

# BULLETIN BOARD

The new printing of the Transit Guide is now available and copies will be for sale at our January 11th meeting. For this edition the section on riding transit has been expanded to two pages increasing readability. Also Charles Hobbs has added an article on using bikes on transit and a more detailed discussion of transportation options for the disabled. If there is a library or other locale in your area for distributing Guide order forms please let us know and help publicize it. The Money raised will make it possible for us to do public outreach and give attention to issues of concern.

The list of new Officers elected at the December 14th meeting is on the back cover along with the Directors. This team is dedicated in the coming year to realizing our potential and start creating position papers clarifying our vision and goals.

Membership dues for 1997 are now due. \$15 per year for a regular membership, \$6 for limited income. You can either pay at the January 11th meeting or send it to our address: Southern California Transit Advocates, 3010 Wilshire Blvd. #362, Los Angeles CA 90010.

Woody Rosner is spearheading an effort to create our first official T-Shirt. Art is to be supplied by member John Ulloth with a suitably transit bent. These would raise our public profile and could help raise funds when we are at community events.

Tuesday January 28th the State Senate Transportation Committee will have a hearing about MTA. This will be held at the Gateway Building (near Union Station) beginning at 9:30 a.m. We are preparing a packet of information to send committee members prior to the hearing and hope to be among the invited speakers.

The Maps & Guides (also known as sector maps) MTA has issued include some errors. We would appreciate members reviewing their copies of these and letting us know which mistakes they have noticed. These will be compiled into a comprehensive list to be sent to MTA in hopes they will be corrected when the maps are reprinted. And FYI it is hoped by the end of this month that the final two Guides-San Gabriel Valley and Mid-City - will at last be available. No word if and when the System Map can be expected.

President Gabbard asks that any new business to be discussed at the meetings be communicated to him at least three days prior to the meeting. There will also now be sign-ups for Transit Reports and announcements. These measures are intended to streamline the meetings, allowing more time afterward for informal discussion and committee meetings. Also, please bear in mind our meetings are to be conducted according to our parliamentary authority as stated in the by-laws, Robert's Rules of Order. Members should not speak until the Chair gives them the floor. Adherence to these procedural rules will be more strict than had previously occurred.

The January 18th meeting at the Eagle Rock Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, 5027 Caspar Avenue near the intersection of Eagle Rock Blvd. and Colorado Blvd. (bus service: MTA lines #81, 84, 180 and 181), is the latest of a series regarding the preparation of a draft revision of the by-laws. Hopefully this will be the final review prior to reporting it to the membership possibly at the February general meeting. The draft will be sent to the members prior to the meeting at which it will be discussed. And the draft can be amended when considered by the membership. *(continued on page 3)*

# TRANSIT UPDATES *Have anything to report? Call 213 388 2364*

**Foothill Transit** has started a new line #479, operating between Cal Poly Pomona and Montclair via the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. This route also serves Fairplex Park/Ride, Arrow Hwy, and Claremont. A few other Foothill lines have been changed:

- Line #187 has later service on weekdays (the last bus leaves Pasadena and Pomona at 11:19p.m. and 11:02 p.m., respectively) as well as on Saturdays (last trips now leave after 8 p.m.) and even Sundays (from Pasadena at 7:17 and Pomona at 8:05)

- #492 has been rerouted in La Verne and Pomona via Bonita Ave. instead of White Ave and Arrow Hwy (the portion along Arrow being replaced by new #479).

- An extension of the current #495 now operates to the Phillips Ranch area of Pomona. It is designated #49C, and operates four peak-hour round trips on weekdays.

Restructured **Omnitrans** routes go into effect Jan 6:

- 15-minute headways on "core" routes serving San Bernardino, Colton, Fontana/Rialto, and Highland

- Direct service between Fontana and Redlands/Loma Linda, via Colton

- Replacement of IEC #496 with new route #71, serving Montclair, Ontario and Country Village, where it connects with RTA #49. (Service beyond Ontario provided weekdays only)

- Service (#60/61) along Holt Bl between Pomona and Ontario, with #60 serving Chaffey College and #61 travelling to Fontana via Ontario Mills Mall

- Peak hour service only on route #72 serving residential areas of Chino Hills (although the large shopping center in Chino Hills will be served by #65). #72 will also provide three round trips on weekends between Downtown Chino and the Chino Institute for Men.

