

THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates



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Newsletter of the Southern
California Transit Advocates

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On the cover: LA 108 is the observation car used on the short-lived El Camino Commuter service in Los Angeles. The 108 is seen here in storage on August 13, 1977 after the service had been canceled.

—Bill Farmer Photo/PRS Collection

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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. Submission are used at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for space constraints.

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 SO.CA.TA.

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Next SO.CA.TA Gatherings:

Nov. 8th: Nominates for officers at 1:00 PM at Angelus Plaza in Los Angeles

Dec. 6th: Elections and pizza party at 1:00 PM at Angelus Plaza in Los Angeles

Bulletin Board

Bulletin Board:

Nomination for officers for 2015 will be held on Saturday November 8th at 1:00 PM at Angelus Plaza, 4th floor, in downtown Los Angeles at 255 South Hill Street. Elections will be held on Saturday December 6th at the same location at 1:00 PM. Following the election there will an informal holiday pizza party and schedule swap.

An ad-hoc work group is planning the annual day after Thanksgiving study tour, which this year will be on Friday November 28th. The current proposal that looks likely to be adopted would be a return visit to the inland empire to explore Riverside Transit's network of CommuterLink Express routes. Details to appear on our website.

The only activities foreseen for next year are the Metro owl service exploration and a visit to the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus yard. Members who wish to volunteer to organize events or meetings are welcome to step forward and do so.

As always the best way to keep track of transit related meetings and events is via our online calendar --

www.brownbearsw.com/freecal/socata

If you hear of something you think should be added contact Dana Gabbard at: 213.388.2364 or dgabbard@hotmail.com



Schedule Swap!

After our election on December 6, 2014 we will have another schedule swap. This will be a chance to thin out your schedule collections or add some gems to your collection!

Various Historical Societies

Below are a couple of historical societies that might be of interest.

PERYHS: The Pacific Electric Railway Historical Society (PERYHS) operates a website that has hundreds of photos of the Pacific Electric Railway which was considered "The World's Greatest Interurban." To see this amazing collection visit them online at: peryhs.org



SPH&TS: The Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society (SPH&TS) is dedicated to preserving and disseminating the history of the Southern Pacific Railroad including its passenger operations. The society has a quarterly magazine and publishes various books. For more information visit the society on-line at sphts.org



Transit Updates

AVTA

On October 6th the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) made several service changes. Below is a summary of those changes.

Routes 11/12: Weekday schedules have been modified to improve travel times on Route 12. Buses now depart Avenue J and 20th Street East earlier. Improve connections in the morning with the commuter service at Lancaster City Park and improved connections at the Lancaster Metrolink Station, decreasing waiting times.

Commuter Route 785: Additional trips have been added in the morning and afternoons. The departure times from Lancaster City Park have been changed between 4:45 AM and 6:30 AM. Departure times from 8th Street and Spring Street have been changed between 4:30 PM and 5:45 PM. The running times between Palmdale and Union Station have also been improved.

Commuter Route 787: Additional trips have been added in the morning and afternoon. The departure times from Lancaster City Park have been changed between 6:00 AM and 6:30 AM. Departure times from Ventura and Reseda have been changed between 2:50 PM and 5:45 PM. A new timepoint has been added at the CSUN transit center and the running times from Palmdale to Ventura and Reseda have been improved.

For more information contact AVTA at 661.945.9445 or online at:
<http://www.avta.com>

Culver City Bus

On September 8th Culver City Bus made minor schedule adjustments to Lines 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

FlyAway®

On September 3rd the Los Angeles World Airports began operation of a new FlyAway® bus service from LAX to Hollywood. The service runs seven days a week and departs a Hollywood every hour from 5:15 AM to 9:15 PM and hourly from LAX from 5:15 AM and 10:15 PM. The bus stop in Hollywood on the south side of Hollywood Boulevard east of Argyle Avenue

Service has also been started on a FlyAway® route from Santa Monica to LAX. Buses depart Santa Monica every hour from 5:45 AM to 9:45 PM and hourly from LAX from 6:45 AM to 11:45 PM. The Santa Monica bus stop is located at 1875 Main Street, just north of Pico Boulevard in front of the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

Buses pick up at LAX for all FlyAway® routes on the center island under the green overhead sign.

