**LOS ANGELES TRANSIT FIRSTS\***

**(known firsts, presumed firsts, and first knowns…along with a few “lasts”)**

**1885 October 8 / October 14: Mechanical street railway (cable cars)**

Second Street Cable Railway first to replace horse-drawn transportation

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/october/october-8/>

and

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/october/october-14/>

and

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/articles/20121227-kcet-la-once-had-cable-cars-too.pdf>

**1886: Transportation built to serve amusement park**

Ostrich Park Railway

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/articles/20120920-kcet-southern-californias-first-amusement-parks-ostrich-farms.pdf>

**1900 January 1: Bicycle “speedway”**

“World’s first elevated bikeway,” between Los Angeles and Pasadena, is region’s first “highway”

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/articles/20190627-curbed-la-california-cycleway-history.pdf>

and

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/articles/20131222-roadswerenotbuiltforcars-california-cycleway-was-scuppered-by-cars.pdf>

**1902 July 4: Los Angeles – Long Beach Rail**

First interurban line for Pacific Electric

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/blue-line-at-20-looking-back-at-early-service-between-los-angeles-and-long-beach-1902-1961/283/>

**1904 May 14: Sunset Boulevard**

First day Los Angeles’ iconic street is opened (opening day photos)

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/may/may-14/>

**1906: Information Clerk**

First information clerk, Pacific Electric

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/august/august-1/>

**1910: Experimental monorail**

Aerial Swallow, or Fawkes’ Folly, Burbank

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/articles/20130212-lamagazine-before-its-time-burbanks-experimental-monorail.pdf>

**1918: Female conductor**

Jenny Shand

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/celebrating-womens-history-month-the-first-women-transit-operators-in-los-angeles-which-led-the-way-with-motormanettes/861/>

[need *Los Angeles Times* article link], but also?:

Electric Railway Journal. “Transportation News Notes”. Vol. 51, No. 11. May 4, 1918. p. 882

Electric Railway Journal. “Transportation News Notes”. Vol. 51, No. 18. June 8, 1918. p. 1117

Electric Railway Journal. “News of Electric Railways”. Vol. 52, No. 11. September 14, 1918. p. 470

**1922 April 24: Transit-produced film**

Pacific Electric’s *Land of Golden Dreams*

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/articles/1922_electric_railway_journal_land_of_golden_dreams.pdf>

**1923?-1932?: Double-decker buses**

Los Angeles Motor Bus Company: joint venture of Pacific Electric and Los Angeles Railway

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/august/august-18/>

**1924: Multi-modal Los Angeles in film**

Harold Lloyd “flies” through Los Angeles via streetcar, automobile, fire engine, police motorcycle and horse wagon

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/how-silent-film-star-harold-lloyd-flew-through-1924-multi-modal-los-angeles/12160/> (includes video)

**1925 December 1: Subway**

Long before Metro Rail, Los Angeles had a 1.1-mile Pacific Electric subway tunnel in use 1925-1955

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/november/november-30/>

**1929 January 14: Pedestrian-activated walk button**

First in the world

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/january/january-14/>

**1929 Summer: Talking picture filmed on moving streetcar**

**The Saturday Night Kid** stars Clara Bow, Jean Arthur, James Hall, and Jean Harlow in her first credited role.  The film was released on October 25, 1929.

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/august/august-16/>

**1931 September 5: Citywide Transportation Parade**

Commemorating the city’s 150th birthday

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/september/september-5-this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/>

**1932 March 6: Public transit radio programming**

Pacific Electric and Motor Transit Stages’ “Historical California” on KHJ

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/march/march-6/>

**1932 Summer: Olympic transit service**

Little known story of how athletes and attendees were moved around during the first Summer Games in Los Angeles

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/80-years-ago-this-week-los-angeles-welcomes-and-transports-the-world-to-the-1932-summer-olympics/4156/>

**1940 Spring: Diesel Hydraulic Buses**

**First of a fleet of diesel hydraulic motor coaches have arrived for service on Los Angeles Motor Coach Company lines**

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/employeenews/Two_Bells_1940_May.pdf#page=4>

**1943 July 26: Smog**

Los Angeles’ first day of widespread smog

<https://www.wired.com/2010/07/0726la-first-big-smog/>

**1944 August: Black motorman**

Los Angeles Railway hires Arcola Philpott as first Black “motormanette”

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/celebrating-black-history-month-how-the-first-african-american-motormen-motormanette-pioneered-social-justice-on-the-los-angeles-railway/788/>

**1951 July 24: Publicly-governed agency**

Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (known informally as “first MTA”)

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/60-years-ago-this-week-los-angeles-gets-its-first-publicly-governed-transportation-planning-agency/1594/>

**1956: Local transit advertising in primetime television**

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/advertising-los-angeles-bus-service-on-television-1956-cartoon-commercials-how-they-were-made/926/>

**1958 May 14: Disney’s Magic Highway, U.S.A.**

First broadcast of Walt Disney’s Disneyland television series on the future of transportation (coinciding with debut of Interstate Highway System)

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/vault-disney-how-the-magic-kingdom-showcased-the-magnificent-future-of-transportation-in-1958/3634/>

**1959: Old streetcars placed in Pacific Ocean**

First mention of removed streetcars being repurposed as artificial reefs?

