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The

RTAReader

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

Ridership Continuing to Rise

New information shows ridership on Riverside Transit Agency buses continuing to increase. Board members received a report showing 701,302 boardings in May, a 13.4 percent increase year-to-date, compared to last year. Ridership on CommuterLink express routes was up 32 percent from a year ago and Dial-A-Ride boardings climbed 20 percent.

New Express Routes to Launch Next Week

On Monday, RTA will introduce two new CommuterLink routes with free rides for the first two weeks. Route 212 will serve San Jacinto, Hemet, Perris, UC Riverside, Marketplace Metrolink Station and the Riverside Downtown Terminal. Route 217 will offer service between San Jacinto, Hemet, Temecula's Promenade Mall, Escondido Transit Center and Escondido City Hall. General fares are \$3, day passes are \$7 and monthly passes are \$75. Federal Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Program grant money along with Measure A funds provided by the Riverside County Transportation Commission will subsidize the cost of operating the routes.

Free Trolley Service Coming Monday to Temecula

The free Temecula Trolley will debut on June 29 with service on two routes serving the Harveston development, Promenade Mall and Old Town. The Green Line (Route 55) will circulate around Harveston and the mall. The Red Line (Route 57) will provide service between the mall and Old Town. The service, financed entirely by the homebuilder Lennar Homes through an agreement with the City of Temecula, is designed to attract visitors and local residents to utilize public transit as a means to travel to schools, retail and commercial centers and connections to other RTA fixed-routes.

U-Pass Agreement Extended

Board members authorized a one-year extension of the U-Pass partnership between RTA and UC Riverside. The agreement allows UC Riverside students to ride any RTA fixed route for free by swiping their student identification cards through the bus farebox. As part of the partnership, RTA will also operate the Crest Cruiser Trolley and the Bear Runner route. The program, which was first launched in 2006, is paid for by the university.

City Employees Continue to Ride for Free

Board members have extended a program with the City of Riverside that allows City of Riverside employees to ride the Agency's fixed-route buses for free. To ride for free, employees simply show their identification badges. The program, funded by the City of Riverside, began in 2007.

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RTA Renews Contract With Private Security Service

In an effort to maintain a safe and secure environment for customers at the Riverside downtown terminal, Board members authorized a two-year contract extension with three, one-year options to Barry's Security Services to provide security at the facility during operating hours. Since it began last year, the security service has been credited with fostering a safe environment for customers.

Board Approves 2010 Budget, SRTP

Board members approved the Agency's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget and FY 2010-2012 Short Range Transit Plan. The \$53 million operating budget was developed to support the Agency's goals of increased ridership, providing excellent customer service and cost-containment through improved efficiencies. Budget highlights include reductions of 36 positions below FY '09 levels due to layoffs and early retirements. Wages will remain frozen and unpaid furlough programs will continue for administrative employees. Additionally, most vacant positions will be left unfilled.