

# ***THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE***

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates  
August 2013

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*Los Angeles Railway Type H car 1201 in front of the Pinacate Station at Orange Empire Railway Museum on July 20, 2013.*

*—Andrew Novak Photo*

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## Bulletin Board / Members in Action

### Production Update:

Due to my travel plans please note the following deadlines for the September and October issues of the newsletter. All material for consideration must be to me by the posted deadlines.

September Issue: Deadline is August 25<sup>th</sup>.

October Issue: Deadline is September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thank You.

### Bulletin Board:

Our thanks to Diana Kotler of Anaheim Resort Transit for an illuminating presentation at our July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Suggestions for guest speakers are welcome. Among those we are communicating with to be speakers later this year are Linda Culp of San Diego Association of Government who administers the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency until a managing agency is selected and Paul Dyson, President of the Rail Passenger Association of California and Nevada.

At our August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we will discuss recommendations from the Bylaws Committee to streamline the bylaws by shrinking the Executive Board, eliminate Directors and reduce the number of monthly meetings. This is in line with social changes and the need to reorient the group toward focused public events in various areas along with a return to our former quarterly schedule of study tours. A limited number of copies of the proposed changes will be available at the meeting."

### Members in Action:

Alek Friedman's Streetsblog commentary "Failure of L.A. MTA Rapid Buses: Welcome to Rapid 704" garnered numerous comments.

J.K. Drummond had a letter to the editor in the Long Beach Gazette June 28<sup>th</sup> edition ("Blue Line Answers") asking the city of Long Beach agree to various decisions the city made in the past that causes the Blue Line to be slow during the street-running portion along Long Beach Boulevard. He also made comments at the June 14<sup>th</sup> Metro South Bay Service Council meeting.

Warren Quon was one of the first passengers to ride the new La Brea Flyaway on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ken Ruben attended the Gold Line 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event held at the Del Mar Station along with Erik Griswold. Ruben along with Dana Gabbard attended the July meeting of the Metro Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting. In July Ruben also attended the LOS-SAN and Metro Westside/Central Service Council meetings. 🚗 🚗



*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

## Big Blue Bus

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Big Blue Bus relocated bus stops on Routes 8 and 14. The final stop on Santa Monica bound trips on Route 8 is now at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway instead of 6<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. The southbound stop on Route 14 at Centinela and Venice has been moved after the intersection in front of the American Flowers.



Big Blue Bus Photo

## Disneyland Resort Express

On August 15<sup>th</sup> the Disneyland Resort Express, operated by Gray Line, will undergo a schedule change.

From Anaheim the last bus to John Wayne/ Orange County Airport will now be at 7:00 PM and the last bus to LAX will be depart Anaheim at 8:00 PM.

From John Wayne to Anaheim buses will depart the airport every hour on the hour from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM with two additional departures at 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM. From LAX to Anaheim buses will depart every hour at 30 minutes past the hour from 7:30 AM to 9:30 PM with one additional departure at 11:00 AM.

For more information visit  
[www.graylineanaheim.com](http://www.graylineanaheim.com)

## Foothill Transit

On July 29<sup>th</sup> several bus stops on Line 486 in Baldwin Park, including the stop at Baldwin Park Boulevard and Bess near the Kaiser Hospital were reopened after being closed for construction around Interstate 10.

Due to ongoing construction along the Interstate 10 in Baldwin Park the following stops Line 486 stops have been closed: Bess Ave & Leorita Street, Amar Road/Athol Street & Frazier Street, and Bess Avenue & Garvey Avenue. Passengers at these stops can board the 486 at Amar Road and Canal Place. This new detour is expected to last 2 years. For more information contact Foothill Transit at 800.743.3463 or online at:

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

## Kanan Shuttle

Effective August 5<sup>th</sup>, the County of Ventura started a new bus service on Kanan Road in Oak Park. This new demonstration service operated Monday through Friday from 6:40 AM to 6:30 PM with no service on major holiday. The buses run from Roadside Drive in Agoura Hills along Kanan Road to Lindero Canyon. Fares are free until November 2013. From 6:40 AM to 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM the service will operate every 15 minutes and the rest of the time service runs every 30 minutes. Passengers can transfer to/from Metro Line 161 at Thousand Oaks Road and Kanan Road or at the bus stop near the Burger King on Roadside Drive.

