



1825 Third St.

Riverside CA 92507

Phone: 951.565.5000

Web: www.RiversideTransit.com

The

RTAReader

February 2010

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

Board Authorizes Public Hearings for Service Change

Board members authorized a public hearing period between Feb. 25 and March 25 to solicit community feedback on proposed service changes. In response to a challenging economic climate and a need to control operating costs, RTA proposes the removal of unproductive trips on 14 routes, minimizing service duplications, discontinuing the Temecula Trolley Red Line and the elimination of service on some holidays. The proposals will be presented to the public at meetings on March 1-3 in Beaumont, Corona, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Sun City and Temecula. In addition to the meetings, the public may also comment by calling (800) 800-7821, e-mailing comments@riversidetransit.com, or writing the Riverside Transit Agency at 1825 Third Street, Riverside, CA 92507, Attention Director of Planning. Details are available in brochures aboard buses and at www.RiversideTransit.com. Pending the Board's approval, the changes would take effect May 9, 2010, with the exception of the trolley, which would be discontinued on April 1.

Spiegel Honored for Service as Chairman of Board

Chairman Jeff Comerchero recognized former Board chairman Karen Spiegel for her accomplishments during her year-and-a-half term, which concluded in December. Comerchero said Spiegel showed a great deal of professionalism when she gracefully filled an unanticipated vacancy left by the previous chair. During Spiegel's tenure, RTA handled a record 8.3 million boardings, launched two new CommuterLink express routes, held the groundbreaking for the Corona Transit Center, and expanded partnerships with the colleges and universities that allowed students to ride the bus for free. Amid a sluggish economy, Spiegel guided RTA through a tough financial period and a downturn in operating revenue. Spiegel, who is the mayor of Corona, enters her eighth year on the Board.

Supervisor Tavaglione Honored for 15 Years of Service

Board members recognized District 2 County Supervisor John Tavaglione for 15 years of service on the Board. During his tenure, Tavaglione's support for clean air helped pave the way for RTA's monumental switch in 2001 from diesel fueled buses to clean-burning Compressed Natural Gas. His leadership also helped create the ground-breaking U-Pass and Go-Pass programs, and steered RTA through its Comprehensive Operational Analysis, which will be a guiding document for service upgrades for years to come. He has also been a longtime supporter of Transportation NOW, which promotes public transit in the community.

Flickinger Honored for 10 Years of Service

A member of the Board since 2000, Moreno Valley Mayor Bonnie Flickinger was recognized by fellow members for her decade of service to RTA. Flickinger has been active on various Board committees, including the BRT Ad-Hoc Committee, which studied and helped identify bus rapid transit corridors in the region. She has been a vocal advocate for the Go-Pass program, which has quickly introduced thousands of RCC students to the benefits of public transportation. Her involvement in the Moreno Valley chapter of Transportation NOW has raised awareness of public transportation in the community, especially in schools.

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Supervisor Stone Honored for Five Years of Service

Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone was also recognized for his five years of service to the Board. Stone joined RTA in 2005, serving on the Budget and Finance Committee. A member of both Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and RTA, Stone is a true champion of public transportation with a history of fighting to protect funding for goods movement, air quality and congestion needs in the Inland area. Accepting the award on Stone's behalf was his alternate, Temecula Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Roberts. During the presentation, Chairman Comerchero commended Roberts for his longtime support for RTA, his participation in Board events, and for the work he does with regional transportation groups such as Southern California Association of Governments, Metrolink and RCTC. Roberts was also a vocal supporter of starting a new Transportation NOW chapter in Southwest Riverside County, which held its first meeting this month.