

THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates
June 2013 Vol. 21, No. 6



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OCTA New Flyer 7590 painted in the new Bravo! paint scheme. This new service begins on June 10th see page 10 for details.

—Photo courtesy of OCTA

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Bulletin Board / Members in Action

From our Executive Secretary:

To complimentary recipients of the newsletter in hardcopy:

We will starting with the July issue no longer be distributing our newsletter in hardcopy form to complimentary recipients (agency staff, electeds, journalists, etc.) with the exception of some archival copies and exchanges for publications. Our finances dictate taking this action. Those wishing to switch to receiving the newsletter in PDF format should send a request to the Executive Secretary: dgabbard@hotmail.com

Thank you for your interest in our publication.

Bulletin Board:

Our thanks to Doran Barnes, executive director of Foothill Transit, for a riveting presentation and question/answer session at our May meeting.

There will be no guest speaker at our June meeting. Our guest speaker at our July 13th meeting will be Diana Kotler, Executive Director at Anaheim Transportation Network.

Members in Action:

Charles Powell recently attended the Motor Bus Society's (MBS) 65th Anniversary Convention in New York City. During the convention he was able to tour area bus facilities and rode some vintage bus equipment. In September he plans to attend the MBS Fall Convention which will be held in London England. This will be the first MBS convention to be held outside of North America. While across the pond, Powell plans to take a side trip to Paris and Brussels via the Euro star train. Way to go, Charles!

Our booth at Fullerton Railroad Days on May 4th and 5th was a great success, especially thanks to our partners at the Rail Passenger Association of California and Nevada (RailPAC). Saturday RailPAC President Paul Dyson assisted with the booth. Members who also helped or dropped by to say hi included Andrew Novak, Warren Quon, John Bouman, Ken Ruben, Dave Snowden, Nate Zablen, Dave Cook and ally Eugene Salinsky.

National Train Day at Union Station on May 11th with partners the Sierra Clun Angeles Chapter also was a fun day of outreach. Jerard Wright, co-chair of the chapter Transportation Committee, assisted with the table. Members who came by included Ken Ruben, Dave Snowden, Perias Pillay, Craig Weingarten, Nate Zablen, Frank, Dominick, Charles Powell, Andy Novak, Warren Quon, Dave Cook and ally Eugene Salinsky. 🚂 🚂



Are you interested in getting your SO.CA.TA newsletter in PDF?
We now offer the SO.CA.TA newsletter in PDF format to our members. The PDF newsletters are available a week before the meeting and are 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

Foothill Transit

Foothill Transit's Summer 2013 Bus Book took effect on June 2nd. Below is a summary of the changes made to their service.

Line 178: The line now serves the Baldwin Park Metrolink Station for every scheduled train.

Line 482: More of the trips now serve the Lanterman Developmental Center and Diamond Bar City Hall. The weekend westbound trips now begin earlier.

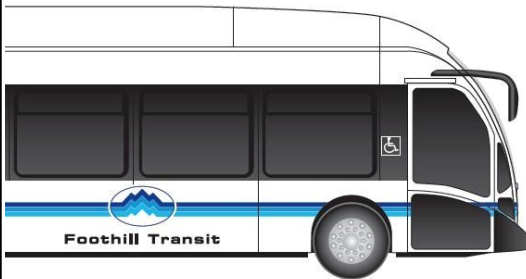
Line 488: Partial trips on this line have been eliminated and all trips travel the full route.

Line 499: Evening trip now depart every 10 minutes from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Line 699: The schedule in the evening has been standardized to leave Gateway Transit Plaza every 30 minutes on the hour and on the half.

Silver Streak: The westbound trips that used to start at El Monte Station now begin at West Covina Parkway and California Avenue. The eastbound trips that used to start at Union Station now start at Olive Street and Olympic in downtown Los Angeles.

A variety of adjustments were made to the commuter route schedules after the agency analyzed traffic patterns to improve service on these routes. Coming in Fall 2013 Foothill will be teaming up with Mt. SAC to offer a Student Transit Pass program.



Gold Coast Transit

On May 19th the agency unveiled their new fareboxes. The new fareboxes will now issue magnetic transfers that are valid for two hours. Transfers will be issued upon passenger request at the time fare is paid. The boxes will also sell day passes that are valid for unlimited rides until 11:59 PM on the date of purchase.

