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Submission of materials: ALL materials for the Transit Advocate newsletter go to John Andoh, 2430 Cromwell Circle Apt. 703, Austin, TX 78741; texts to 209.321.1334, e-mail to smileyfacejohnny@yahoo.com

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.

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SO.CA.TA officers, 2017

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

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# **THE TRANSIT ADVOCATE**

**Newsletter of the Southern California Transit Advocates**

**January / February 2017**

**Vol. 25, No. 1**



### **Inside This Issue:**

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*Pasadena Transit at  
Sierra Madre Villa station  
11/25/16*

*Mark Strickert Photo*

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I am stepping down as newsletter editor after this issue. John Andoh will be editor starting with the March/April issue. Deadline for the next *Transit Advocate* newsletter is Tuesday, February 28th. John Andoh, 2430 Cromwell Circle, Apt 703, Austin, TX 78741; [smileyfacejohn-ny@yahoo.com](mailto:smileyfacejohn-ny@yahoo.com); 209.321.1334

**December 10th member meeting**

The Southern California Transit Advocates (SOCATA) board for 2017 bears a striking resemblance to the board of directors lineup in 2016:

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

Also at the December member meeting, guest speaker Jerard Wright of MoveLA went over the Measure M voter numbers from the November elections. Mr. Wright was the first guest speaker recipient of a

copy of Charles Hobbs' book "Hidden History of Transportation in Los Angeles."

**Website Updates—Charles Hobbs**

I updated the Wordpress software, and made a few small changes (mostly moving the list of member links to its own sidebar and deleting the unused "Archive" link).

I'm also looking at linking one of our Facebook pages to the website, not quite sure what software I'll use to do that, though.

Someone is also pushing for making the Members Only board at least readable to the public, in the hopes of gaining new members. (The Members Only board doesn't get a lot of use anyway--most of the "action" has moved to Facebook.)



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



Disneyland-bound Anaheim Resort Transit # 2160 (ex-OCTA) getting rained on 1/12/16 — Mark Strickert photo

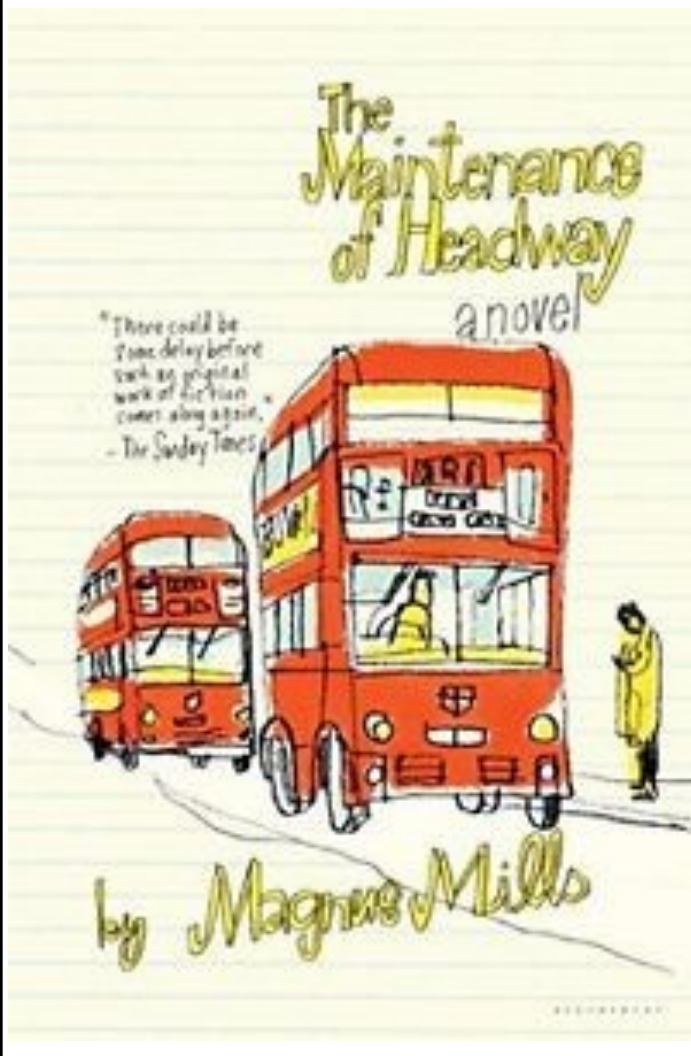




**Maintenance of Headway - Magnus Mills**

Nate Zablen handed me a copy of this book at a recent SOCATA meeting. It was written by a former driver in London. I think this book could be enjoyed even by people not "in the know" in transit, but