For more information contact Kanan Shuttle at 818.707.2005 or online at:

<http://www.kananshuttle.com/>

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## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### **Metro**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) recently approved contracts with two manufacturing companies to build buses and light rail vehicles.

The first of these contracts is with BYD Motors for the manufacture and delivery of up to 25 all-electric transit buses as part of the clean air bus technology pilot project.

Metro's Advanced Transit Vehicle Consortium (ATVC), a partnership with Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County and South Coast Air Quality Management District, will purchase five low-floor, 40-foot all-electric buses zero-emission buses for testing. After the initial testing and evaluation Metro has the option to purchase up to 20 more buses. BYD Motors is a Chinese based firm and final assembly of the buses will take place at the company's new plant in Lancaster California. The buses are expected to arrive some time in 2014.

The second contract is with Japanese railcar builder KinkiSharyo International for the production of 97 light rail vehicles for use on the new Crenshaw/LAX Line and to replace older vehicles in the Metro fleet. While the initial order is for 97 vehicles, Metro has options to receive up to 235 cars from KinkiSharyo. These cars will be assembled at a new plant in Palmdale with the car bodies being manufactured in Japan.



### **Metrolink**

Effective August 18<sup>th</sup> Metrolink will be adding Sunday service on the Antelope Valley Line. The agency is adding six trains (three round-trips) on Sunday between Los Angeles and Lancaster. The schedule has also been adjusted to provide better connections at Union Station to Amtrak and other Metrolink trains. For more information contact Metrolink at 800.371.5465 or online at: [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com)



### **OCTA**

Recently the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) board of directors approved \$9.8 million on Measure M2 funds to expand local transit services in Orange County. There are six transit projects which will complement the current bus and rail systems in the county. Some of these services will operate year-round while others will operate on a seasonal basis. Below is a list of these projects which are all expected to start some time in 2014.

**Dana Point:** Funding for a new summer weekend trolley service will be operated along Pacific Coast Highway. Also there are plans for a summer weekend harbor shuttle and special event services during the Festival of Whales.

**Huntington Beach:** Funding for a special event shuttle for 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the U.S. Open Surfing Competition.

*(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.

**UP 4014:** The Union Pacific (UP) and the Southern California Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society (R&LHS) have reached an agreement on the sale of former UP 4-8-8-4 steam locomotive 4014. Also known as a "Big Boy" UP had 25 of these locomotives which were the largest steam locomotives ever built. Union Pacific plans to restore the 4014 to operation condition and will join UP 844 (4-8-4) and 3985 (4-6-6-4) already in the railroad's steam program. 4014 was donated by UP to R&LHS on December 7, 1961 and since January 8, 1962 has been on display with the rest of the chapter's collection at the Pomona Fairgrounds. UP has not set a timeline for restoration of this unit but it is expected it will remain in Pomona until the end of the 2013 County Fair season in September.



**California Western:** On July 30<sup>th</sup> the California Western Railroad (Skunk Train) moved several pieces of equipment through their collapsed tunnel at Milepost 3.5. The popular tourist railroad had been closed since April when the tunnel collapse occurred. Since then money has been raised

and repairs have been made to the tunnel allowing the railroad to move passenger equipment to Willits so passenger operations can resume on the east end of the railroad. Full service on the line to Fort Bragg is expected to resume in August when final repairs are complete in the tunnel.

**Amtrak California Comet Cars:** On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the first three Amtrak California Comet 1B cars entered service on San Joaquin Trains 712 and 717. These three cars are the first of 14 cars purchased by the California Department of Transportation from New Jersey Transit and were refurbished by Amtrak at their Beech Grove Shops. These cars have allowed Caltrans to split up one of the bi-level consists and use those cars for increased capacity on other San Joaquin cars. Along with the Comets, Caltrans has leased at least one control cab (former Amtrak F40PH) and one Horizon Dinette car from Amtrak for these trains. These Comet cars are expected to be in service until 2015 when the first of the new order of Amtrak California cars arrives.

**RTP News and Views:** I will conclude this month with some self promotion. RTP News and Views Jr. Newsletter (Volume 11½, Issue 5, July 2013) is complete. This issue is dedicated to the Fillmore & Western Railway. 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:

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

So Los Angeles Councilman Paul Krekorian is among the choices of new L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti to sit on the Metro Board. I think he'll have a steep learning curve, considering Rick Orlov in his July 29<sup>th</sup> Tipoff column for the Daily News notes one of Krekorian's priorities is extending the Red Line into the San Fernando Valley. Hard to take seriously someone touting what is an obviously unlikely idea which is pandering of the worse kind. Imagine the howls from other regions if billions were poured into a Valley heavy rail extension. Besides the only idea worth pursuing in that area is an extension to Burbank Airport to facilitate its future role as a high speed rail hub. Does anyone know if that is what Krekorian has in mind?