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Blue Line Construction News is a newsletter published by the Blue Line Corridor Coalition representing the communities of Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Highland Park, South Pasadena and Pasadena. To be added to the mailing list write: Blue Line Corridor Coalition, 87 N. Raymond Ave., Fourth Floor, Pasadena CA 91103.

In response to the annual unmet needs meeting SCAT in Ventura County is planning to implement later weekday (e.g. night) service beginning in July. There will be two opportunities to speak on the proposal at SCAT Board meetings - February 5th and March 5th. The meetings are held at SCAT Administrative Headquarters (301 E. 3rd St. in Oxnard) starting at 10 a.m. Written comments can also be sent to: Maureen Hooper Lopez, SCAT, Director of Planning and Marketing, P.O. Box 1146, Oxnard CA 93032-1146.

On January 25 and 26 Amtrak, in cooperation with Metrolink, will be bringing the Regio Sprinter to Santa Paula and Fillmore. This is a type of train that may someday operate on the line between those cities. Free train rides will be provided on those days. Call the Ventura County Transportation Commission for further details: (805) 654-2888. *(continued on page 4)*

## PLAC REPORT *Dana Gabbard, chair*

Tom Horne, Customer Relations Manager for MTA, recently responded to our suggestion that in the evening Line 111 extend along Florence avenue to connect with Line 460 at Paramount Boulevard. Currently after 8 p.m. the 111 terminates at Garfield Avenue, creating a gap of about a mile between it and the 460. As pointed out in our letter to MTA, during the evening hours Lines 111 and 460 are almost the only service operating in the mid-city area and only common sense dictates they should connect. Mr. Horne agrees the idea, "certainly has merit" and that, "we will consider implementing a schedule change on Line 111 ... for our June 1997 changes after evaluating the cost and feasibility." We will be publicizing this proposal in hopes of pressuring MTA into seriously considering closing the gap.

At its December 5th workshop on the Long Range Plan I presented to the MTA Board a statement on service indicating our concerns about attention not being paid about the necessity of including productivity in the provision of transit services. These include: lack of night or owl service in much of MTA's

service area. And the response? Los Angeles Mayor Riordan sent a form letter stating "I am always pleased to hear from concerned Angelenos" and "I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors".

I have been reading the draft Coopers & Lybrand Organizational Assessment. If one reads between the lines and allows for the inflation of positive trends it is rather sobering. In the Appendix summaries of focus group discussions with Employees in Operations reveal many comments on the difficulty of assuring adequate supply of parts that impair efficiency. We will be a vocal watchdog regarding the need to address the many problems identified in this report.

The final draft of the report is due shortly. I will have my copy available for perusal at the January meeting. Or you can purchase a copy from MTA - \$7.71 for full report, \$3 just for the main report without the Appendix. Send check, made out to "MTA", to: MTA, Records Management, 1 Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles CA 90012-2932.

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Eminent Reclaim is a community group devoted to transportation enhancement. To learn more about it write: P.O. Box 50204, Pasadena CA 91115-0204, (818) 441-7785.

*California Rail Passenger Review* is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Rail Passenger Association of California and brims with rail related articles and news. One year membership is \$20 (\$10 for student/retired). P.O. Box 81616, San Diego CA 92138 (a tip of the hat to Director Chris Ledermuller for bringing this to our attention).

As always, *The Transit Advocate* needs articles, letters, photographs and research (newspaper clippings, etc.) from all members and interested non-members. All materials should be sent to **3010 Wilshire #362, Los Angeles, CA 90010** (or e-mailed to [transit@lerami.lerctr.org](mailto:transit@lerami.lerctr.org)).

I want to briefly sketch where I see us going in 1997. A key activity will be the creation of position papers on issues of concern. These will likely include a consolidated statement of positions, HOV lanes, service provision, MTA day pass, livable communities and privatization. Some of these are already being worked on while others will be undertaken in the near future.

Our Directors now have specific areas to oversee. Phil Capo will coordinate position papers, Pat Moser fund-raising and Chris Ledermuller outreach. I am confident all will excel in carrying out these duties.

