

# ***THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE***

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates  
July 2013 Vol. 21, No. 7



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*Municipal Area Express (MAX) RE 530 at the Aviation Green Line Station on February 11, 2005.  
MAX service was canceled on June 30, 2013.*

*—Andrew Novak Photo*

ISSN 1525-2892

## Bulletin Board / Members in Action

### Production Update:

The deadline for the September Issue of the Transit Advocate will be Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> due to my travel plans. Please have all material in on or before that date. We will mention this change again in our August issue.

### Bulletin Board:

Our July 13<sup>th</sup> guest speaker will be Diana Kotler, Executive Director at Anaheim Transportation Network. We also anticipate having a bylaws committee meeting, likely at 11:00 AM in the 4th floor meeting space at Angelus Plaza where the monthly meetings are held.

The Railway Supply Institute, a trade group, has announced the formation of a Passenger Rail Committee to advocate on legislation and regulations impacting railway suppliers who provide equipment and services to high speed and intercity passenger rail -- <http://rsiweb.org/>

### From the App Store:

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has a new app people can download for their smart phones called SafarBus. This app provides the public an efficient way to view and access the safety performance of commercial motor carriers including motor coach and bus companies.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) also has a new app called the Rail Crossing Locator. This app allows smart phone users to access the highway-rail grade crossing database and map features. They can also locate grade crossing by USDOT Crossing ID, address or geo-location. The FRA app also allows users to access a variety of information about the grade crossing including accident and safety statistics.

Both the FMCSA and FRA apps are free to smart phone users.

### Members in Action:

Mark Strickert attended the Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) board meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Noteworthy items from the meeting include a possible fare increase (first since 1999), Sunday service on Route 1 and possible re-route of Route 3 to serve a new casino in 29 Palms.

Erik Griswold was quoted extensively in David Allen's June 29<sup>th</sup> column for the Inland Empire Daily bulletin "Gold Line train plans are derailed."

Ken Ruben attended the Metro Westside/Central Service Council meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Los Angeles - San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Joint Powers Board meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> and the Metro Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. 🚆 🚆



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*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*

### **City of Bell**

Effective July 12<sup>th</sup> a new fixed route service will begin in the City of Bell. The line is a one-way loop that operates on several major streets in Bell with service to the Cudahy Park on Clara Street and the Bicycle Casino in Bell Gardens. This new service will operate from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday and from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays. A trip on the route is expected to take 40 minutes and fares will be 25¢ per passenger. For more information contact City of Bell at 323.773.1596 or online at: [www.cityofbell.org](http://www.cityofbell.org)

### **Big Blue Bus**

Effective June 16<sup>th</sup> Santa Monica Big Blue Bus made the following service changes.

-Route 1: The weekday trip from Venice and Walgrove at 9:54 AM has been canceled.

-Routes 2 and 3: The northbound bus stop at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Civic Center Way (mid-block) has been removed. Passengers can now board at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Pico Boulevard.

-Route 3: For the summer only, trips have been added from Santa Monica to the Green Line Station, Thursday through Sunday. Two weekday southbound trips have been cancelled, the 3:23 PM trip from 4<sup>th</sup> Street at Civic Center Way and 5:09 PM trip from Arizona Avenue at 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

-Rapid 3: A new stop has been added at Lincoln Boulevard and Mindanao Way in both directions.

-Route 4: This route will no longer serve the VA's North Campus in either direction. Buses traveling from Santa Monica to the Westside Pavilion now travel on San Vicente Boulevard and no longer use Montana Avenue to Bringham Street.

-Routes 4 and 9: Weekday buses bound for Santa Monica (Civic Center) now use the weekend routing. Buses traveling southbound on 4th Street now make a right on Colorado Avenue, left on Main Street, left on Olympic Boulevard to Avenida Mazatlan.

-Route 6: Has been suspended for the summer and will resume on Monday August 26<sup>th</sup>.

-Route 7: On weekdays service will now operate every 12 minutes during peak hours.

