 AM

-Purple Line: Last train departs Union Station at 2:02 AM and Wilshire/Western at 2:03 AM

-Gold Line: Last train departs Atlantic at 1:43 AM and Sierra Madre Villa at 1:39 AM

-Expo Line: Last train departs 7th/Metro at 2:12 AM and Culver City 1:49 AM

-Blue Line: Last train departs Long Beach to Los Angeles at 12:58 AM and last train departing 7th/Metro at 2:07 AM. Service between the Long Beach Transit Mall and Wardlow Station will continue past 12:58 AM with the last train leaving Long Beach at 3:07 AM.

-Green Line: Last train departs Redondo Beach at 1:58 AM and Norwalk at 2:09 AM.

-Orange Line: Last bus departs North Hollywood at 2:53 AM and Chatsworth at 1:50 AM.

On August 17th Metro expanded the Silver Line service on Fridays and Saturdays as well. The last bus leaves Artesia Transit Center at 1:56 AM and El Monte Station at 2:00 AM.



Norwalk Transit

Effective September 9th, Norwalk Transit will be making changes to Route 3. Service between Alondra and 183rd Street (Cerritos Towne Center) will be eliminated. Also service between Bloomfield and the Metrolink Station and Telegraph and Bluejay Lane will also be eliminated. Also the segment between Florence Avenue and Telegraph will be realigned on Florence Avenue to Orr & Day Road and Telegraph Road. Midday service to the Whittier Depot from Pioneer Boulevard will also be restored. Saturday service on Route 3 will also be canceled. Route 8 will also be canceled.



Omnitrans

On August 15th Omnitrans introduced their new paint scheme and logo at an early morning event at the Carousel Mall in San Bernardino. On display was the one of the agency's new Xcelsior buses from New Flyer, their new travel training bus, historic bus "Old Blue" in the new scheme, and a new image for agency mascot "Buster." Omnitrans has also launched a new and improved website at Omnitrans.org.



(Continued on Page 9)

Transit Updates Continued

RTA

Effective September 9th, the Riverside Transit Agency will be making the following changes.

Route 1: Buses will now operate approximately every 18 minutes instead of every 20 minutes on weekdays. On Weekends eastbound trips ending at Riverside Downtown Terminal will be extended to end at UCR Bannockburn. All schedules have been adjusted for better connections with Metrolink trains.

Route 7: The last weekend northbound trip will depart the Inland Valley Hospital at 5:33 PM to improve connections with Route 23.

Route 11: Weekday clockwise 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM trips will be adjusted to improve connections with other RTA routes at the Moreno Valley Mall.

Route 12: A new weekday eastbound trip at Main & Garner will depart at 2:30 PM, while the 4:30 PM trip at that time point will be discontinued. The last eastbound weekend trip will be extended to end at Stephens & Center.

Route 16: Will now end at Riverside Downtown Terminal. Weekday schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance, and service frequency will be enhanced so buses will operate approximately every 20 minutes. Weekend service frequency will also be improved so buses will operate every 35 minutes.

Route 19: The weekday schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance, and service frequency will be enhanced to operate approximately every 45 minutes.

Route 22: The weekday northbound 6:45 AM trip from the Perris Station Transit Center will be extended to the Riverside Downtown Terminal.

Route 23: The weekday northbound 5:40 PM trip will be adjusted to improve connections with Route 217.

Route 27: The first weekend southbound trip will be adjusted to improve connections with Route 1. The weekday southbound 2:55 PM school tripper service will be discontinued due to low ridership. Schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance, and frequency will be increased to operate every 55 minutes.

Route 41: The weekday schedule will be adjusted for better connections with other routes and local schools.

Route 51: The last trip will be extended to the University Village Apartments on Iowa Avenue.

Route 53: Service will be discontinued due to low ridership.

Routes 40, 61, and 79: Will have their weekday schedules adjusted to improve on-time performance.

Route 202: The first afternoon northbound trip will be adjusted to depart at 5:36 PM for better connections from Metrolink trains at the Oceanside Transit Center.

Route 206: The southbound 5:02 PM trip will be adjusted for faster service and will no longer operate from Lake Elsinore Outlet Center Park-N-Ride to Murrieta and Temecula. A 4:31 PM southbound trip will be added for connection with a new Metrolink train.

Route 210: Sun Line Transit Agency will begin a new express service between Palm Desert and Riverside using a portion of the existing Route 210.

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Transit Updates Continued

RTA Continued

The three trips between Banning and Riverside currently operated by RTA will now be operated by Sun Line. Those trips are the 5:54 AM westbound trip from Ramsey and Sunset, and the 5:19 PM and 6:35 PM eastbound trips departing the Riverside Downtown Terminal.

On August 27th RTA made the following adjustment to Route 10. Westbound bus will not travel on Horace Street in Riverside. Instead, Route 10 will continue on Arlington Avenue, turn right on Victoria Avenue and continue to regular routing. The current westbound stops on Horace Avenue will be closed. Eastbound Route 10 will not be affected and will continue to use Horace Street.

Sun Line

Effective September 10th, Sun Line will begin operation of Commuter Link 220 a new route offering peak hour service from Palm Desert to Riverside. The trips will run to Riverside in the morning and to Palm Desert in the afternoon. Stops in Palm Desert include Westfield Shopping Center on Town Center Way and Hahn and in Rancho Mirage at Home Depot on Monterey near Dinah Shore. Additional stops on the line include Cabazon, Banning, Beaumont, Moreno Valley, UCR and Downtown Riverside with connections to Metrolink. For exact schedules and fare information visit: www.sunline.org

VVTA

From August 27th to October 5th the BV Link will be on the following detour due to road construction. From southeast on 2nd Avenue the route will make a left on East Buena Vista Street and a right on Barstow Road

and then continue on regular route. During this time the bus will not be servicing the Barstow City Hall and a temporary stop has been placed on Buena Vista Street in front of the Barstow Library.

VVTA will also be holding a public hearing on September 17, 2012 at 9:30 AM. This public hearing will be an open forum for VVTA customers. The hearing will be at the agency headquarters at: 17150 Smoketree Street in Hesperia. Written comments can also be sent to:

Nancy Strickert
San Bernardino Associated Governments
TDA Public Hearing
1170 West 3rd Street, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715



Craig Barnes Photo

Last Minute Omnitrans

Effective August 27th OmniGo Route 365 will provide service to Townsend Jr. High School in Chino Hills. A new schedule for this route is now in effect. Route 9 will be on detour in Redlands due to construction. Buses will travel on Citrus between Wabash and Craf-
ton for approximately 6 months. 🚌 🚌

Photos of the Month

*Former SCRTD
Flixible 7103 in
Fremont on Au-
gust 26, 2012.
This bus is now
owned by the
Pacific Bus Mu-
seum.*

*-Richard Silagi
Photo*



*Long Beach Transit
<CNG> Gillig 1205
at the Long Beach
Transit yard on April
26, 2012. These
buses entered ser-
vice for Long Beach
Transit on Sunday
August 26, 2012.*

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

NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **Sep 8th** and **Oct 13th** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

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