



1825 Third St.

Riverside CA 92507

Phone: 951.565.5000

Web: www.RiversideTransit.com

The RTA Reader

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

Bus Driver Reaches Safety Milestone

Safety is RTA's number-one core value, and perhaps there's no safer place to be than inside a bus driven by Albert Haro. After all, Haro has reached an Agency record 36 total years of safe driving. That means he hasn't had a preventable accident during 36 of his 38 years on the road. Haro started in 1977 when RTA's first buses hit the streets and he's one of our longest-tenured coach operators and among our safest on the road. Need proof? How about the fact that Haro didn't have a preventable accident for 15 straight years from 1979-1993. His current streak of 21 straight years began in 1995 and continues to this day.

RTA Ridership Hits Top Again in 2015

RTA buses handled 9.6 million boardings in 2015, the second-highest calendar year total since the Agency started service in 1977. During the past year, March, June, July and December broke all-time monthly ridership records, sending a clear message that RTA continues to remain the premier choice of travel in western Riverside County and beyond.

Holiday Schedule

RTA will provide regular bus service on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 15. Administrative offices will be closed and the Customer Information Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Empire Transportation Tapped to Continue Contracted Fixed-Route Operations

Board members approved a new contract with Empire Transportation for the ongoing operation of RTA's contracted services. The contractor, which has operated the Agency's contracted bus routes, including CommuterLink Express routes, since 2011, was deemed the most qualified and best value provider of the service among a pool of candidates. The three-year agreement includes two one-year options.

Board Members Salute Andrew Kotyuk

During their January 21 meeting, Board members recognized 2015 Chairman Andrew Kotyuk. A representative from the City of San Jacinto, Kotyuk's contributions over the past year were numerous. Under his guidance, ridership hit a-record 9.6 million boardings, many of those riders coming from the vastly successful Go-Pass and U-Pass student ride programs, which were renewed during the year. With roughly 26 percent of its operating expenses coming from passenger fares, the Agency continued to easily exceed the state's required farebox recovery ratio. Also during the year, RTA upgraded stops at the Moreno Valley Mall to include six new shelters, and continued the award-winning Travel Training program, which is teaching seniors and disabled customers how to travel independently on our buses.

Moreno Valley's Molina Honored for Five Years of Service

Board members also recognized Director Jesse Molina for his 5 years of service. Molina joined RTA in January 2011, representing the City of Moreno Valley. In addition to his responsibilities on the Board, Molina serves as a member of the Administration and Operations Committee. He also is a longtime member of the Moreno Valley / Perris Transportation NOW chapter. During Molina's tenure on the Board, RTA introduced reduced fares for veterans, military, police and fire fighters. The Agency has also received high-marks on independent, state and federal audits, and given away dozens of used buses to non-profit organizations.

Murrieta's Randon Lane Honored for Five Years of Service

Board members also recognized Director Randon Lane for his five years of service to RTA. Since his arrival to the Board, Lane has played a major part in RTA's accomplishments. In addition to his duties on the Governing Board, Lane is the chair of the Administration and Operations Committee and also serves on the Southwest Transportation NOW chapter, a grassroots group that promotes public transportation. Lane recently spearheaded Rider Appreciation Day, in which he and members of the chapter greeted dozens of early-morning RTA commuters at the Lake Elsinore Outlet Center.

Corona's Jason Scott Honored for Five Years of Service

Board members recognized Director Jason Scott for his five years of service. Scott, who represents the City of Corona, is also a long-standing member of the Northwest Transportation NOW chapter. In fact, Scott recently implemented a successful video contest with the chapter to encourage students to think about public transportation and submit entries that show the benefits of riding the bus. During Scott's tenure on the Board, RTA celebrated the first year of the Corona Transit Center, which made travel more convenient for RTA customers connecting with other buses or Metrolink trains to more distant destinations.