coach operators, field supervisors, and transit operations will recognize a lot in this fictional account of the absurdities of "Maintenance of Headway" (keeping buses evenly spaced on each route) despite the meddling of operators, supervisors, riders, equipment issues, and traffic patterns.



**Toronto Transit Zine**

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) services in metro Toronto get a lot of respect from industry and riders outside Toronto, but people I know there are forever pointing out its flaws and the room for improvement. Check out the online zine:

<https://www.slideshare.net/mobile/LeftStreamed/toronto-transitzine01>

**Watch the Closing Doors**

I have been trading zines with Fred Argoff since I first saw *Watch the Closing Doors* in the early 1990s. Fred is based in Brooklyn, NY and works for NYCTA, but his coverage of rail transit is worldwide. Recent issues have covered new and historic streetcars, tokens, elevateds in the Bronx, and the half-built then abandoned Cincinnati subway. Issues come out four times a year, available for \$10 a year from Fred Argoff, Penthouse L, 1170 Ocean Pkwy., Brooklyn NY 11230

Aware of any other transit oriented zines? Please let me know at [busnrail@yahoo.com](mailto:busnrail@yahoo.com)



Measure M passed by over a 71% approval rate by the voters of LA County. However great this news is for Los Angeles, our neighboring counties Orange, Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino failed to pass a comparative sales tax measure for transportation. Also the question remains whether Metro will enhance bus service in areas of LA County which failed to see bus improvements after Measure R was passed in 2008. Measure M is focused on the big ticket project such as the Sepulveda Pass Corridor, the Tunnel for Light Rail near the San Diego Freeway, the Gold Line extensions, and the Eco-Rapid Corridor from Artesia to Downtown LA. These are worthy projects but they may not be completed for another 30 years.

Transit advocates throughout Southern California should call on LA's neighboring counties to also increase their funding of public transportation. Quality public transit ought not to stop at Los Angeles County's boundary. Hundreds of thousands of travelers cross county lines for employment, education, business, shopping, and recreation and their needs can not be ignored. Of course, bus operation spending

throughout LA County should not be postponed even though Metro is committed to spending billions to complete mega-rail projects in the future.

Metrolink can provide a key connection between all the counties of Southern California but its service needs to be improved with the completion of run through tracks at Union Station. Metrolink trains should be able to continue their trips through Union Station rather than ending their routes at the Station forcing commuters to de-train and wait for as long as an hour for a connecting train. A passenger should be able to travel from Lancaster to Anaheim or from Riverside to Ventura on one train and on one seat.

I am trying to arrange a presentation in the near future on the proposed High Speed Rail segment between Burbank and LA Union Station. The meeting will also include a spokesperson from RailPAC discussing ways Metrolink service can be improved throughout the Southern California region. Have a great New Year and please renew your SOCATA membership.

— Nate





## TRANSIT UPDATES

### Golden Empire Transit

The next quarterly GET Food Distribution & Resource Faire takes place Friday, January 20th from 9:00 AM to noon, on the corner of 22nd and Eye streets in Bakersfield. <http://www.capk.org/get-bus-food-distribution-resource-faire/>

### City of Huntington Park

Huntington Park Local Transit Shuttle, aka Huntington Park Express  
<http://www.hpca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5466>

### County of Los Angeles

County Public Works has added a new route in Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights, the Heights Hopper Shuttle. Seven trips a day Monday through Saturday wind their way from Hacienda Heights Community Center to Rowland Heights Community Center and Rowland Heights Park. Schedule/map flyer at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/transit/resources/docs/HeightsHopperShuttle.pdf>

### Metro [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net)

Changes effective 12/11/16:

🚌 Metro bus stops in west of 6th Street in downtown Santa Monica have been moved. The local (owl-only) 4 and Rapid 704 will share stops, as will the owl local 20 and Rapid 720, and the owl local 33 and Rapid 733.

