

THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates

November / December 2016

Vol. 24, No. 6



Inside This Issue:

- Bulletin Board — page 2
- Transit Updates — page 4
- Downtown Riverside Stop Changes — page 5
- Michael Ludwig, RIP — page 6

Foothill Transit test double-deck bus at Montclair Transit Center 10/3/16

Mark Strickert Photo

I am stepping down as newsletter editor after the next (January/February 2017) issue. Deadline for the next issue is Tuesday, January 10th. Mailing address for Jan/Feb newsletter items is busnrail@yahoo.com, or Mark Strickert, PO Box 1171, Rialto CA 92377. Texts to (909) 685-1977.

John Andoh will be editor starting with the March/April issue.

The flyer enclosed in the printed copies of this issue is a mailer prepared by member John Ulloth, to be sent on to the addressee. As we always note in the legalese fine print on the back page of every *Transit Advocate* newsletter, "all written material within, including all inserted flyers and postcards, are the expressed opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily that of the SOCATA." Though outside of some geography issues (such as, the San Bernardino Metrolink line is really several miles to the north of ONT) and the rant tone, I as a SOCATA member do happen to support it.

November 12th meeting - Nate Zablen

We had a relatively small turnout and I am sure some were unable to attend due to street closures, and detours affecting transit.

These are the current nominations. On December 10th, I will request permission from the membership to reopen the nominations since so many were unable to make the November meeting due to the street closures and detours that day. (Bylaws specify nominations take place at the November meeting)

President - Nate Zablen

Vice President - JK Drummond, Andy Novak

Treasurer - Dana Gabbard

Secretary - Perias Pillay, John Ulloth

Anna Apostolos of Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative gave a very interesting power point presentation showing their organization's successful effort to improve neighborhoods particularly around areas adjacent to transit stops.

The Holiday Banquet will be held after the 12/10 meeting. Site will be either of these downtown area choices: 7th & Figueroa Food Court, Clifton's Cafeteria, Felipe's, Cole's, or an unspecified Chinatown restaurant.

The Day After Thanksgiving specific itinerary was not discussed. Mention was made of a trip to Big Bear [see *itinerary below* -- ed.]

Charles Hobbs had a book signing for "The Hidden History of Transportation in Los Angeles" and several copies were sold.

Our guest speaker for the Dec. 10th meeting will be Jerard Wright of MoveLA who will speak on the recent election results especially the Measure M vote. I am trying to also get a speaker from RailLA, a rail advocacy group but his appearance has not been confirmed. RailPAC's Paul Dyson will not be able to speak at the 12/10 meeting.

SOCATA voted to support continued rear door boarding on the Silver Line but allow cash payments until TAP cards can be purchased at or near all Silver Line stops. SOCATA also voted to request Metro to give its light rail line trains signal preemption in order to significantly improve speed and efficiency. The installation of gates at all intersections was discussed but this is a decision for the municipalities rather than just Metro.

Please remind everyone to come on December 10th for our guest speaker, the elections, a book signing by Charles Hobbs, and our banquet. We are hoping that arrangements can be made for the distribution of transit trinkets as our Vice President Andy Novak will be unable to attend the Meeting and Banquet. If the trinkets can not be handed out on December 10th, we may pass them out at a possible January meeting where we will try to have a guest presentation.



Day After Thanksgiving tour - Mark Strickert

Here is the proposed study tour for this year. This is a modified version of the itinerary I had e-mailed out in October, as it reflects Mountain Transit's service changes in the Lake Arrowhead/RIM area effective November 14th. If you expect to attend, please e-mail me at busnrail@yahoo.com, or text or phone (909) 685-1977 prior to the departure from San Bernardino

BULLETIN BOARD *continued*

Metrolink. As of press time, mountain weather will be clear but cool (50s or 60s). If conditions change by November 25th, an alternate plan covering Omnitrans West Valley service changes has been plotted.

