

RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY  
1825 Third Street  
Riverside, CA 92507

September 22, 2005

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: Larry Rubio, Chief Executive Officer *Larry*

FROM: Scott Richardson, Director of Marketing *SR*

SUBJECT: Ratification of Emergency Distribution of Fare Media for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

Summary:

RTA has been notified by Riverside County Emergency Operations Center (RCEOC) that Hurricane Katrina evacuees are currently being relocated to Riverside County. As of September 8<sup>th</sup>, over 300 evacuees have arrived and more are expected each day for the near future.

The evacuees are arriving with virtually no possessions and have no means of transportation. The RCEOC requested RTA provide transportation assistance to help in this effort. Staff proposes the following:

- Provide 31-day General passes at no charge to be used by the evacuees to travel to social services, employment, and other destinations. The quantity will be determined by the number of evacuees and each person would receive no more than three passes to cover 90 days of travel. It is important to note that this does not represent lost revenue for RTA because the rides generated by the evacuees would not have occurred except as a result of the relocation and the distribution of the passes. The Red Cross will distribute the passes through the Local Assistance Center in Riverside that was established to aid the evacuees.
- Allow RTA to deviate bus routes as necessary to provide transit services to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

RTA will work with community organizations to help the evacuees utilize RTA services to reach important destinations. Staff will also set up educational programs to instruct them how to use the system.

Fiscal Impact:

31-day General passes are valued at \$43 each. There will be no lost revenue because the evacuees would not have purchased passes.

Committee Recommendation:

This item was reviewed and approved unanimously by the Board Budget and Finance, Board Operations, Board Administrative, and Board Executive Committees and it was recommended to the full Board of Directors for consideration. However, because of the urgency of the situation with many evacuees arriving daily, the Board Executive Committee voted on September 12, 2005, to distribute the passes immediately and seek ratification by the full Board of Directors at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting.

Recommendation:

- Ratify distribution of 31-day General passes at no charge to evacuees to be distributed by the Red Cross. Each evacuee would receive no more than three passes.
- Authorize the CEO to deviate bus routes as necessary to provide transit services to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.