🚌 501 - weekday frequency improved to 12 minutes peak periods; weekend frequency reduced to 45 minutes

Metro is seeking public input on a project to renovate Los Angeles Union Station. Metro has secured Active Transportation Program grant funds, so are required to improve pedestrian and bicycle access

to and from the station. A project scoping meeting will take place in Union Station's Historic Ticketing Concourse on Thursday, January 26th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Written comments may also be submitted, by no later than January 31st. For more information, visit [metro.net/unionstation](http://metro.net/unionstation) or contact Elizabeth Carvajal at 213.922.3084 or [carvajale@metro.net](mailto:carvajale@metro.net)

### Orange County Transportation Authority

The OCTA-backed Anaheim Streetcar project is apparently cancelled, as the Anaheim City Council told OCTA that they have no interest in any kind of streetcar.

Fare structure changes effective 2/12/17:

🚌 200-series intracounty express routes will be categorized "OC Express" with a one-way base cash fare of \$4.00

🚌 remaining 700-series intercounty express routes (701, 721, 794) one-way base cash fare will be increased to \$7.00

🚌 5-ride and 7-day pass sales will be dis-



continued. Existing passes will be honored until expired or February 1, 2018

🚌 As of 10/8/16, all buyers of reduced-fare passes will need to show proof of eligibility at time of purchase, as well as with every use

### Riverside Transit Agency

Service changes effective 1/8/16:

🚌 As noted in previous Transit Advocate newsletters, the Riverside Downtown terminal has been closed. All bus stops and route connections have been scattered throughout downtown Riverside. See map at [http://www.riversidetransit.com/images/stories/DOWNLOADS/17-01/PREVIEW\\_DOCUMENTS/Downtown\\_Riverside\\_Stop\\_Locations\\_vWeb.pdf](http://www.riversidetransit.com/images/stories/DOWNLOADS/17-01/PREVIEW_DOCUMENTS/Downtown_Riverside_Stop_Locations_vWeb.pdf)

🚌 16 - removed from downtown Riverside; route cut back to Moreno Valley Mall to University/Iowa

🚌 31 and 35 - combined into Route 31. The old 35 (Moreno Valley-Beaumont) por-

tion of the new 31 remains weekdays only  
🚌 200 - start date to be announced: new CommuterLink route, weekday peak-period between Riverside and Anaheim/Orange (ARTIC, Disneyland, UC Irvine Medical Center).

🚌 205 - start date to be announced: new CommuterLink route, weekday peak-period between Temecula/Murrieta/Lake Elsinore and Village at Orange. Will serve same stops in City of Orange as the existing RTA 216

All RTA buses now have wi-fi, even the cutaway vans. RTA notes there are no passwords, but customers will need to accept RTA's terms of service before connecting, and service will be spotty in the same places where cellphone service is limited.

### San Diego Trolley

Preparations are being made to extend the Blue Line north from Old Town to University City (UC San Diego). The "Mid-Coast Trolley extension" will add 11 miles, mostly along the I-5 corridor, with nine new stations. Service is scheduled to start in 2021. <http://keepsandiegomoving.com/Midcoast/midcoast-intro.aspx>

### Victor Valley Transit Authority

VVTA Route 23's stop at Lucerne Valley Market has been relocated to the southeast end of the parking lot near Highway 18. The bus is rerouted to the market from Barstow Road, turning left on Highway 18, and left into the Lucerne Valley parking lot bus stop. The new stop features an up-graded bench. <http://vvta.org/bus/route-23/>



Panel honoring artist Ward Kimball, at Perris Transit Center

Mark Strickert photo