

THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates
January 2013 **Vol. 21, No. 1**



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Norwalk Transit's 2012 Holiday wrapped bus at the Norwalk Transit yard in December 2012.

—Photo courtesy of Norwalk Transit

ISSN 1525-2892

Bulletin Board / Members in Action

Bulletin Board:

By consent of the members at our December 2012 meeting the 2013 Officers & Directors are:

Nate Zablen -- President
Kent Landfield -- Vice President
Dave Snowden -- Treasurer
Edmund Buckley -- Recording Secretary
Dana Gabbard -- Executive Secretary
J.K. Drummond, Ken Ruben and
Craig Weingaten -- Directors

Union Pacific seeks images of its contemporary operations for its 2014 calendar. Photographers will receive \$250 for full, non-exclusive rights for each image published. Selected images will be retained electronically in UP archives. Digital images should be in TIFF format and submitted on a disk. Cameras capable of at least 15 megapixels are suggested. Please identify the location of each picture. If slides are submitted, SAS return packaging is appreciated. Deadline for entries is March 1, 2013. Send entries to:

Tina Abbot Bowerman
Union Pacific Railroad
1400 Douglas St. Stop 1550
Omaha NE 68179

To request a copy of the California Transportation Commission 2012 Annual Report to the Legislature send an e-mail to:

Rosemary.Mejia@dot.ca.gov

or call: 916.653.2128

There will be no guest speaker at our February meeting, however member and Treasurer Dave Snowden will be showing us photos from his recent trip to San Francisco for MUNI's 100th Anniversary celebration.

Members in Action:

Andrew Novak and Charles Powell attended the Van Nuys train station open house on December 2nd. The open house was held in conjunction with the scheduled appearance of the Metrolink Holiday Train. On display at the event were Metro NABI 8399 and Amtrak California MCI 61431.

Andrew Novak also attended the dedication ceremony for the new Ontario Transfer Station on December 4th in Ontario.

Alek Friedman attended the December 12th Metro Westside/Central Service Council governance council meeting and gave a public comment regarding the bus line 4/704 corridor study. Ken Ruben also attended.

Ruben attended the December 17th Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Board meeting. On December 28th Ruben along with his right-hand man, Curtis Raymond, plus members Dave Snowden and Robert Meinert attended the MUNI (San Francisco) 100th Anniversary Celebration. Snowden organized the trip via Amtrak Pacific Surfliner Train 785 with connecting Thruway bus to San Jose. They rode VTA's Winchester line and then took a Caltrain baby bullet to San Francisco. After a full day of riding including a visit to the Streetcar Museum all but Raymond returned to Los Angeles via a double-deck Megabus. Various historic MUNI vehicles were out and on display for the celebration. 🚋 🚊



Transit Updates

Big Blue Bus (Santa Monica)

Effective December 6th until further notice, Big Blue Bus closed the following bus stops in Culver City on Route 12. Going towards UCLA the stop at Culver and Venice Boulevards and the stop at Venice and Bagley will be closed. Passengers can use the stop at Venice and Robertson Boulevard. The stop on Bagley Avenue and Exposition Boulevard has been closed and passengers can use the stop at Bagley and National. Going towards the Expo Line the stops at Bagley and Exposition and Venice at Bagley will be closed. Passengers using these stops can use the stop at National and Bagley. The stops at Culver and Venice and at Robertson and Venice have also been closed and passengers can use the stop at National and Venice Boulevards.



Culver City Bus

From January 2, 2013 to February 2, 2012 Culver City Bus will run limited "Summer" schedule service into West Los Angeles College (WLAC). Regular service into WLAC will resume on February 4th.

Foothill Transit

Effective December 16th Foothill Transit made the following service changes and issued a new bus book. Effective December 16th Foothill Transit made the following service changes and issued a new bus book.

Line 699: Four new trips beginning at the Fairplex Park and Rider were added and 14 afternoon trips were added. The new afternoon trips start at both Figueroa and 9th

Streets and at Gateway Transit Plaza.