The Transit Guide is a key component to our being taken serious. And it has raised money to make possible more effective advocacy on public issues. The 2nd edition is the next step, as we expand our area of coverage and increase the information contained. A wide spread publicity campaign will be undertaken. Our modest efforts have sold over 200 copies. Who knows how many copies we could sell with articles on it appearing in the Los Angeles Times? And I am sure they will no longer be able to ignore us!

Specific goals of outreach will be continued campaigning for the formation of the promised Transit Improvement Councils by MTA. Input by concerned citizens is the sort of reform the new Coopers & Lybrand Organizational Assessment recommends. We will be watchdogs to ensure this and other aspects

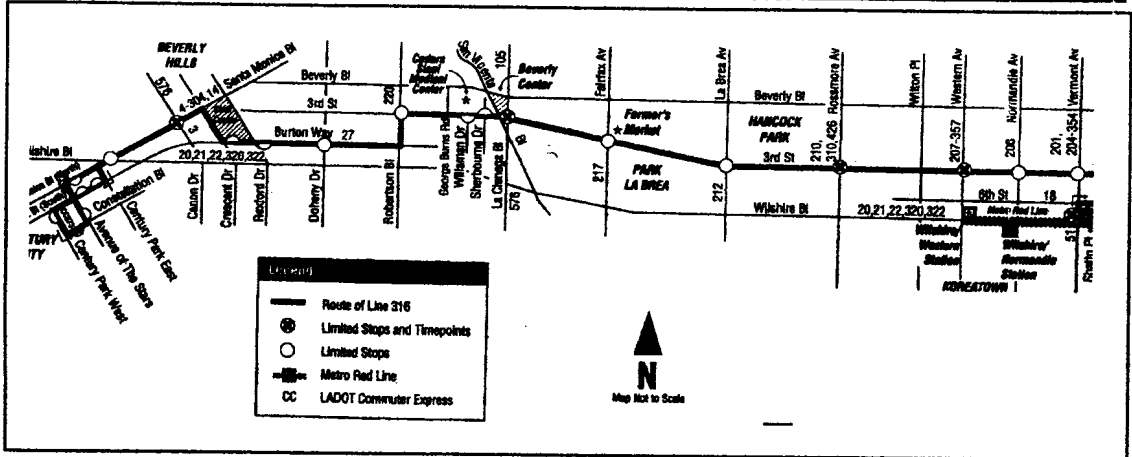
of the report are not forgotten.

We hope to attend more community events and improve our web site. By mid-year we hope to be seriously involved in working toward a coalition of groups with the goal of coordinating and networking on transit issues. This could include groups from sectors such as labor, business and academia as well as those for senior citizens and ethnic communities. Various grass roots local groups and the environmental community also are key players. Together the grip on power by the elite can be broken!

Restructurings will be occurring in the westside and mid-city area along with RTA in Riverside county. We will be involved, promoting public participation plus providing our own input. We also hope to tour local transit facilities and have more excursions to explore service in various areas. Plus we will have colorful T-Shirts!

This is a bare outline to be adjusted and improved during the coming year. Participation by members, in fleshing out our goals and helping carry out initiatives is key to making it possible. Our efforts have brought us to the brink of being a voice on issues relating to public transit. With your help I believe we can achieve the goal of realizing our potential and making a difference. My thanks to the members who brought us to where we are now. All, though, has been but prelude. This is our moment and I intend to seize it. And together, we will!

# ROUTE OF THE MONTH *Chris Ledermuller*



**Featured Route: MTA #316:**  
3rd St.-Century City Limited

Shopping Center, Farmer's Market, and the K-Mart and Ross plazas.

**Where does it go:**

Vermont/Wilshire Red Line Station, Fairfax District, Beverly Hills, Cedars-Sinai, and Century City.

**When does it run:**

Monday through Friday, rush hours only. 6:00-9:00 am and 2:30-6:30 pm in both directions. No service on weekends and holidays. (This route is not a trunk of Line 16)

**A great shoppers' bus?:**

Despite the time it runs, 316 serves shopping areas like Beverly Center & Beverly Connection, Century City

**For more information:**

1-800-COMMUTE

## TRANSIT TRIVIA *Chris Ledermuller*

**Question:**

What OCTA routes come into L.A. County?

*(The answer will be presented in the next issue of the Transit Advocate, and presented at the February meeting)*