MOUNTAIN TRANSIT TOUR

Metrolink San Bernardino Line

Lv LAUS 5:46 AM

Lv Montclair 7:01 AM

Ar San Bernardino 7:41 AM

Mountain Transit BB OTM

Lv San Bernardino Transit Center 8:20 AM

Lv San Bernardino Depot west gate 8:35 AM

Ar Big Bear - Interlaken Center 9:50 AM

Mountain Transit 3 westbound

Lv Big Bear - Interlaken Center 10:03 AM

Ar Big Bear - Interlaken Center 10:29 AM

Good snack/bathroom break time in Interlaken Center area

Mountain Transit BB OTM

Lv Big Bear - Interlaken Center 11:00 AM

Ar Running Springs 11:38 AM

Mountain Transit 4

Lv Running Springs 12:00 noon

Ar Stater Bros Arrowhead Village 12:25 PM

Mountain Transit 2

Lv Stater Bros Arrowhead Village 12:30 PM

Lv Crestline 1:15 PM

Ar Blue Jay Library 1:50 PM

Lunch

Mountain Transit RIM OTM

Lv Blue Jay McDonalds 2:45 PM

Ar San Bernardino Depot 3:34 PM

Ar San Bernardino Transit Center 3:55 PM

Omnitrans 290 (optional)

Lv San Bernardino Transit Center 4:29 PM

Ar Montclair 5:28 PM

Metrolink San Bernardino Line

Lv San Bernardino Depot 4:01 PM

Lv Montclair 4:39 or 5:57 PM

Ar LAUS 5:53 or 7:10 PM



Contributors to this issue include Charles Hobbs, Russ Jones, Mike Palmer, Andy Novak, and Nate Zablen



Ex-Metro 7057 and ex-CTA 374 at ex-Riverside Santa Fe station 11/6/16 — Mark Strickert photo

TRANSIT UPDATES

Antelope Valley Transit Authority

AVTA route 790, aka the Transporter, now connects the Palmdale Transportation Center with Vincent Grade/Acton Metrolink (northbound only), Newhall station, and the McBean Regional Transit Center in Santa Clarita. 790 will have five trips per weekday, every two hours, and a base fare of \$5.00. <http://www.avta.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=295>

Foothill Transit

Recent between-service-changes changes:

Line 185 - stop added on NB Irwindale Ave. just south of the 210 freeway, to serve the Irwindale Gold Line station

Line 496 – Foothill is ending this pilot project due to low ridership. For line 496 riders in West Covina, they are adding a trip to Line 498

Line 690 – all westbound trips will end at the Azusa Intermodal Transit Center, and 690 will now be a local route with the local fare of \$1.25.

Gold Coast Transit District

All Veterans will now be eligible to ride for 1/2 price with valid identification. 75c (regular cash fare is \$1.50).

Metrolink

Jurupa Valley has been an incorporated city since 2013. Metrolink now acknowledges this by renaming "the Pedley Station" as "Jurupa Valley/Pedley Station".

Mountain Transit

Changes in the Lake Arrowhead/"RIM" service area, effective 11/14/16:

Route 2 - will begin running on Saturdays, on a trial basis

Route 4 - span of service reduced, due to low ridership in early AM and late PM

Rim OTM - times adjusted, with intention of better meeting Metrolink trains in San Bernardino

Dial-a-Ride - will begin operating Sundays

A Lake Arrowhead Trolley route is expected to operate during next summer's tourist season, schedule to be announced later. mountain-transit-announces-route-changes-in-the-rim-service-area

Omnitrans

Change effective 1/8/17:

Route 215 - effective with downtown transit center closure, 215 will be re-routed in Riverside. Will instead stop at EB University/NS Lemon and at the Metrolink station

Omnitrans has been named the lead agency on the Redlands Passenger Rail Project, and will operate the train service beginning in approximately 2020. The Omnitrans board just approved the branding for the San Bernardino to U of Redlands route, "Arrow"



Riverside Transit Agency

RTA reintroduced route 54, a shuttle between Downtown Riverside Metrolink and the downtown Riverside government buildings. Buses leave the station about every 40 minutes between 5:35 and 7:40 AM, and between 4:35 and 6:30 PM, plus three midday trips.