Silver Streak: 13 morning trips were added from El Monte Station to downtown Los Angeles and eight trips from downtown were added in the afternoon.

New bus stops were added at South Campus and Kellogg Drive in Pomona on Lines 195, 480 and 482.

Schedule changes were made on Lines 482, 487, 497 and 499.

Finally a new page on "Discount Eligibility" was added to the bus book to help customers understand discount eligibility requirements.



Metro

Effective December 16th Metro made some minor service changes. Below is a list of those changes.

Line 40: Additional midday and weekend service was added on Crenshaw Boulevard and La Brea Avenue to the Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station.

Line 217: Selected weekday trips have been extended to serve the Howard Hughes Center via Sepulveda Boulevard and Center Drive.

(Continued on Page 4)

Transit Updates Continued

Metro continued

Line 534: Service was rerouted in downtown Santa Monica to improve on time performance.

Line 612: Service was rerouted in Watts to serve Compton Avenue between 92nd Street and 103rd Street.

Line 733: A new stop was added on Venice Boulevard at Culver City Expo Station.

Line 740: A southbound stop in downtown Inglewood was relocated to La Brea Avenue and Queen Street to improve connections with Line 212. The stop on La Brea Avenue at Manchester Boulevard has been removed.

Silver Line: Additional morning peak service was added from the Artesia Transit Center to downtown LA. Also late night service was improved to operate every 40 minutes.

Metro made other schedule changes so for more information please visit www.metro.net or by calling 323.GO.Metro

Montebello Bus Lines

The agency has recently partnered with The Shops at Montebello to open a transportation themed play area inside the mall. The new and improved play area includes a Montebello decorated bus and bus stop. In exchange for sponsorship of the new play area, the mall will be selling Montebello bus passes and tokens at Guest Services and will also be providing customers with bus schedules. A grand opening celebration has held on December 1st.



OCTA

Effective February 10th OCTA will be raising the bus fares and introduction a new 5 Ride Pass. The cash fare will now be \$2.00 per person (75¢ Senior/Disabled) and day passes will now be \$5.00 (\$1.50 Senior/Disabled). The new 5 Ride Pass will be \$9.00. Fares will be going up for all of the other OCTA passes as well. Visit www.octa.net or call 714.636.7433 for more information on the new bus fares.

Omnitrans

Effective January 7th Omnitrans will be making the following changes along with issuing a new bus book.

Route 66: Minor changes have been made to the weekday schedule, with the 5:24 west-bound AM trip at Foothill and Grove adjusted for easier transfers to the Foothill Silver Streak.

Route 82: Minor changes have been made to all schedules.

Route 365: The first two morning trips leaving Chino Transit Center have been shifted by 10 minutes on weekends.



Santa Clarita Transit

Effective December 12th Line 794 will now be stopping at Bay 3 at Gateway Plaza instead of Bay 1.

(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.

MUNI at 100!: On December 28, 2012 the San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI) celebrated their 100th Anniversary. MUNI is the nation's first publicly-owned land-based transit agency. It is the biggest transit agency in the San Francisco Bay Area and serves more the 200 million customers a year. MUNI has the most diverse fleet in the nation operating buses, trolley buses, light rail vehicles, historic streetcars and even San Francisco's famed cable cars. Congratulations MUNI!



RTC at 20: On December 5, 2012 the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada celebrated their 20th Anniversary. The 20 year old system has 35 bus routes, almost 4,000 bus stops and carries over 179,000 riders daily in the Las Vegas Valley. Happy Birthday RTC!

NYC Vintage Buses Return: Once again the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority brought out their vintage bus fleet for the holidays. The classic buses operated on the M42 Line (42nd Street Crosstown) on Monday through Friday departing 42nd and 12th Avenue at 8:30 AM, 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM, weather permitting. The operation of these buses in service has become an annual tradition.