-Rapid 7: The bus stop at the Rimpau Transit Center will no longer be utilized in both directions. Westbound passengers now board at Pico Boulevard at Mullen Avenue and eastbound passengers now board at Pico Boulevard at San Vicente Boulevard. The service will now operate every 12 minutes during peak hours.

-Rapid 10: The SC Express trip at 6:30 AM from Union Station has been suspended for the summer.

-Route 12: The northbound trips departing Robertson and Venice at 7:45 AM, 7:59 AM, 9:17 AM, and 9:32 AM on weekdays have been cancelled.

-Rapid 12: A new northbound trip has been added departing Robertson and Venice at 3:18 PM.

-Sunset Ride: Service now operates every 30 minutes from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

For more information contact Big Blue Bus at 310.451.5444



*(Continued on Page 4)*

## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### ***Flyaway***

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Los Angeles World Airports began operation of the new Expo/La Brea Flyaway Route from LAX to the Metro Expo Line Station at La Brea Avenue. The stop is located just east of La Brea Avenue, on the south side of the platform. Buses depart the La Brea Station every 2 hours from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM and depart LAX (Starts at Terminal) every 2 hours from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM. The service operates 7 days a week. One-way fares are \$6 per person until December 31<sup>st</sup> and then go up to \$7 per person on January 1, 2014.



### ***iShuttle***

The City of Irvine iShuttle made several service changes on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Several trips on Routes A, B, and D were eliminated due to low ridership. Other trips were adjusted to better align with Metrolink and Amtrak trains. For more information contact iShuttle at 949.GO.BUS or email at: [info@irvineshuttle.net](mailto:info@irvineshuttle.net)



### ***LADOT***

Effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, LADOT made changes to their passes. All trip tickets and monthly passes are now loaded on TAP Cards. The monthly passes have been replaced with new 31-day passes. Passengers can purchase TAP Cards at the LADOT Transit Store, online at: [ladottransit.com](http://ladottransit.com) or by calling the LADOT Transit Store at (213, 310, 323 or 818) 808-2273. The LADOT Transit Store is located at 201 North Los Angeles Street #18B in downtown Los Angeles.

### ***MAX***

Effective June 30, 2013 the MAX (Municipal Area Express) service was cancelled. The last day of operation for all three routes: 2, 3, and 3X was June 28<sup>th</sup>. MAX riders were encouraged to use the Metro Trip planner at [metro.net](http://metro.net) or visit [Maxbus.com](http://Maxbus.com) to find alternative services from the MAX service area.



### ***Metro***

On June 19<sup>th</sup> Metro began latching the fares gates at the Metro Red and Purple Line Station at Union Station. Other gates will be latched on the subways lines on a rolling basis starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

For a schedule of the station latching visit: [metro.net/riding/fares/latching-schedule/](http://metro.net/riding/fares/latching-schedule/)

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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.

**N&W 611:** An effort is now underway to bring former Norfolk & Western (N&W) Class J steam locomotive 611 back to life. The 4-8-4 was built in the N&W shops in Roanoke Virginia Shops. After retirement in 1959 the locomotive was donated to the Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke. In 1982 the engine returned to excursion service thanks to N&W president Robert Claytor. The engine operated in excursion service on the N&W and successor Norfolk Southern until a series of derailments sidelined the 611 in 1994. Recently the Virginia Museum of Transportation has announced plan to "Fire Up 611" and has the locomotive brought back to operating condition for service in 2014. For more information or to donate to the cause visit: <http://fireup611.org/>



**Brookville Locomotives:** In early June, the first two BL36PH locomotives were released from the manufacturer's shop in Pennsylvania. These are the first commuter locomotives built by Brookville and are bound for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Miami. RTA operates the Tri-Rail Commuter service. This two units are part of a 12 unit order for the Florida Transit agency.

**Gold Coast Transit:** In July Gold Coast Transit (Oxnard) celebrated 40 years of service to the community. Congratulations!