I was amused to return to L.A. after attending Comic Con to discover Metro critic John Walsh briefly generated buzz by denouncing Garcetti's appointment of two Council members to the Metro Board as illegal. The dodge of making such appointments with the politician being so honored in their capacity as a member of the public (state statute specifies the three L.A. Mayor appointees be two public members and one Council member) is a time honored one reaching back to at least James Hahn. And does it matter when appointees serve at the pleasure of the L.A. Mayor and are mostly rubber stamps anyway? Jackie Dupont-Walker who is the public member appointee sounds like your classic Paul Hudson type appointee (Hudson heads a local bank and during his tenure on the Metro Board some years ago often asked intelligent questions). We'll see what she brings to the party.

Rumor of the month: Nick Patsaouras behind the scenes was angling to get back on the Metro Board. All for nought.

Just after I vented against the folks trying to derail the Metrolink extension to Perris a \$3 million settlement was reached between the Riverside County Transportation Commission and Friends of Riverside's Hills that will fund sound proofing for homeowners, mitigation and trails. Not an optimal solution but at least now the project can go forward; it is slated to open in early 2015 I have been telling folks for the last two years the inland empire is the real hotbed of transportation activity between this project and the under construction sbX Bus Rapid Transit corridor in San Bernardino. WOW!

I'll conclude by expressing regret Metrolink's holiday train has been cancelled this year due to budgetary pressures, understandable but regrettable. 🚆 🚆



*Metrolink's 2012 Holiday Train in Van Nuys on December 2, 2012.*

*-Andrew Novak Photo*

## *In Memory...*

### **Jerry Squier**

On July 9<sup>th</sup> legendary bus fan Jerry Squier passed away after a long battle with prostate cancer. Jerry had worked for Southern California Rapid Transit District (RTD) and the found of the United Transit Boosters now know as the Western Transit Society. Jerry was an avid photographer and active with the Motor Bus Society writing articles for their monthly publication Motor Coach Age. He was also a regular contributor to the Western Transit Newsletter. Jerry was with his wife and sons at the time of his passing. He will be missed. The photo at right was taken in 1973 by John Pappas.



### ***Speakers wanted!***

FOR TRANSIT INDUSTRY READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER -- We are looking for guest speakers for our monthly meetings. 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 via email at: [dgabbard@hotmail.com](mailto:dgabbard@hotmail.com) or via phone at 213.388.2364

## Transit Updates Continued

### OCTA Continued

**La Habra:** Funding will be provided for a new year-round local transit service with planned stops at St. Jude Hospital and the Fullerton Transportation Center.

**Laguna Beach:** Funding for an expanded festival seasonal service and a new off-season trolley service to be operated in the winter and spring months.

**Lake Forest:** Funding will be provided for two services in Lake Forest. The first is a van service from the Irvine train station to Oakley Inc. and the second is also a van service from the Irvine train station to Ossur Americas.

Funding for these projects includes capital and/or operating costs for the first seven years of each. For more information visit OCTA online at [www.octa.net](http://www.octa.net)



### Palos Verdes

Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority will be operating only Lines 225/226 from now until August 27<sup>th</sup> due to the ending of summer school. Once school is back in session full service will once again be operating.

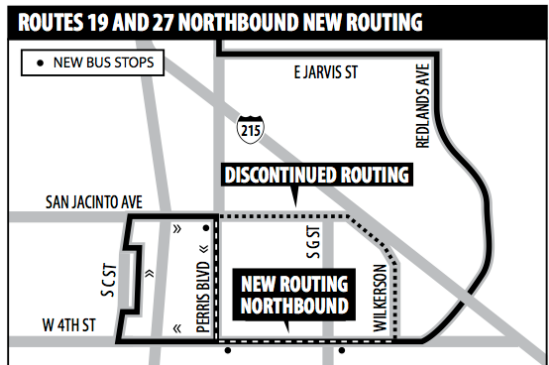
### Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)

During July and August RTA has made service enhancements and below is a summary of those changes.