New Tourist Line: In Spring 2013 Iowa Pacific Holdings will start a new tourist railroad in northern California. The new Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway is set to begin operations between Santa Cruz and Watsonville on the former Southern Pacific Santa Cruz branch. The railroad will also make connections with the Santa Cruz Big Trees and Pacific that operates between Santa Cruz and Felton. For more information visit www.santacruzrailway.com/



RTP News and Views: I will conclude this month with some self promotion. RTP News and Views Jr. Newsletter (Volume 11½, Issue 1, January 2013) has a photo retrospective of 2012 and Part One of a special series on how I got started in the newsletter business. Issues are for sale in either print or PDF, email me at rtd1121@yahoo.com for more information.

Written inquiries can be sent to:

Andrew Novak
P.O. Box 2383
Downey, CA 90242



The other shoe is about to fall regarding the schoolyard scuffle between John Fasana and Ari Najarian over Najarian's reappointment to the L.A. Metro Board. January 14th the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee North County Sector is meeting to make a recommendation to the full Committee on who it should appoint to the North County Sector seat on the Metro Board. And all signs indicate Najarian will get the Sector nod and then marshal his forces to win approval from the Committee. This has mostly been all about Fasana being able to assuage the discontented pro-710 tunnel folks in his part of the San Gabriel Valley that he did all he could to prevent Najarian from having a seat on the Metro Board (which he regularly uses as a soapbox for his anti-tunnel views).

I guess Congressman John Mica's recent in-temperate comments that further delays in connecting light rail to LAX may result in other area rail projects being "torpedoed" has convinced Gina Marie Lindsey, the executive director of Los Angeles World Airports, that a busway connection to LAX is a non-starter. This is based on recent reports LAWA (which operates LAX) is now on-board to working cooperatively with Metro on plans for light rail access to the airport, possibly involving a centralized station or connection to the terminals via a people mover. Bubbles, indeed!

Word has reached me that at the Union Station preview of the Metrolink Holiday Toy Express Michael P. DePallo, the agency's new CEO, gushed about the train saying PATH (at which he was General Manager before taking the Metrolink job) had only one

decorated car for their holiday display. In fact the word he used to describe the train was "overwhelmed". BTW, Mr. DePallo also participated in the Toy Express visit to Camp Pendleton to entertain military families on the base.

Three factors contributed to the Los Angeles County transit sales tax extension (Measure J) falling just short of passage:

- The 2/3 requirement
- Lower voter turnout compared to 2008 when Measure R passed
- The delay by the Governor in signing the implementing legislation, leaving little time for mounting a campaign.

SCA 4 introduced by Senator Liu would lower from 2/3 to 55% the margin necessary for the passage for such sales tax measures. We'll be monitoring this legislation and may in time discuss whether to endorse it. My other Measure J post-mortem is maybe the success of passing Measure R may have made some of us complacent this time when history shows these measures always require a full court press to achieve passage.

I'll end with an apology to Julie Austin, Executive Director of the Antelope Valley Transit Authority, whose name somehow vanished last month from a discussion of AVTA happenings. All I can say is boo-boos happen... 🚌 🚌



Riverside Transit Agency Changes

Effective January 13th, the Riverside Transit Agency will be making the following service changes:

Route 7: The 5:44 AM northbound weekday trip originating from the Inland Valley Hospital will depart at 5:39 AM, and the 6:48 AM southbound weekday trip originating from the Lake Elsinore Outlet Center will depart at 6:43 AM.

Route 8: The 6:50 AM and 8:03 AM northbound weekday trips departing from Malaga and Mission Trail will leave at 6:40 AM and 7:57 AM, respectively. The 5:45 AM southbound weekday trip beginning at the Lake Elsinore Outlet Center will depart at 5:40 AM.

Route 10: The last two eastbound weekday trips will be extended to end at RTA headquarters.

Route 15: The weekend schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance and service frequency will be enhanced to 55 minutes.