LADOT Commuter Express

On May 20th, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) issued a revised schedule for Line 423. These changes were in response to almost 200 passenger surveys that were submitted to LADOT. There is a new morning trip that starts at the Encino Park and Ride to help ease overcrowding. Three AM and three PM "Super Express" trips have been created that skips stops in Calabasas, Woodland Hills and the Encino Park and Ride. There is also an addition PM express trip that skips Calabasas and Woodland Hills. For more information or to download the new schedule visit www.ladottransit.com or call 213, 310, 323, or 818 808.2273

LADOT DASH

LADOT DASH passengers can find out the next 3 DASH bus arrival times on their computer, phone or other mobile device. Passenger need the bus stop number, located on the bus stop sign, and can visit ladot-bus.com, call 213-785-3858 or text ladot #### (#### is the actual stop number you need to enter, such as ladot 1234) to 41411.

(Continued on Page 4)

Transit Updates Continued

Long Beach Transit

The AquaLink and AquaLink Express service is now operating again between Long Beach and Alamitos Bay Landing. The service will be operating daily from May 18th to September 29th and fares are \$5 One-Way. The popular AquaBus (water taxi) service in the Long Beach Harbor will be returning for the summer as well. The AquaBus fare is \$1 per person. Fares for both services apply to all riders—there and there are no discounted fares. Children aged 2 and under ride free with paid fare. Transfers and bus passes may not be used for fare. For more information, call Long Beach Transit at 562.591.2301.



Marina Del Rey Shuttle Service

The popular Marina del Rey shuttle bus is returning for the summer season. The shuttle bus operates between Palya, Venice Beach Pier and Marina del Rey on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays from May 24th to September 29th with service on Thursday evenings for the classical concerts at Burton Chace Park. On Friday and Saturday service operates from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM and 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Sundays and holidays. There is a gap in service from 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM to accommodate driver breaks. Service operates every 30 minutes.

The special Thursday evening service will operate on July 11th and 25th and August 8th and 22nd. There will also be a special service and route to the Abbot Kinney Festival on Sunday, September 29th from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

For more information or to download schedules visit www.beaches.lacounty.gov. Information is also available from the Marina del Rey Visitors Center at 310.305.9545.



Metrolink

Metrolink will soon be introducing new TAP enabled tickets and monthly passes. The new TAP-enabled tickets will allow passengers to use their Metrolink fare media on Metro Rail lines. Metrolink passengers will not need to TAP their tickets on Metro Buses. The new ticket stock will have the TAP logo imprinted on them. These new tickets will be needed to enter the Metro Rail lines once they lock the fare gates. For more information contact Metrolink online at: www.metrolinktrains.com



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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.

Save the Skunk!: In April 2013 a serious tunnel cave-in on the California Western Railroad has shut down the popular Skunk train which operates in northern California from Fort Bragg to Willits. The Skunk Train is one of the biggest tourist attraction in Mendocino County and the railroad needs help raising the \$300,000 needed to repair the tunnel. The railroad is asking for help from fans and passengers to save the line built in 1885. The railroad is both a tourist line and provides life-line service to residents who live along the route. For more information or to contribute to the railroad visit: <http://www.skunktrain.com/>



Transit Surcharge in San Francisco: Recently San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener has asked the city to explore the option of adding a \$1-\$3 surcharge on tickets sold at major events with attendance over 1,000 in the city including Giants baseball games. The money would help the San Francisco Municipal Railway add service to help transport event participants and would also help rehab existing MUNI vehicles. The surcharge could raise up to \$22 Million per year which could also be used to purchase new vehicles. If the Warriors move to San Francisco impacts on transit could increase in the next couple years.

Proterra Buses arrive in Stockton: The San Joaquin Regional Transit District (SJRTD) recently unveiled two new Proterra EcoRide buses for use on their Line 51 and buses will charge at the downtown Stockton Transit Center. The buses were funded through a grant from the California Energy Commission. These buses are similar to the buses operated by Foothill Transit in Pomona on Line 291.



Cass Scenic: Congratulations to the Cass Scenic Railroad for celebrating 50 years! The Cass Scenic operates out of Cass West Virginia and gives riders the chance to experience a historic logging railroad. For more information visit: www.cassrailroad.com

RTP News and Views: I will conclude this month with some self promotion. RTP News and Views Jr. Newsletter (Volume 11½, Issue 3, April 2013) has 2005 Year in Review via Photos Part 1 and Taking a circle tour of southeast Los Angeles Part 1. Issues are for sale/trade in either print or PDF, email me at rtd1121@yahoo.com for more information. Written inquiries can be sent to:

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

Here is a bit of interesting news -- the West Santa Ana Transit Corridor project long confusingly called the Orangeline (along the old Pacific Electric Santa Ana Branch) is now to be called the "Eco-Rapid" per the Wave newspaper article "Regional transit plan has new name, uncertain future".