RTA has issued a booklet with a map and list of the bus stop changes related to the impending closure of the Downtown Riverside Transit Center. As expected, as of January 8, 2017 some of the connections between routes will not be possible under the new plan, and many other connections will require walking a block or more. The booklet is online at:

<http://www.riversidetransit.com/images/stories/DOWNLOADS/PUBLICATIONS/DOWNTOWN%20RIVERSIDE%20STOP%20IMPROVEMENT%20PROJECT%20SPECIAL%20GUIDE/Downtown%20Riverside%20Stop%20Improvement%20Project%20Special%20Guide%20vWeb%2001.pdf>

UCLA

BruinBus has replaced its last diesel buses with two BYD electric buses. UCLA became the first public university in California with electric buses, and the rest of its 16-coach fleet runs on compressed natural gas (CNG)

TRANSIT UPDATES *continued*

Ventura County Transportation Commission

VCTC's new route is the Oxnard-Camarillo Connector. They have four trips daily between 7:10 AM and 1:00 PM from C St. Transfer Center and Oxnard Transit Center to Camarillo Outlets and

Camarillo Metrolink, and five return trips daily from 2:15 PM to 10:15 PM. <http://www.goventura.org/travel-ventura/vista/routes-schedules/routes/vctc-oxnard-camarillo-connector-otc>

Lost Connections in Riverside *Mark Strickert*

As noted recently in the SOCATA *Transit Advocate* newsletter, Riverside Transit Agency is implementing what they call the "Downtown Riverside Stop Improvement Project." Many of RTA's downtown stops have shelters with solar-powered night lighting, and have concrete bus pads to minimize street pavement damage.

However, the incentive to do all this work is the closure of their Downtown Riverside Transit Center, scheduled for January 8th, 2017. This is also billed as an improvement, but the only improvement would be seen by bus operations. The decentralization will scatter bus routes, stops, and layovers all over downtown Riverside. Some connections that used to mean at worst a walk from one end of the center to the other will soon require walks of one or two blocks and crossing one or more streets. Some connections will not even be that direct, such as from the 29, or 49 to the 10, any of the CommuteLinks routes, Omnitrans 215, or SunLine 220.

The most extreme change will be the removing of RTA route 16 from downtown entirely. The 16 will run only as far west as University and Iowa. RTA suggests taking the 1 east on University Ave. then transferring to the 16 at Iowa Ave. However, the service change booklet (noted below) gives the connecting point as Chicago Ave. ... perhaps a typo from when both routes used to serve the same stop at University and Chicago?

RTA had an information table at the Downtown Riverside Transit Center several days in early November, though the staffers there could not give me a solid answer for why the center was being closed or why route 16 was being cut back yet again. They did say RTA expected to outgrow the center eventually, though not until at least the start-up of their rapid-bus route from UC Riverside to Corona. I asked why the hurry, since they did

not expect that route to start until at least January, 2018, but they just repeated their previous answer.

The previously-proposed new transit center near the Metrolink station also remains in the future if at all. Several former businesses between Vine Street and the 91 freeway were torn down, but now the land is vacant. Several stops were set up along southbound Vine St. but those will be used as layover zones for the routes terminating at the Metrolink station. Omnitrans 215 will be one of those, as will the RTA 15. RTA 1 will continue to serve the Metrolink station at least part-time (as before), but as already noted the 16 will no longer stop there.

RTA has issued a booklet with a map, a list of which routes will be serving which downtown stops, and details of each remaining downtown route (which means no pages on the route 16 changes). The booklet is online at:

<http://www.riversidetransit.com/images/stories/DOWNLOADS/PUBLICATIONS/DOWNTOWN%20RIVERSIDE%20STOP%20IMPROVEMENT%20PROJECT%20SPECIAL%20GUIDE/Downtown%20Riverside%20Stop%20Improvement%20Project%20Special%20Guide%20vWeb%2001.pdf>





Above - Downtown Riverside Transit Center
Below - Vine Street stops/layover zone, as of 1/8/17
— Mark Strickert photos



Michael Ludwig, RIP Charles P. Hobbs

We have been informed that former member Michael Ludwig passed away in mid-October, 2016.

From an early age, Michael split his time between Northern and Southern California, becoming familiar with public transit routes in both areas.

Michael joined SO.CA.TA in early 1992, after finding out about the group at an OCTA public hearing. He was very active in the group, serving as Vice President from 1995 to 1996. He also wrote the "Transit Trivia" column and several other articles for SO.CA.TA's newsletter, the Transit Advocate.