Effective July 19<sup>th</sup> CommuterLink Route 202 now departs the Oceanside Transportation Center after Coaster and Sprinter Trains arrive to accommodate transferring passengers. CommuterLink Route 217 now departs the Escondido Transit Center after Sprinter trains arrive, also to accommodate transferring passengers.

Starting July 26<sup>th</sup> Friday service resumes of Route 54 which previously operated Monday through Thursday.

Starting August 11<sup>th</sup>, Routes 19 and 27 will follow new routing in downtown Perris due to road construction. There will be several new bus stops along this route, see map below for details.



From August 5<sup>th</sup> until September 20<sup>th</sup> there will be road work on Market Street between 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Houghton Avenue in Riverside. This construction is expected to cause traffic congestion and delay in bus service.

*(Continued on Page 9)*



## ***Transit Updates Continued***

### ***RTA Continued***

RTA is advising customers to expect delays on routes 1, 12, 13, 15, 29, 50 and CommuterLink routes 204, 208, 210, 212, and 216. The agency is also advising there could be bus stop closures in the affected area.

### ***The Gate (South Gate)***

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> the City of South Gate began operation of a new Eastside Route on their Get Around Town Express (GATE) bus service. The new Eastside Route operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM and on Saturday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Buses on the route operate every 18-20 minutes. This route serves the eastside of South Gate including service to Hollywooddale with connections to the Westside Route. Fares are 50¢ per ride. For more information contact South Gate Transportation Department at 323.563.5754 or online at: [www.cityofsouthgate.org](http://www.cityofsouthgate.org)



### ***Thousand Oaks Transit***



Effective July 15<sup>th</sup> TOT began operation of a new Metrolink shuttle operating from the Thousand Oaks Transportation Center to the Moorpark Metrolink Station. The route will also make stops at California Lutheran University and The Oaks Shopping Center. Fares on the new route are free until August 16<sup>th</sup> and then regular fare will be \$2.50 and \$1.50 for senior and disabled. Passengers

with valid Metrolink tickets and passes can ride for free. For more information contact TOT at 805.375.5473 or online at:

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



### ***VVTA***

Effective July 24<sup>th</sup> until further notice the 7<sup>th</sup> and Lorene is closed due to construction on Valley Center Drive. The buses will be stopping on 7<sup>th</sup> Street between Westech College and Yum Yum Donuts. The bus stops on Lorene (side of Costco), on Lorene east of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, on Valley Center (in front of Costco), on 7<sup>th</sup> Street (at Bakers), on La Paz east of 7<sup>th</sup> Street (at 7-11) and on Valley Center (at Denny's) will not be serviced. Effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, Victor Valley Transit Authority made changes to both fares and stops on the NTC Commuter. The new one-way fare is a flat rate of \$12 from Victorville or Barstow. There are also new passes available for the NTC Commuter. VVTA has also designated the VVTA offices on Smoketree a Park-n-Ride location with select trips stopping there. Contact VVTA for details on the new passes and the stop changes. For more information contact VVTA at 760.948.4021 or online at: [www.vvta.org](http://www.vvta.org)  

## Happy Birthday!

*In July 2013 two transit systems in southern California celebrated 10 years of operation, Merto's Gold Line to Pasadena and the San Pedro Red Car. Happy Birthday to both of these systems!*

*Metro LRV 232 pauses at the Fillmore Station on the Gold Line on July 26, 2003. This was the first train on opening day.*



*PE Interurban 1058 in San Pedro on opening day of the Red Car Line on July 19, 2003. Before coming to the San Pedro Red Car, 1058 was on a truck chassis and was driven to various events including the opening of the Blue Line in 1990. The car was restored to operating condition for use in San Pedro.*

*Both photos on this page by Andrew Novak*

## *Photos of the Month*

*Kern Regional  
Transit El Dorado  
National B1340 in  
Bakersfield at the  
Amtrak Station in  
June 2013.*

*—Jeremy Dickson  
Photo*



*Beach Cities Transit El  
Dorado National 539  
in Manhattan Beach  
on July 1, 2013.*

*—Russ Jones  
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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Vice President:	Kent Landfield
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Executive Secretary:	Dana Gabbard
Treasurer:	Dave Snowden
Directors at Large:	Ken Ruben J.K. Drummond Craig Weingarten

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

NEXT SO.CA.TA MEETINGS : **Aug 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Sep 21<sup>th</sup>** at Angelus Plaza, 4th Floor, 255 S. Hill, Los Angeles

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