For more information contact Flyaway at 866.435.9529 or online at:
www.lawa.org/flyaway/

Gold Coast Transit

On August 24th, Gold Coast Transit in Oxnard made minor adjustments to their fixed route bus schedules. Gold Coast schedules are also now liked with Google Maps.



Joshua Thurman Photo

(Continued on Page 5)

Transit Updates Continued

LADOT

On October 6th the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) added a stop at the Redondo Beach Park and Ride lot on Commuter Express Line 438. The trips that previously began and ended at the Imperial and Aviation Park and Ride will now begin and end at the Redondo Beach Park and Ride. The Park and Ride is located at the corner of Redondo Beach Avenue and Marine Avenue.

For more information contact LADOT at (818, 323, 310, 213) 808.2273 or online at: <http://www.ladottransit.com>

La Habra Express

August 11th marked the first day of the service for the new La Habra Express bus service. There are two routes, 103A and 103B which operate Monday through Friday. Route 103A operates entirely within the city of La Habra while 103B operates in La Habra and travels to Fullerton Transportation Center with a stop at St. Jude Medical Center. 103A operates from 6:47 AM to 6:01 PM and 103B operates from 5:50 AM to 6:20 PM. Fare on either route is \$1.00. For more information contact La Habra Express at 562.383.4010 or online at: GoPlacesSeeFaces.com



Metrolink

On October 6th Metrolink made several service changes to their service. Below is a summary of those changes.

Ventura County/Burbank-Bob Hope Airport Service: Train 907 now departs Union Station at 8:55 AM and arrives at the Burbank Airport at 9:20 PM.

Antelope Valley Line: Train 207 now departs Union Station at 9:40 AM and arrives at Via Princessa at 10:50 AM.

San Bernardino Line: Trains 310, 327, 338 and 339 have been discontinued.

91 Line: Train 703 now departs downtown Riverside at 5:56 AM and arrives at Union Station at 7:32 AM. Train 704 now departs Union Station at 3:40 PM and arrives in Riverside at 5:15 PM. These trains replace the 2:30 PM train departing Riverside and the 12:40 PM train from Union Station. Trains 707 and 708 will now reach their destinations 5 minutes later.

Orange County Line: Train 607 now departs Oceanside at 6:39 AM and arrives at Union Station at 8:45 AM. Train 644 departs Fullerton at 10:10 PM and arrives in Oceanside at 11:37 PM.

For more information contact Metrolink online at: www.metrolinktrains.com



(Continued on Page 6)

Transit Updates Continued

Riverside Transit Agency

On September 14th Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) made a variety of service changes. Below is a summary of those changes.

Route 1: Improved connections to Metrolink Trains and additional trips added on Sunday.

Route 3: The weekday 2:38 PM southbound trip from Swan Lake MHP now departs at 2:43 PM.

Route 15: The first westbound trip from the Riverside Downtown Terminal now departs at 6:50 AM to improve connections with Metrolink Trains.

Route 19: The last weekday southbound trip has been extended to the Perris Station Transit Center.

Route 23: The 9:40 AM northbound trip now departs 5 minutes earlier to improve connections with Route 61.

Route 32: The weekday schedules have been adjusted to improve connections with Route 79.

Route 35: The weekday eastbound trip departing at 3:00 PM now departs at 3:04 PM.

Route 51: Service resumed on September 29th and will operate on UCR academic days only.

Route 54: This line has been discontinued.

Routes 206, 208, 210 and 212: Schedules has been improved for better connections to Metrolink trains.

Routes 208, 210 and 212: The route in downtown Riverside has been adjusted to travel on Lemon Street and University Avenue. The City Hall bus stop on 10th Street has been replaced with a stop on Lemon

Street near 10th.

The following routes had their schedules adjusted to improve on-time performance: 1, 13, 18, 20, 22, 27, 41, 61, 79, 206 and 217.

For more information contact RTA at 951.565.5002 or online at: www.riversidetransit.com



San Diego MTS

On October 12th San Diego MTS will make several service changes. Below is a summary of those changes.

Route 2: The route in downtown San Diego will be shortened to end at Front Street. The last westbound stop will be at Broadway at First Avenue and the first eastbound stop will be at Front Street at B. Street. Service to America Plaza will be provided by routes 215, 235, 923 and 992.

