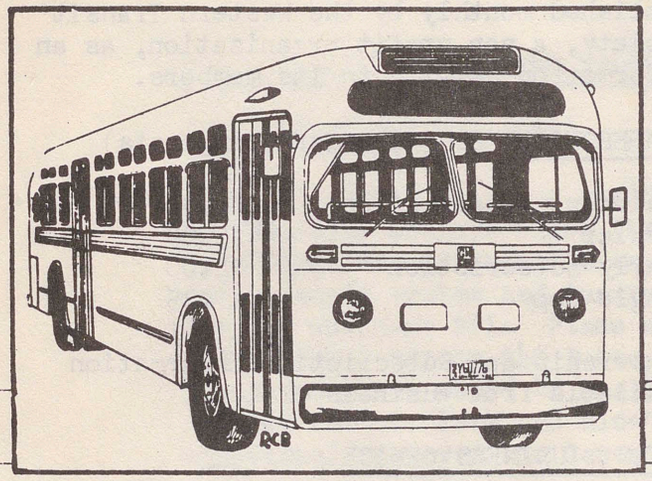


Western Transit

Monthly Publication of The Western Transit Society

Vol. 11 No. 4 April 1973

MASS TRANSIT LINES, LTD. (MTL)

HONOLULU: Following a ruling by the State Supreme Court the City of Honolulu will pay $2.9 million for the former HONOLULU RAPID TRANSIT COMPANY, LTD. including buses, land and other equipment and materials. Harry Weinberg, HRT President, had filed for $9 million contending the value of the HRT real estate was much greater than what the city was willing to pay. When HRT obtained an exclusive franchise in 1921 one of the conditions was that if the city should ever buy the system the company would sell the land at the price it cost the company in 1921. MTL will now move into the HRT shops at Alapai and Hotel Streets although it is estimated it will cost $250,000 to renovate the facility, unused since HRT operators went on strike in January 1971. The city began running buses in March operating from several storage lots. The building is suffering from water and termite damage and it will be necessary to determine the condition of about 90 exHRT buses including a sizeable number of TDH 5105s which have been idle for two years. MTL is now testing a TDH 3302A on its hill climber routes - 10-KALIHI-ALEWA HEIGHTS, 14-ST. LOUIS-KAHALA-MAUNALANI HEIGHTS and 15-PACIFIC HEIGHTS-MAKIKI. Plans call for purchase of seven small coaches for these lines and a Twin Coach TC 31 has already been tested (WT 2/73). The City's bus fleet has been increased by 11 with the takeover of the Model Cities sponsored Waianae Coast Transportation Service which will continue to provide service between Waianae communities and downtown Honolulu. The 32 WCTS employees will become MTL employees.

AIR COACH EXPRESS AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (ACE)

HOUSTON: Formerly known as AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION, ACE has requested city approval to add six hotels to its routes, Holiday Inn Downtown, Sonesta, Lamar, Rice, Sheraton-Lincoln and Hyatt-Regency, and to include service to Hobby Airport. Presently ACE provides service between four terminals and the Houston Intercontinental Airport.

LAKE HAVASU CITY - COMMUNITY TRANSIT (CT)

LAKE HAVASU CITY: CT, a locally owned bus system, began operating last December running one bus on a loop type route which services the downtown area, Crystal Beach, Highlands and the island (the portion of LHC reached by the London Bridge). Fares are 25 cents in the city (15 cents for students) and 35 cents (20 cents) from the Highlands.

MEETING DATES

Next meeting: Sunday May 13, 730 PM

Future meeting: Sunday June 10, 730 PM

Location: 936 South Genessee Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Three blocks east of Fairfax,
¼ block north of Olympic Blvd.

Transportation: RTD Lines 4 and 89

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IMPORTANT - Be sure to forward your new address if you move - 3rd Class mail is not forwarded and you could miss WT.

WESTERN TRANSIT

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New Member

126 - John Perry Jr., Sunnyvale, Calif.

CLUB NEWS

Todd Terpening has been appointed WTS Secretary responsible for keeping the minutes of all WTS Meetings and other organization papers. Todd replaces Brian Norden who has resigned his position.

Two recent additions to the WTS Staff include Bob Burrowes who has been appointed Tour Director and Tom Helliwell who is the Public Relations Director. Bob will plan and arrange all future WTS excursions and is interested in hearing from members their ideas relative to trips. In the works for late June is a second "bus garage tour", this time heading north from Los Angeles. Tom is working on a program to spread the name of WTS advising transit properties of the organization and of our aims and programs.

