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The

RTAReader

October 2009

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

Corona Transit Center Groundbreaking Set for Nov. 20

The long-awaited Corona Transit Center will move one step closer to completion next month when RTA hosts a public groundbreaking for the project on Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. Eight bus bays will be built on more than two acres at 31 E. Grand Blvd. just south of the railroad tracks at Metrolink's North Main Street station. It will sit one block north of Highway 91 and directly across from a park-and-ride lot. The project calls for a pedestrian plaza, stairway, elevator, a bridge connecting to the existing Metrolink bridge and a parking lot for bus and rail passengers. Congressman Ken Calvert (R-Corona), who was instrumental in securing funding for the project, will be a featured speaker at the groundbreaking.

RTA to Celebrate One Millionth Go-Pass Boarding

Are you one in a million? RTA will find out next week when it celebrates its one-millionth ride by students in the Riverside Community College District. Based on ridership statistics and forecasts, RTA analysts have estimated that the millionth RCCD boarding will occur on the morning of October 26. In recognition of that milestone, RTA will present that lucky student with a free iPod touch, hat, coffee mug and other promotional items. Launched in August of 2008, the Go-Pass Program enables any student in the college district to ride RTA buses for free by swiping their student identification cards. Nearly 850,000 boardings were recorded during Fiscal Year 2009 at the college's Riverside, Norco and Moreno Valley campuses.

RTA to Apply for Funding for New Fareboxes

In an effort to provide customers with seamless travel between RTA's directly operated buses and contractor-operated buses, the Agency will apply for state Proposition 1B funds to purchase electronic fareboxes for 49 contractor-operated vehicles. Since 2002, the Agency's directly operated buses have used electronic fareboxes, which accept cash and passes, and also issue passes. Currently, the majority of the contractor-operated buses are equipped with older, manual fareboxes, which do not issue passes and require the driver to keep a manual report of the deposited fares. The Proposition 1B money is reserved only for capital projects.

Temecula Trolley Route Gaining New Riders

The free Temecula Trolley is turning some heads as ridership continues to increase thanks partly to students using the vehicle to get to and from class. The Green Line Route 55, which serves the Harveston Development, Chaparral High School, Ysabel Barnett Elementary School, and the Promenade Mall, more than doubled in ridership from 1,353 August boardings to 3,047 September boardings. The Red Line Route 57, which connects the Promenade Mall to Old Town, remained relatively stable with 1,121 September boardings.

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RTA Offices to Close Nov. 11, 25, 26, 27

On Nov. 11, 25, and 27, RTA's administrative offices will be closed, buses will operate on a regular schedule and the Customer Information Center will have regular hours from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, RTA offices will be closed and buses will not operate.

Service Changes Proposed

As part of its ongoing effort to improve customer service, RTA is proposing to interline routes 29 and 49, and turn Route 149 into a CommuterLink express route. Other routes would undergo moderate adjustments to boost productivity, serve the upcoming Perris Transit Center and adjust for construction along the Magnolia Avenue in Riverside. To solicit community feedback, the Agency will conduct a community meeting at 6 p.m. on Nov. 9 at RTA headquarters, 1825 Third Street in Riverside. Additionally, a public hearing on the proposals will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 19 at RTA's Board meeting at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street in Riverside. If approved, the changes will take effect in January.

Next ADA Meeting is Nov. 9

The next Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) committee meeting is Monday, Nov. 9 at the Bobby Bonds Youth Opportunity Center, 2060 University Street, in Riverside. The meeting begins at 10 a.m., but persons wishing to discuss matters with RTA staff individually may do so at 9:30 a.m.

Join the Movement, Join Transportation NOW

Are you interested in becoming an advocate for public transportation? If so, you are invited to attend the next meeting for Transportation NOW, a grassroots group dedicated to promoting and expanding public transit alternatives in western Riverside County. Monthly meetings are held in Riverside, Moreno Valley, Corona and Beaumont. Efforts are underway to establish a new chapter in the southwest portion of the county, covering Temecula, Murrieta and Lake Elsinore. For details or to join, go to www.riversidetransit.com or call (951) 565-5170.