I had a good laugh upon learning the Reason Foundation's Robert Poole recent testimony at a Congressional Committee hearing advocated that transit should receive zero federal funding. Talk about being out of touch with the modern age!

Here is a name from out of the past: Neil Peterson, who back in the 1980s headed the old Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, will be the new CEO of the Transportation Corridor Agencies in Orange County which oversees toll roads.

I was sorry to learn Bimla Gill Rhinehart, Executive Director of the California Transportation Commission, passed away on March 5th. Condolences to her family and colleagues.

Much to my surprise the Board of Foothill Transit is terminating its contract management arrangement with Veolia in favor of direct hire. Veolia will continue to run the transit stores and maintain Foothill's bus shelters. All this per the San Gabriel Valley Tribune article "Foothill Transit sheds management contract with outside firm".

I'll conclude with one last transition -- Rick Richmond, CEO of the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority, recently resigned after a longtime career reaching back to the aforementioned Los Angeles County Transportation Commission. If this means he is ready to retire we offer our best thanks for the hard work he has undertaken over the years to get the ACE project as far as it is. Good luck, Mr. Richmond. 🚗 🚗

At right is a look at the new Metrolink TAP-enabled tickets and passes.

MONTHLY PASS



7-DAY PASS



ONE-WAY OR ROUND-TRIP TICKET



WEEKEND PASS



2013 Hollywood Bowl Service

Once again the popular Hollywood Bowl Park and Ride and remote parking lot shuttles have returned for the summer season.

Park-and-Ride Routes:

The Park and Ride Routes pick up across the county at fourteen locations. Parking at these lots is free and there is a charge for the bus service. The bus is \$5 roundtrip if it is prepaid on the website and \$10 roundtrip if purchased the day of. (Priority boarding given to prepaid passengers.)

Line 651: Sherman Oaks - Lot 1
Westfield Fashion Square in Sherman Oaks, 14006 Riverside Drive. Parking lot located off Woodman Avenue. Entrance to parking area is off Riverside Drive. Pickup location is behind Bank of America.

Line 652: Westwood - Lot 2
Federal Building parking lot at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard. Entrance to parking area is off Veteran Avenue.

Line 653: Chatsworth - Lot 3
Chatsworth Metrolink Station, 10046 Old Depot Road (one block west of Canoga Avenue) Bus stop is in parking lot.

Line 654: Westchester - Lot 4
Westchester Shopping Center, 6212 West Manchester Avenue (between Sepulveda and La Tijera). Parking area is between building 6232 and Ayara Thai Cuisine.

Line 655: Pasadena - Lot 5
Pasadena public parking lot, 240 Ramona Street, northeast corner of Marengo Avenue and Ramona Street. Entrance to parking area is off Ramona Street.

Line 656: El Monte - Lot 6
Metro Bus Terminal, just off the San Bernardino Freeway, Santa Anita and Ramona.

Pickup location is at berth #1.

Line 657: Torrance - Lot 7
Wilson Community Park, 2000 North Crenshaw Boulevard. (between Carson and Sepulveda) Entrance to parking lot is off Jefferson Street.

Line 658: Santa Monica - Lot 8
DMV, 2235 Colorado Avenue. Bus stop on Colorado Avenue.

Line 659: East Los Angeles - Lot 9
East L.A. College, Weingart Stadium parking lot (1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, two blocks west of Atlantic Boulevard). Entrance to parking lot is off Floral Drive and Avalanche Way.

Line 660: Lakewood - Lot 10
Lakewood Center Mall (Lakewood Boulevard and Candlewood Street). Parking area is off Candlewood and Graywood. Bus departs across from Hometown Buffet.

Line 661: Downey - Lot 11
Metro Green Line Station. South parking lot, 12801 Lakewood Boulevard. (Lakewood Boulevard. and Freeway 105).

Line 662: Culver City - Lot 12
Metro Expo Line Station at 8804 Washington Boulevard. Bus stop is on Washington Blvd.

Line 663: Arcadia - Lot 13
Arcadia Park parking lot, 405 South Santa Anita Avenue (south of Huntington Drive). Bus stop is in parking lot.

Line 665: Rowland Heights - Lot 14
Schabarum Regional Park, 17250 E. Colima Road and Azusa Avenue (parking off Colima Road). Bus stop in parking lot.

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Transit Updates Continued

OCTA

On June 9th OCTA will be making the following changes to their service. Below is a summary of those changes.

Route 1: Summer schedules will be implemented.

Route 38: During the week the route will be adjusted to provide service to Savi Ranch.