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/articles/1959_jul_mass_transportation_old_streetcars_never_die.pdf>

Context:

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/before-subway-to-the-sea-there-was-streetcar-in-the-sea-creating-artificial-reefs-off-the-los-angeles-coast-in-1959/1324/>

**1961 April 9: Buses replace rail to Long Beach**

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/50-years-ago-this-week-photos-from-the-last-day-of-red-car-service-to-long-beach/1069/>

**1963 March 30: Last day of streetcar service in Los Angeles County**

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/march/march-30/>

**1973 July 14: El Monte Busway**

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/july/july-14/> **and world’s first bus rapid transit station:**

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/40-years-ago-this-week-groundbreaking-for-el-monte-busway-californias-first-multi-modal-system-the-worlds-first-bus-rapid-transit-station/2745/>

**1974 November 14: Equal access for all patrons**

SCRTD Board adopts policy that all new bus purchases will have wheelchair lifts

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/november/november-14/>

**1980 December 18: Service to disabled community**

Buses with wheelchair lifts in service

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/december/december-18/>

**1990 July 14: Blue Line rail service**

First Metro Rail line, first rail service between Los Angeles and Long Beach since 1961

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/blue-line-at-20-welcoming-the-first-metro-rail-project-and-its-continued-success/284/>

**1992: First commuter rail**

Metrolink begins operating

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/this-date-in-los-angeles-transportation-history/october/october-26/>

**2005 October 29: Orange Line right-of-way**

First right-of-way in the region built exclusively for buses

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DPGTL/employeenews/mymetro/20051028-orange-line-firsts.pdf>

**2005 October 29: Orange Line buses**

First use of custom-designed, high-tech Metro Line buses in the County

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DPGTL/employeenews/mymetro/20051028-orange-line-firsts.pdf>

**2011 January 12: Last diesel bus retired**

They had been in service since 1940

<https://thesource.metro.net/2011/01/12/metro-retires-last-diesel-bus-becomes-worlds-first-major-transit-agency-to-operate-only-clean-fuel-buses/>

and

<http://metroprimaryresources.info/los-angeles-first-diesel-buses-a-look-back-at-the-first-fleet-the-1943-birth-of-smog/441/>

**2012 July 3: All-women transit board of directors**

Foothill Transit

<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/dpgtl/articles/20120703-pasadenastarnews-foothill-transit-marks-first-all-women-board.pdf>

**2014: Emmy Award**

Union Station historical documentary awarded television’s top prize

<https://thesource.metro.net/2014/07/29/metro-motion-wins-emmy-at-66th-los-angeles-area-emmy-awards/>

First alternative fuel bus – the hybrid gas electric -then the steam bus – which led to methanol, ethanol, CNG and now battery electric (and a flirtation with electric trolley buses)

First electric trolley buses

First TV program series – RTD Transit 2000

Would be cool to find the first radio on a bus which has now evolved into cell services, GPS, wifi on board and multiple cameras

First double deck and articulated buses. First rear engine bus was designed and developed in LA/Inglewood.

First Computer – I have that in a powerpoint I did for ITS

First automatic transmission and AC buses

First non-cash and discount fares – first token, first Senior Discount fare and ID card (first in the nation), first TAP card

First in-house Air Quality lab for diesel buses (and probably only)

First transit tax – prop 5 that took ½ of 1 cent of the gas tax and set it aside for transit. 1973? 1974? Then first sales tax, 1980.

First purchase of former PE/Southern Pacific Right of Way for the blue line, then becomes a purchase of most of Southern Pacific ROWs for Metro and Metrolink to use in bringing back passenger rail

First Olympics transit service – seems poorly documented for 1932 but it would have been bus and rail, like 2028 will be. 1984’s bus only was, well, unusual for an international city.

First Ad wrapped bus – Marilyn Monroe Bus Stop film promo? Or Disney Snow White Bus? Bus Stop film was 1956. Disneyland opened in 1955. Draw a line from then to today’s digital advertising.  All about the eyeballs.

First Transit Police (I think they were initially called “special agents”).