Route 15: This route will be discontinued and the service will be partially replaced by new Rapid 215. The new Rapid 215 will operate via Park Boulevard instead of Highway 163. Stops formerly served by Route 15 at Oregon Street, 33rd Street, and 59th Street will be served by Route 1, and not by *Rapid* 215.

(Continued on Page 7)

Transit Updates Continued

San Diego MTS Continued

Route 15 Continued: Route 15 service along Normal and Washington streets will be replaced during weekday peak hours only by new Express Route 170.

Route 110: The route in downtown San Diego will be shortened to end at Front Street. The last inbound stop will be at Broadway at First Avenue and the first outbound stop will be at Front Street at B. Street. The first eastbound Broadway Stop is at 3rd Avenue. Service to America Plaza will be provided by routes 215, 235, 923 and 992.

Route 170: This new express route will operate between City College Trolley Station and the City Heights Transit Plaza via Highway 163, Washington Street, Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue. It will operate every 30 minutes in both directions during weekday peak hours. This line will have a \$2.50 express fare.

Rapid 215: This new route will replace existing Route 15 providing service between downtown San Diego and SDSU via El Cajon Boulevard and Park Boulevard with a stop at the San Diego Zoo. The route will serve the new Rapid stations along El Cajon Boulevard and on Park Boulevard at Howard and University avenues. It will operate every 15 minutes, seven days/week, and every 10 minutes during weekday peak hours. Cash fare is \$2.25.

Rapid 235: Minor schedule changes on all days and service to the Miramar College Transit Station begins.

Rapid 237: This new route operates between Rancho Bernardo Transit Station and UC San Diego, via Sabre Springs and Miramar Col-

lege transit stations, Mira Mesa Boulevard, and La Jolla Village Drive. Service will be every 15 minutes in both directions on weekdays during peak hours. Express cash fare will be \$2.50

Route 270: This route will now use the Interstate 15 carpool lanes. The Mira Mesa stop on eastbound Mira Mesa Boulevard at Black Mountain Road will switch to southbound Black Mountain Road. There are no changes to the schedule.

Mira Mesa changes: These routes 20, 31, 110, 235, 237, 921 and 964 will start to service the new Miramar College Transit Station. Routes 31, 110, and 921 will no longer serve the curbside stops on Westview Parkway. These stops will still be served by Routes 20 and 964 for access to the Mira Mesa MarketCenter.

For more information contact San Diego MTS at 619.557.4555 or online at:

www.sdmts.com or www.rapidmts.com



(Continued on Page 9)

Public and Legislative Affairs By Dana Gabbard

In something of an anti-climax the Metro bus and rail operators recently voted to adopt the collective bargaining agreement negotiated by their union, SMART (International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers). The final tally was 1822 yes to 1585 no. The turnout was much higher than the first contract vote, which can be attributed to it being better organized this time. Whereas the first election used mail in ballots that were not received by a substantial number of operators voting this time was held in the divisions.

The drive to decertify SMART as the union for Metro operators appears to have fizzled. And with the new contract now approved SMART appears entrenched despite grumbling by certain elements among the rank and file. Labor stability at Metro appears assured for at least the next few years.

Evidently the recent critical audit of its performance as the contractor for policing Metro services has made the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department nervous about their ability to keep the policing contract which expires at the end of this year. This is evidenced by the appearance by Interim Sheriff John Scott at the recent Metro Board special meeting on the audit to note they are quickly implementing most of the audit recommendations and are going to henceforth do a better job. Much to my surprise I have recently witnessed Deputies actu-

ally boarding Metro buses to ride a short distance. From what I understand this started happening in the past few weeks. Of course it is mostly symbolic and still unanswered is what will the LASD do to improve its dismal record for policing the bus system, especially given one of the audit recommendations they have stated that they are opposed to is undertaking closer cooperation with local law enforcement agencies to improve response times to incidents on buses. The key question is will changes to assure the safety of bus passengers and operators be the priority? Blocking this is an entrenched LASD culture opposed to making changes in procedures that don't fit the LASD way of doing things. We'll see if the Metro Board fulfills its promises of henceforth being more vigilant in its role of providing oversight for how policing is handled. The LASD deserves ongoing scrutiny to make sure it does not become complacent even if it (as likely) is selected to continue handling transit policing for the agency. Recommendations made in 2008 about policing by a consultant were mostly not implemented. Hopefully this time things will be different. 🚌 🚊



Transit Updates Continued

Santa Barbara MTD

On August 25th Santa Barbara MTD made two changes to their system. First was Line 15X which now serves Isla Vista by traveling only on El Colegio Road. The bus will no longer use the side streets. Schedules will remain the same during the day. The agency has added more evening service, every half hour from SBCC to IV until 9:00 PM. The second change was the cancelation on Line 22, which last operated on August 24th.