Route 43: The frequency will be reduced on weekdays to every 20 minutes.

Route 47: All buses will now board at Dock 6 at the Fullerton Transportation Center. This dock is located on Santa Fe between Pomona and Lemon.

Route 71: Summer schedules will be implemented.

Route 543: New Route 543 starts on June 10th. See page 10 for details.

Other lines will have minor schedule adjustments, other lines will have improved running times and trips will be adjusted on other lines. For more information contact OCTA at 714.636.7433 or online at:

www.octa.net

The \$7 OCLink pass which is good on Metrolink Trains and OCTA buses operating within Orange County will be discontinued effective July 1, 2013.



Santa Clarita Transit (SCT)

From June 8th to September 1st, Santa Clarita Transit will once again operate weekend Beach Bus service to Santa Monica.

Routes 100 and 101 will operate on Saturdays and Route 102 on Sundays. Fares are \$3 one-way (\$1.50 senior/disabled) and fares can be paid in cash (exact fare only) or with a TAP stored value card. Monthly passes will not be honored. Passengers can bring beach chairs, coolers, and surfboards.

Route 100 serves McBean Regional Transit Center, Cinema Drive Park and Ride, Santa Clarita Metrolink, and the Santa Clarita Park.

Route 101 serves Via Princessa Metrolink, Soledad Canyon Road & Shangri-La Drive, Soledad Canyon Road & Solamint Drive, and Canyon County Park.

Route 102 serves all of the stops of Routes 100 and 101 except for Santa Clarita Park. The buses depart Santa Clarita destinations in the morning and return from Santa Monica in the afternoon.

For more information contact SCT at 626.294.1287 or online at:

www.santaclaritatransit.com  



2013 Hollywood Bowl Service Continued

Park-and-Ride Routes continued:

Line 650: Koreatown

(for Korean Music Festival only)

Farmers Insurance Parking Lot, 4620 Wilshire Boulevard (Between South Muirfield Road & South Mullen Avenue).

Parking Lot Shuttles:

There are four remote parking lots that bus service is provided to and from. Shuttle service from these lots is \$5 round-trip and is free from the two Ventura Lots and Hollywood and Highland when you show a valid Metro Red Line Ticket. Parking is free at all the lots except the Hollywood and Highland lot.

The first buses depart from the parking lots at the following times:

3:30 PM for 6:00 PM concerts

4:30 PM for 7:00 PM concerts

5:00 PM for 7:30 PM concerts

5:30 PM for 8:00 PM concerts

6:00 PM for 8:30 PM concerts

The last bus from each lot leaves at concert time.

Line 668: Ventura Lot

(Buses depart every 10 minutes)

10801 Ventura Boulevard

Line 668A: Ventura Lot Annex

(Buses depart every 15 minutes)

10601 Ventura Boulevard.

(Lot closed Tuesday through Thursdays)

(Both Ventura Lots are subject to stacked parking.)

Line 671: Hollywood/Highland

(Buses depart every 15 minutes)

Hollywood & Highland entertainment complex at 6801 Hollywood Boulevard.

The Bus stop is in Orange Court

Line 672: LA Zoo

(Buses depart every 20 minutes)

5333 Zoo Dr. Located in section C.

For more information on these service or to book the shuttle tickets visit the Hollywood Bowl on line: www.hollywoodbowl.com



Ventura and LA Zoo Lot Maps



OCTA's *Bravo Bus Service*

Beginning June 10th, OCTA new Bravo Bus Service begins operation on Harbor Boulevard. The new limited stop route numbered 543 travels from the Fullerton Transportation Center to MacArthur in Costa Mesa. The new service operates weekdays only and operates every 10-minutes during peak times and every 15-minutes during off-peak times. The buses stop at major transfer points. Standard fares apply to this service. The Bravo buses carry a special paint scheme and stop at the designated Bravo Stops. For more information visit www.octa.net/bravo



ROUTE 543 | LESS STOP. MORE GO. | HARBOR BLVD | STARTS JUNE 10TH



octa.net/Bravo

BRAVO!
Less stop. More go.

Photos of the Month

SEPTA LRV 101 is seen on a "Friends of Philadelphia Trolleys" fan trip to Media on May 5, 2013. The car is wrapped to commemorate Philadelphia & West Chester Traction Company Jewett Car 38 which began service from 69th Street to Media on April 1, 1913.

*—Wayne Doran
Photo*



*Gold Coast Transit
NABI 4008 in Oxnard
on May 20, 2013.*

*—Josh Thurman
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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NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **June 8th** and **July 13th** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

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