**Yakima Street Cars:** June 21, 2013 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the street car line between Yakima Washington and Selah Washington. The Yakima system is the nation's last intact, turn-of-the-century interurban electric railroad. To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special trips were run from Yakima to Selah with street car 1776 which was powered by a diesel generator for the event. Due to copper wire theft in 2005 the 4.2 mile line has been out of service and the street cars have only operated in the city of Yakima. Congratulations Yakima!

**RTP News and Views:** I will conclude this month with some self promotion. RTP News and Views Jr. Newsletter (Volume 11½, Issue 4, May 2013) is complete. This issue contains a story of the railroad events in southern California in May 2013 and Taking a circle tour of southeast Los Angeles Part 2. Issues are for sale/trade in either print or PDF, email me at [rtd1121@yahoo.com](mailto:rtd1121@yahoo.com) for more information. Written inquiries can be sent to:

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



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

At least new Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti didn't leave us in suspense about who his Deputy Mayor for transportation issues will be. It is Borja Leon who held the same position since 2011 in the Villaraigosa administration. Meanwhile who will head LADOT and who Garcetti's three appointees to the Metro Board will be is a mystery no one seems to know the answer to.

Am I the only one thoroughly tired of the proliferation of lawsuits afflicting transportation projects in our region? I especially found laughable a recent decision throwing out the environmental documents for the Metrolink Perris extension. They were faulted for what the Judge felt was their inadequacies in disclosing the dire consequences of wheel sequel and lubricant dripping. Thankfully the Riverside County Transportation Commission is appealing this idiotic decision by a clueless judge catering to the NIMBYism of a so-called environmental group. Hope RCTC is able to restore sanity to the process.

Remember when I belittled Metro Board member Zev Yaroslavsky's idiotic comment to the New York Times "A lot of people - if not the majority of people - are not paying their fare". I had to laugh while home sick recently and listening in to the monthly Metro Board Executive Management and Audit Committee meeting to hear agency critic John Wash call this a lie. I guess hyperbole for the sake of a soundbite deserves to be called that.

A political shuffle is underway thanks to Curren Price's recent election to the L.A. City Council. Assembly member Holly Mitchell is likely to run for Price's seat in the State Senate. If Mitchell is successful among

the potential candidates for her Assembly seat is Damien Goodmon, who has made a name for himself by playing the race card and pandering to baseless fears regarding Expo Phase I and now the Crenshaw light rail project. Not a surprise as I have long suspected he harbored political ambitions. But he is no shoe in to win as the potential candidates include several with impressive political credentials and connections.

New Flyer's acquisition of North American Bus Industries (NABI) for \$80 million is interesting since NABI has long been rumored to be in weak financial shape. As many of you know, New Flyer recently was awarded the latest contract to supply Metro with new buses. This broke NABI's 10 year monopoly as the sole providers of buses to Metro's operations department. I was curious if this would have a dire impact on NABI's finances. Well, that concern is now moot.

Add to the list of senior transit agency executives punished for running afoul of politics Alex Clifford at METRA (Chicago's commuter rail system and former Metro point person on regional) and Milo Victoria at Omnitrans (who also is a Metro veteran).

I'll conclude by expressing warm wishes to Long Beach Transit President and CEO Larry Jackson, a venerable presence and deservedly well regarded, on the occasion of his retirement. Thanks for all you did, Mr. Jackson! 🚌 🚌

## ***In Memory...***

### **Thomas F. Grose**

Thomas Frederick Grose passed away from cancer on Friday, May 24, 2013. Tom was born in Long Beach on July 21, 1930. He is survived by his sister, Susan Ann Grose of Overland Park, Kansas, his Aunt, Dorothy Gale Baldecchi along with several nephews and cousins.