Santa Clarita Transit

On August 9th Santa Clarita Transit began operation of new Route 12. This new route travels from McBean Regional Transit Center to Plum and Whites Canyon. The new Route 12 replaces the eastern segments of Routes 1 and 2 which ran from Castaic and Val Verde to Canyon Country. With the new service the agency was able to increase the frequency, improve on-time performance and improve connections with other Santa Clarita Routes. Route 12 operates to and from the McBean Regional Transit Center every 30 minutes.



Golden Empire Transit

On October 5th the Golden Empire Transit (Bakersfield) made several service changes. Below is a summary of those changes.

Route 21: This route has been extended to the Homeless Center in the mornings and afternoons.

Route 41: Now operates on Highway 99 instead of Akers Road.

Route 43: Now provides service to CBCC on Saturdays.

Route 46: This route now provides service on Robinson, Potomac and Washington streets.

Route 47: Service on weekends and at night on weekdays has been eliminated due to low ridership.

Route 61: The route now turns westbound on Panama Lane to provide service to the Winco. With this change the route will no longer serve the WalMart on Panama Lane.

Route 81: Service at night has been eliminated due to low ridership. Weekend service now operates every 60 minutes.

Route 83: The route has been modified to provide service to BARC and South H and Wilson.

For more information contact GET at 661.869.2GET (2438) or online at:

www.getbus.org  



***Transit Topics** By Andrew Novak*

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

SF MUNI's new LRVs: The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has recently awarded a \$648 million contract to Siemens for the construction of 175 light rail vehicles for service on MUNI routes. The order has an option for an additional 85 cars and is one of the largest orders of railcars placed in the U.S. The cars will be built at the Siemens plant in Sacramento and are expected to arrive in San Francisco in late 2016. With this many cars it is likely that many of the Breda cars currently in service will be retired.



Caltrain Buys Metrolink Cars: In September Caltrain announced plans to purchase 16 surplus Metrolink bi-level commuter cars. The Generation 2 cars were built by Bombardier and at Metrolink were numbered 164-182. Caltrain plans to use the cars to increase capacity on peak hour trains that are at capacity. It is expected to take up to a year to prepare the cars for service on the commuter route which operates from San Francisco to San Jose with some service as

far south as Gilroy. It is unknown which cars will head north to Caltrain.

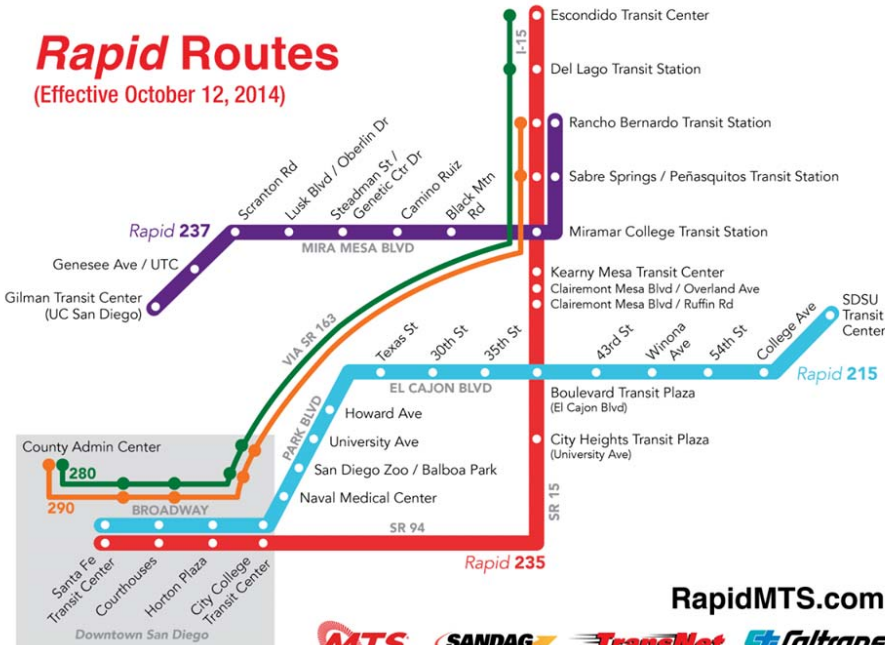
LEGO bus stop: In July 2014 to celebrate Transport for London's promotional campaign celebrating the 'Year of the Bus', LEGO created a full size bus stop shelter made of LEGO bricks. There were over 100,000 LEGO bricks used to create the shelter which was located near London-based toy store, Hamleys on Regent Street.



