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RTAReader

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A newsletter of developments, events and announcements from the Riverside Transit Agency.

Ridership Continues Upward Climb

New information shows ridership on Riverside Transit Agency buses continuing to climb. Board members received a report showing 627,000 boardings in February, a four percent increase compared to February of last year. Ridership on CommuterLink express routes was up two percent from a year ago and Dial-A-Ride boardings climbed 15 percent.

Join RTA for Earth Day on April 22

Hoping to bring more awareness to public transit's role in improving air quality, RTA will celebrate Earth Day by giving away a donated bike and three months of free rides to one lucky passenger. Just send us your validated Day Pass, 7-Day or 31-Day passes, showing you rode on Earth Day April 22 and you'll be entered into the drawing. The first 50 people who enter the drawing will get a free Day Pass. Send your pass to P.O. Box 59968, Riverside, CA 92517-1968, Attention Earth Day Contest. Passes will be accepted through May 5. Contest is sponsored by Valley Power Systems Inc. and the bicycle is donated by Walmart.

Fare Changes Approved

In response to the sluggish economy, which has significantly affected RTA's operating budget, RTA will implement its first fare adjustment in four years. The new fares will take effect June 28 and coincide with RTA's summer service change. General fares will increase from \$1.25 to \$1.50 on fixed routes and from \$2.25 to \$3 on CommuterLink express routes. Dial-A-Ride will increase 50 cents to \$3. For pass users, the 10-Tripper and Annual Pass will be eliminated due to their low use, and 31-Day passes will be replaced by 30-Day passes. RTA will also introduce the new Plus+Pass, which may be used on both CommuterLink and local fixed-route buses. Details can be found at riversidetransit.com.

Route Changes Coming June 28

In an effort to enhance system productivity, RTA will make changes to several routes on June 28. The action is designed to consolidate routes with service duplication and reduce trips with low ridership. Twenty-two routes will be affected by the change. In addition, RTA will suspend routes 36, 38, 38E due to low ridership.

Route 52 Public Hearing to be Held April 9

A public hearing will be held at noon on Thursday, April 9 at the Riverside County Transportation Commission Conference Room A, 3rd Floor, 4080 Lemon St. in Riverside to receive comments for the proposed cancellation of Route 52, the downtown Riverside Trolley, due to low ridership. Comments may also be sent to RTA at 1825 Third Street, Riverside, CA 92507, e-mailed to comments@riversidetransit.com, by phone: (800) 800-7821 or in-person at RTA's headquarters through April 9.

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Go-Pass Program Will Continue for a Second Year

Students in the Riverside Community College District will continue to ride the bus for free, thanks to a recent Board decision to extend the popular Go-Pass program for a second year. The program allows RCCD students at all three campuses (Riverside, Moreno Valley and Norco) to use their student ID cards to ride the bus for free. Funding for the one-year demonstration program will come from the jurisdictions in which RCC students live: Corona, Moreno Valley, Norco, Perris, Riverside and the County of Riverside. On average, RTA buses handle roughly 70,000 RCCD student boardings every month.

Public Hearing Opens for Grant Application

Board members have officially opened a public hearing period for RTA's application for Federal Section 5311 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, which would be used for ADA paratransit service, preventative maintenance and solar-powered bus stops. The public may comment by sending regular mail to Agency Headquarters, e-mailing us at comments@riversidetransit.com or calling us at (800) 800 7821. All comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. April 14, 2009. A public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14 at the RTA Headquarters, 1825 Third St. in Riverside, to receive comments regarding these proposed projects.