Tom was valedictorian of the class of 1948 at South Pasadena – San Marino High School. He attended Stanford University with the class of 1952 and later graduated from UCLA. Tom had a long and successful career as a Certified Public Accountant, starting with the Ernst and Ernst accounting firm. He was involved in numerous Los Angeles-area philanthropic organizations, serving on boards, often as treasurer or accountant. Tom was involved in the early days of the Music Center of Los Angeles County, in leadership of the Music Center Operating Company. Tom was a railroad and model railroad enthusiast, travelling throughout the West to ride historic lines. He donated the primary funding for the Thomas F. Grose Library and Research Center at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, Calif. He was a member of the Southern California Chapter Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, The Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California, the Pacific Railroad Society, and the Southern California Transit Advocates.

### **Olivia Gamboa**

On June 12, 2013 Metro bus operator Olivia Gamboa was killed while on a deadhead to begin her day on Line 18 at the corner of Broadway and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. Her bus was hit by a tow truck that was speeding through a red traffic signal. Gamboa was a 13-year veteran of Metro and both her husband and daughter are operators for Metro.

*Southern California Transit Advocates expresses its condolences to both the Grose and Gamboa families.*



Joshua Thurman Photo

## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### ***Metro Continued***

Metro has also made several changes to their bus service on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Below are details of those changes.

-Line 40: Minor route and stop changes due to implementation of the Broadway Streetscape Plan. Southbound buses now travel via Spring Street from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 11<sup>th</sup> Street and then back to Broadway and regular route.

-Lines 30/330: Minor route and stop changes due to implementation of the Broadway Streetscape Plan. Southbound buses now travel via Spring Street from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to Pico Boulevard and back on regular route.

-Line 290: Has been renumbered Line 90 and passengers can now board a Line 90 bus with continuous service to and from Olive View Medical Center. A minor route improvement near Olive View Medical Center also allows southbound buses to serve the new Olive View Community Mental Health Center.

-Line 603: Southbound buses have been re-routed to Alvarado Street from Westlake Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. Passengers can board Line 603 on Alvarado at Wilshire Boulevard.

-Orange Line: Weekday mid-day service has been improved to every 8 minutes. Late night service has had minor improvements.

**Broadway Streetscape Plan:** The City of Los Angeles is launching the Bringing Back Broadway project which will reduce traffic by one lane in each direction on Broadway in Downtown LA for sidewalk improvements between 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. To reduce bus congestion and ensure bus schedules are maintained, Metro moved the southbound buses on Lines 30/330 and 40 from Broad-

way to Spring St. Lines 45 and 745 will remain on Broadway in both directions. Once the streetscape plan is complete on Broadway, all northbound lines will have major stop changes.

### ***Metrolink***

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, Metrolink increased fares by an average of 5% system-wide. Student passes are exempt from the 5% fare increase. Other changes include a change to the Weekend Pass. The Weekend Pass is now a Weekend Day Pass that is valid for system-wide travel on EITHER Saturday OR Sunday. The pass price is still \$10. Metrolink Monthly Pass holders can still ride system wide starting Friday at 7:00 PM to Sunday at 11:59 PM. The last fare change is the discontinuance of the OCLink Pass which was good for unlimited travel within Orange County.

The Metrolink Board of Directors has also adopted changes to the Personal Care Attendant Free Ride Policy. Personal Care Attendants (PCA) will now be required to obtain a Metrolink PCA Identification Card. The card will allow the PCA to accompany the disabled passenger during their trip. The first PCA application would cost \$25 and every application thereafter will be \$10. The change is expected to occur sometime during the fall of 2013.



*(Continued on Page 9)*

## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### **OCTA**

The OCTA OC Fair Express buses are once again operating for to and from the Orange County Fair. The buses operate Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from July 12<sup>th</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup>. Fares are \$2.00 each way and passengers receive a coupon that is good for a \$3.00 Admission for the fair. OCTA is offering service to the fair on nine routes which are listed below.