Transit Maps of the Month.

Rapid Routes

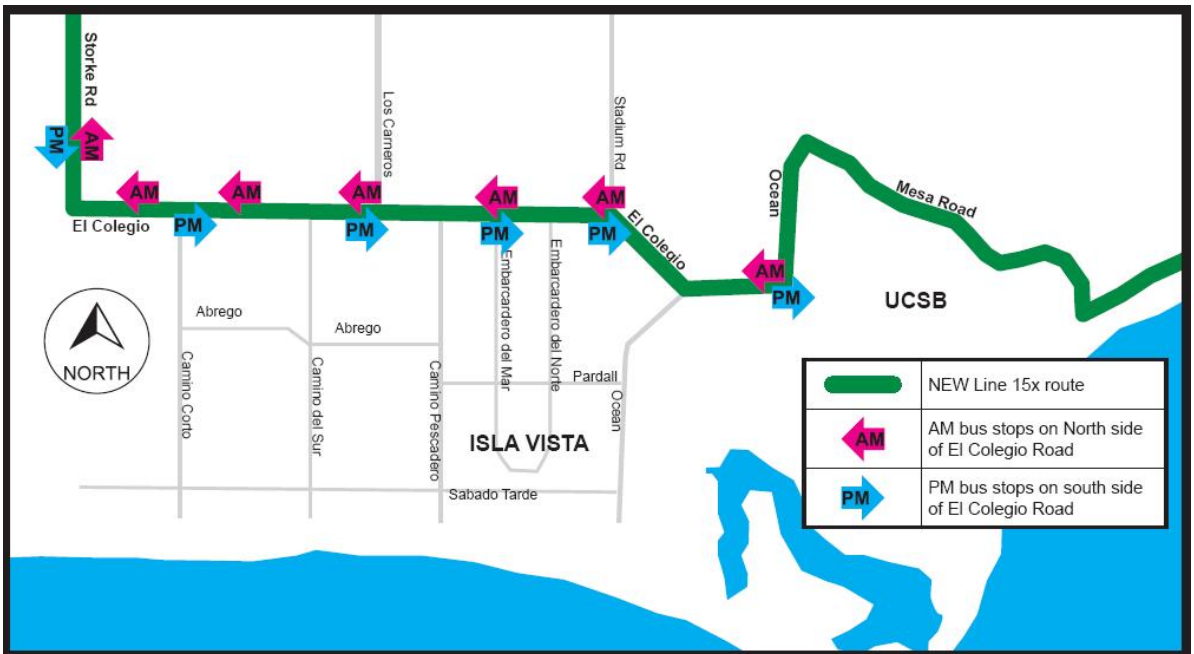
(Effective October 12, 2014)



Left is a map of the Rapid Routes operated by MTS in San Diego.

Below is a map of the new Line 15X at Santa Barbara MTD.

RapidMTS.com



Metro Fare Increase

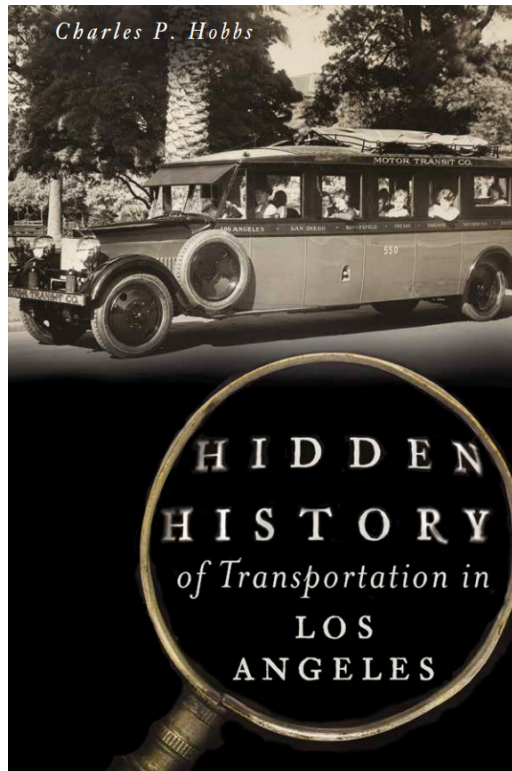
On September 15th the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) increased fares for both Metro Bus and Metro Rail. Below is a summary of the fare changes.