Route 19: Two new weekday trips between the Perris Transit Center and Trumble Road will be added at 7:21 AM southbound, and 3:30 PM northbound. Two southbound trips will be added from the Moreno Valley Mall to Alessandro and Perris at 9:05 PM and 9:45 PM for better connections with Route 16.

Route 20: The timepoint at Jurupa & Magnolia will be changed to Magnolia & Elizabeth.

Route 24: For better connections with Route 61, the 4:42 PM southbound weekday trip originating at the County Center timepoint and the 5:54 PM northbound trip from the Temecula Walmart will depart at 4:47 PM and 5:59 PM, respectively.

Route 27: A timepoint will be added in both

directions at Highway 74 & Leon Road.

Route 30: The timepoint at Weston & Carter will be changed to Weston & Strohm. Routing between Redlands Avenue and Perris Boulevard will be modified to improve service.

Route 33: The timepoint at Simpson Senior Center will now be YMCA at Simpson Center.

Route 42: The westbound Palm & Cottonwood timepoint will be changed to Palm & Birch.

Route 79: The 6:06 AM northbound weekday trip originating from County Center Drive will instead depart at 5:56 AM, and the 4:56 AM southbound trip from the Hemet Valley Mall will depart at 4:51 AM.

Routes 10, 12, 16, 31, 32 and 35: The weekday schedule will be adjusted to improve on-time performance.

Routes 20, 35, 40, and 61: The weekday schedule will be adjusted for better connections to other routes.

Route 202 and 206: The schedule will be adjusted for better connections to Metrolink trains.

Route 204, 206, 216 and 217: Schedules will be adjusted to improve on-time performance.

Route 208: To improve connections the 6:38 AM northbound weekday trip originating from the Promenade Mall will depart at 6:41 AM.

Route 210: The Ramsey & Sunset timepoint will be changed to Ramsey & Morongo. The second westbound trip will no longer serve Ramsey & Sunset and Beaumont City Hall. The third westbound trip will be extended to serve Ramsey & Sunset and Beaumont City Hall.

Route 217: A southbound trip from the Temecula Promenade Mall will be added at 6:55 AM.



Transit Updates Continued

Sun Line

Effective January 6th Sun Line made changes to their service. Below is a summary of those changes.

Lines 30 and 111: The line was realigned and a time point relocated from Palm Canyon at Van Fleet/Monty Hall to new facilities on B Street at W. Buddy Rogers on all trips. Two trips were added to Line 30 on in the afternoon on school days only due to high ridership.

Line 32: Minor time changes were made on the last eastbound trips on weekdays and weekends to reflect actual running times.

Line 53: One trip added in the afternoon on school days only.

Line 220: Minor time changes will be made on all four trips to reflect actual running times and improve train connections. (This change takes effect on January 14th.)

The agency also added and removed several bus stops on various routes.

For more information and details on the bus stop changes visit www.sunline.org or by calling 800.347.8628.

VISTA

Starting January 2nd passengers transferring from Santa Barbara MTD buses to Coastal Express will need to pay a \$1.50 transfer fee (75¢ senior/disabled) along with a valid transfer ticket. Passengers also pay this transfer fee when transferring to the Coastal Express from other local buses or other Vista routes.



New Bus Services

Breeze Bus: Starting January 14th The Breeze Bus will beginning operating a new bus service between Santa Maria, Buellton, and Solvang. The service will operate Monday through Friday and provide a three round trips a day, one in the morning, one midday, and one in the afternoon. We will have more information on this service in a future issue.

Baldwin Hills Parkland Shuttle: Scheduled to start on January 12th, this new service will operate on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays between the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and the La Cienega Station Expo Line Station. The service will operate from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM every 30 minutes. We will have more information on this service in a future issue.