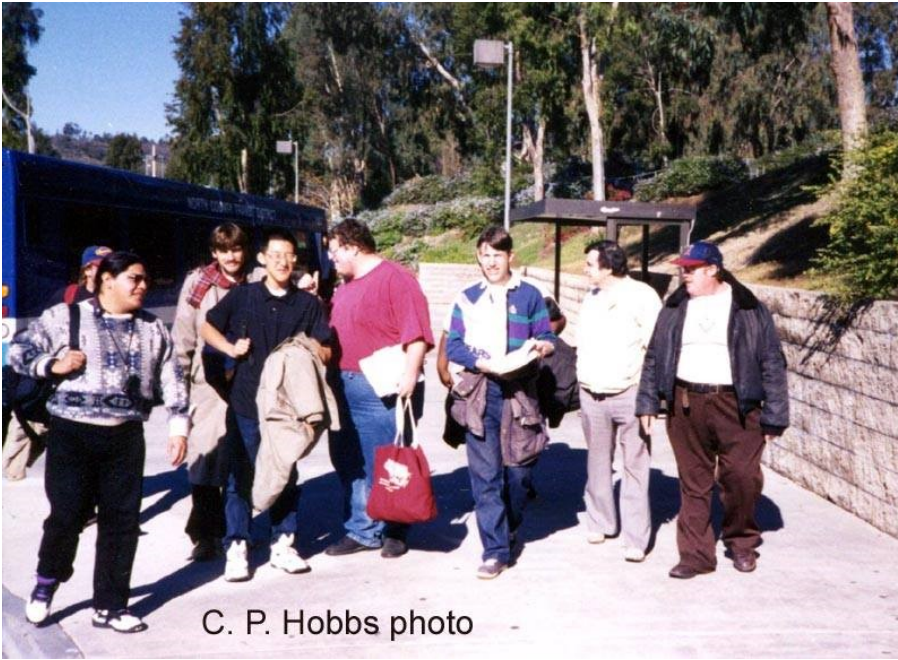
In mid-1996 he returned to the Bay Area, occasionally returning to Southern California to participate in SO.CA.TA events. In later years he moved to Eureka, CA, and attended public meetings of the Humboldt Transit Authority, providing suggestions to improve bus operations in Humboldt County.

He will be missed.

=== Charles P. Hobbs cph1776@yahoo.com

<http://www.morethanredcars.com>

Author of *Hidden History of Transportation in Los Angeles* (History Press)



C. P. Hobbs photo

SO.CA.TA San Diego Excursion, 1998 (or 1997?) We had just left the NCTD bus in the background, and were walking toward the SDT #20 for San Diego. From left: Chris Flescher (blue cap), Armando Avalos, John Ulloth, Hank Fung, Dana Gabbard, Michael Ludwig, Ed Buckley, Woody Rosner — Charles Hobbs photo

SOCATA prorated dues, from now to end of 2016:

Individual Members: \$7.50 (Print or PDF); Low Income: \$3.00 (PDF Newsletter)

Submission of materials: ALL materials for the TRANSIT ADVOCATE newsletter go to Mark Strickert, busnrail@yahoo.com, texts to (909) 685-1977, or mail to PO Box 1171, Rialto CA 92377

Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for returns. Submissions are used at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for space constraints, or for grammar, or spelling.

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 individual authors and not necessarily that of the SOCATA.

Copyright: © 2016 Southern California Transit Advocates. Permission is freely granted to reproduce/reprint ORIGINAL articles from the Transit Advocate, provided credit is given to both the author and the Southern California Transit Advocates. In all other cases, permission must be secured from the copyright holder.

Disclaimer: The Southern California Transit Advocates is not affiliated with any governmental agency or transportation

provider. Names and logos of agencies appear for information and reference purposes only.

SO.CA.TA officers, 2016

President:	Nate Zablen
Vice President:	Andy Novak
Secretary:	Perias Pillay
Treasurer:	Dana Gabbard

~~~~~

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Newsletter Editor:    | Mark Strickert |
| Newsletter Prod. Mgr: | Dana Gabbard   |
| Webmaster:            | Charles Hobbs  |
| Archivist:            | Edmund Buckley |



**Southern California Transit Advocates**  
**3010 Wilshire #362**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90010**  
<http://www.socata.net>