	<i>Regular</i>	<i>Senior/Disabled</i>	<i>College/Vocational</i>	<i>Student K-12</i>
<i>Cash Fares (Bus Only)</i>				
1-Ride Base Fare (No Transfers)	\$1.75	75¢ (peak) 35¢ (off peak)	\$1.75	\$1.00
Metro-to-Muni Transfer	50¢	25¢	50¢	50¢
Tokens (Bag of 10) valid for base fare	\$17.50	---	---	---
<i>On TAP Cards</i>				
One Way Trip*	\$1.75	75¢ (peak) 35¢ (off peak)	\$1.75	\$1.00
1-Day Pass	\$7.00	\$2.50	---	---
7-Day Pass	\$25	---	---	---
30-Day Pass	\$100	\$20	\$43	\$24
30-Day Pass + Zone 1 Pass	\$122	---	---	---
Metro-to-Muni Transfer	50¢	25¢	50¢	50¢
Stored Value (Good on Metro and other TAP Carriers)	\$1.75 - \$60	35¢ - \$60	\$1.75 - \$60	\$1 - \$60
<i>Silver Line Cash Fares</i>				
1-Ride Base Fare (No Transfers)	\$2.50	\$1.35 (peak) 95¢ (off peak)	\$2.50	\$2.50
<i>On TAP Cards</i>				
One Way Trip*	\$2.50	\$1.35 (peak) 95¢ (off peak)	\$2.50	\$2.50
Premium Charge	75¢	---	---	---
Express Premium Charge	75¢	60¢	75¢	75¢

*On TAP cards the one way trip includes transfers to other Metro routes valid for two hours to complete a one-way trip.

Off-Peak hours include weekdays 9am - 3pm and 7pm - 5am; weekends and Federal holidays. For more information <http://www.metro.net/riding/new-fares-sept/>

Hidden History of Transportation in Los Angeles



Sure, everyone knows about Los Angeles' "Big Red Cars" and the freeways.

But did you know Southern California also featured:

- An elevated bicycle freeway through Pasadena, with plans to extend it to downtown Los Angeles
- A ferry shuttling passengers between San Pedro and Terminal Island, before the Vincent Thomas Bridge was built
- Helicopter service from various suburbs to LAX
- A pre-Metrolink commuter train from Oxnard to Union Station

These stories, and more, can be found in longtime SO.CA.TA member Charles P. Hobbs' forthcoming book, *Hidden History of Transportation in Los Angeles*.

The release date is November 4, but it is available for pre-order on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Ontario & San Antonio Heights

The Ontario & San Antonio Heights (O&SAH) began operation in 1887 from Ontario to San Antonio heights. In 1895 the line was electrified and in 1912 it was acquired by the Southern Pacific and became part of the Pacific Electric (PE). PE cut back service on the line in 1924 and abandoned it altogether in 1928.



One of the O&SAH cars on Euclid Avenue circa 1907. This is one of the photos that is part of the display next to the shelter shown below. This photo of a photo was taken on August 9, 2014.

The former Ontario & San Antonio Heights passenger shelter in San Antonio Park on August 9, 2014.

-Andrew Novak Photo



Photos of the Month

Metro New Flyer 5200 had the honor of being the last high floor on the roster. The bus was officially retired on August 30, 2014 ending an era at Metro.

*—Joshua Thurman
Photo*



*Santa Maria Area
Transit (SMAT) Gillig
4014-167 at the
Santa Maria Transit
Center on
September 23, 2014.*

*—Joshua Thurman
Photo*

Classic Los Angeles Transit



Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (LAMTA) Flexible 5836 and Brill Trolley Bus 9040 pose at the Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal (LAUPT) bus loop on the north side of the station. The end is near for the trolley bus lines in this 1963 photo.

*-Bob Holstrom
Photo/Andrew
Novak Collection*



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