- Route 633: Fullerton Park and Ride (Boards Dock 1 at the east end)
- Route 642: The Village at Orange (Boards at Corner of Meats and Canal, behind Sears)
- Route 657: Newport Transportation Center (Boards at Dock 4)
- Route 662: The Depot at Santa Ana (Boards on Santa Ana at Santiago)
- Route 670: Goldenwest Transportation Center (Boards at Dock 8)
- Route 671: Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station (Boards at Dock 2)
- Route 683: Laguna Hills Transportation Center (Boards at Dock 11)
- Route 688: Irvine Metrolink Station (Boards at Dock 8)
- Route 691: Junipero Serra Park-and-Ride - San Juan Capistrano (Boards at southwest corner of Rancho Viejo and Junipero Serra)

Routes 642 and 657 are new for the 2013 season.



### **Omnitrans**

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, Stater Brothers Markets will no longer sell Omnitrans bus passes.

### **Pasadena ARTS**

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, Pasadena ARTS made the following service changes.

Route 10: Now operates in both directions on Colorado Boulevard between Pasadena Avenue and Lake Avenue, no longer operating on Green Street between these two streets.

Route 20: Additional service has been added throughout the on both the clockwise and counterclockwise directions on weekdays. The service now operates every 24 minutes instead of every 33 minutes.

The agency also made other minor schedule changes to the other routes in the system.

### **Pass Transit**

On June 28<sup>th</sup> a ribbon cutting ceremony was held in Beaumont for new Pass Transit Commuter Link Route 120. Route 120 operates from Beaumont to the San Bernardino Metrolink making stops in Calimesa and Loma Linda. The new line operates Monday through Friday during peak hours in both directions. Fares are \$3.00 per person one-way. For more information contact Pass Transit at 951.769.8530 or online at:

[www.ci.beaumont.ca.us](http://www.ci.beaumont.ca.us)



*(Continued  
on Page 10)*

## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### ***Thousand Oaks Transit (TOT)***

From June 18<sup>th</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup>, TOT will be operating special summer beach bus service from Thousand Oaks to Zuma Beach. This special service operates on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (no service on July 4<sup>th</sup>) and there are two trips to the beach and two trips from the beach. Fares are \$5.00 round-trip and can be paid on the bus. Tickets for this service can be purchased ahead of time at the TOT Transit Center. For more information contact TOT at 805.375.5473 or online at:

[www.totransit.org](http://www.totransit.org)



### ***UCLA Ackerman Terminal***

Effective July 8<sup>th</sup> the Ackerman Terminal on the UCLA Campus will be closed for approximately three years for construction of a new conference center and all buses that serve Ackerman will be re-routed.

Big Blue Bus will be using a temporary transit center on Charles E. Young Drive between Westholme Avenue and Manning Avenue in front of the P2 Parking Garage. Below are details on the Big Blue changes during this time.

Routes 1, 2, 3, 8, 11 and 12: Weekday trips from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM will continue regular service to Hilgard Terminal.

Routes 1, 2, 3, 8 and 12: Weekday trips from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM and all weekend trips will serve the temporary transit center.

Rapid 12: All trips will serve the new temporary transit center.

Culver City Bus Lines 6 and Rapid 6 now utilize the northbound bus stop at Westwood Medical Plaza as the ending point for northbound trips and the starting point for southbound trips. Bus stops at Westwood/Strathmore and southbound Westwood Medical Plaza will be closed throughout the construction period.

### ***VVTA***

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> the BV Link Service will no longer stop at Fort Irwin. Passengers going to/from Fort Irwin can still use the NTC Commuter route.



### ***Willowbrook Shuttle***

Starting July 1st the Willowbrook Shuttle Route A became a point to point line instead of a loop. The route will continue to operate hourly. Route B has also had some minor route modifications. The span of service on both routes remains the same. 🚌 🚌



## *Photos of the Month*

*Sun Line New Flyer  
575 at the down-  
town Riverside  
Metrolink Station on  
June 21, 2013.*

*—Mark Strickert  
Photo*



*City of Commerce  
New Flyer 340 at the  
Commerce Metrolink  
Station in June 2013.*

*—William Braden  
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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NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **July 13<sup>th</sup>** and **Aug 10<sup>th</sup>** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

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