Combined Ground Schedules

Member Hank Fung has recently created two combined ground schedules that he has agreed to share with the membership. The schedules include all regularly schedule services from Los Angeles to San Francisco and Los Angeles to Las Vegas. These schedules include Amtrak, Greyhound, and the new MegaBus service among others. Members can download these schedules at the links below:

Los Angeles to San Francisco:
<http://tinyurl.com/LA-SFSched>

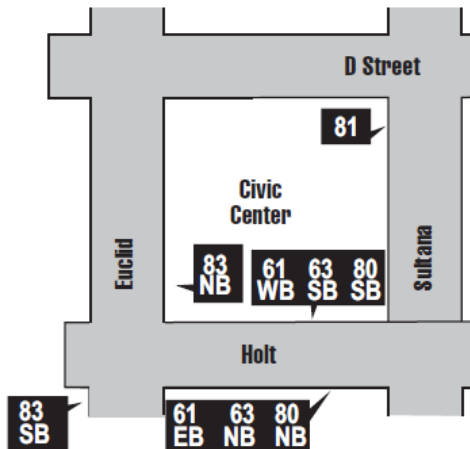
Los Angeles to Las Vegas:
<http://tinyurl.com/LA-LVSched>

Our thanks to Hank for compiling these schedules and sharing them with us. 🚌 🚌

Ontario Transfer Station By Andrew Novak

On Tuesday December 4th Omnitrans and the City of Ontario held a ceremony to dedicate the new Ontario Transfer Station in downtown Ontario. The new Transfer Station is located along Euclid Avenue, D Street, Sultana, and Holt Boulevard and includes new bus stop shelters and new bus stop signs. As part of the remodel several bus stops were moved to improve passenger connections. The new Transfer Station is centrally located to the Ontario Civic Center, Senior Center, Library and the Ontario Amtrak Station.

The December event was held at City Hall and on hand were officials from Omnitrans, City of Ontario, and SANBAG. The event included speeches, photo-ops with Omnitrans Mascot Buster, and a ride about Omnitrans New Flyer Xcelsior 1263 to view the new and improved bus stops. Hats off to the staff at Omnitrans for putting together a nice event to commemorate this occasion. Below is a map showing the bus stop locations at the Transfer Station.



At left is an Omnitrans bus at one of the new bus stop shelters. (Omnitrans Photo) Above is New Flyer 1263 at the dedication on December 4th. (Andrew Novak Photo)

20th Anniversary Banquet Photos



Our annual banquet held at Taix French Restaurant was a fun festive event held after our December meeting which included the usual giveaways and door prizes.

Our thanks to the following agencies and individuals for providing the giveaways and door prizes.

Agencies:

AVTA
Big Blue Bus
Culver City Bus
Foothill Transit
MTD (Santa Barbara)
NCTD
Omnitrans
RTA

Torrance Transit
Gold Line Construction Authority

Individuals:

Andrew Novak
Steve Crosmer
Dana Gabbard
Dominick Falzone

Special thanks to Ken Ruben who helped obtain the grand prize.

(At left are two photos taken during the event by Andrew Novak.)



Speakers wanted!

FOR TRANSIT INDUSTRY READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER -- We are still 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. If you are interested please contact us via email at: dgabbard@hotmail.com or by phone at: 213.388.2364

Photos of the Month

PE 623 is one of two replica trolleys built to operate in Disney's California Adventure park in Anaheim. These cars are shorter than the original cars. This photo was taken in July 2012.

—Mark Strickert Photo



Metro NABI 8399 and Amtrak California MCI 61431 (operated by Horizon Coach Lines) at the Van Nuys Station Open House on December 2, 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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SO.CA.TA officers, 2013

President:	Nate Zaben
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Recording Secretary:	Edmund Buckley
Executive Secretary:	Dana Gabbard
Treasurer:	Dave Snowden
Directors at Large:	Ken Ruben J.K. Drummond Craig Weingarten

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

NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **Jan 12th** and **Feb 9th** 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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FIRST CLASS MAIL