RAPID TRANSIT LINES (RTL)

HOUSTON: A $1.5 billion rapid transit program has been adopted by the Houston City Council which includes $350 million over the next five years to enlarge the present RTL bus system and to lay groundwork for an 80 mile rail transit system and busway system. Negotiations are underway for the city to purchase RTL. Plans call for the expansion of the bus fleet from 369 to 740 retiring 240 buses (the171 TDH 5301s and 71 TDH 4517s). About 90 of the buses would be small capacity buses for shuttle type routes. Nine different "Park And Ride" sites are under consideration along with additional reserved bus lanes similar to the existing Main Street lanes.

TRI COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (TRI MET)

PORTLAND: An ordinance establishing exclusive bus lanes on 5th and 6th Avenues downtown between Madison and Burnside has been approved by the Portland City Council. The exclusive lanes, which will require extensive sidewalk and traffic changes, will start next January. On March 1st Tri Met began hourly service to the Dunthrope area on a 60 day trial basis following termination of service by DUNTHROPE MOTOR TRANSPORT. The first trip of the day will leave SW 6th Avenue and Main Street at 7:22 AM with the last trip at about 6:00 PM. Sunday service will run between 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM. The Electrobus (WT 12/72 and 1/73) was operated on a downtown loop route on March 22 and 23 to test the bus as a possible unit for certain routes.

LANE COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT (LTD)

EUGENE: LTD is in the process of preparing a federal grant application to help purchase ten more buses and land at Eighth and Garfield in West Eugene that they now lease as a garage. A fleet of 53 buses (the 22 new Twin Coach TC 31s purchased last year plus 20 TDH 3610s from the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT plus the 10 new buses) by 1975 would bring transit service to within 1/4 mile of all area residents. Expanded service is being proposed in Eugene for West 11th Avenue beyond Buck St., Santa Clara west of River Road and north of Belt Line between Delta Highway and Norkenzie Road. In Springfield service is projected for Gateway Street area, Jasper Road area, North 42nd Street and Hayden Bridge Road east of 19th Street.

PRESCOTT-WHIPPLE STAGE LINE (PWSL)

PRESCOTT: PWSL, serving Prescott and the Whipple Veterans Administration Center, is in danger of having to cease operating because of Arizona Department of Public Safety citations for stopping to pick up patrons. PWSL Owner Melvin Bressler said he was advised it is illegal for buses to stop on U. S. Highway 89 within the city which is where about sixty per cent of the firm's passengers are located. In 1972 about 55,000 of the line's 90,000 customers were picked up or discharged in this area.

GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT (GGT)

SAN RAFAEL: GGT and ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT are making a joint study for new bus service between downtown San Rafael and the BART/Richmond Station via the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Until about one year SAN RAFAEL BUS LINE using Dodge Sport Vans ran between the San Rafael Greyhound Depot and the Richomnd Greyhound Depot over the bridge. GGT has been operating a reverse bus only lane on a 4½ mile stretch of U. S. Highway 101 over Waldo Grade just north of the Golden Gate Bridge since last September. GGT officials have credited the lane for a portion of the steady increase in daily riders. From 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM northbound buses are diverted at the foot of Waldo Grade to a 12 foot southbound lane next to the median barrier that divides the north and southbound lanes. The exclusive bus lane is separated from oncoming southbound cars by an eight foot buffer lane marked by yellow traffic control tubes. Studies are under way for possible extension of the lane further north and adoption of the exclusive lane southbound over a different section of 101 for the morning commute. GGT Directors and GGT Operators, represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union, have approved a new contract upping the present hourly wage ($5.30) to $5.50 by next January 1st in three stages. Improved vacations and sick leave were also negotiated.

SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL RAILWAY (SFMRy)

SAN FRANCISCO: The Public Utilities Commission has approved a SFMRy proposal that includes purchase of 100 new motor coaches and 65 trolley coaches, refurbishing a number of older TCs and construction of an underpass at St. Francis Circle. Lines 16-NOREIGA EXPRESS and 31-BALBOA will be rerouted in the near future when Eddy Street becomes one way eastbound and Ellis Street one way westbound between Gough and Market Streets. Inbound buses would continue on Eddy returning via Turk to Larkin to Eddy. The Vertol Division of Boeing Aircraft Company has submitted the low bid ($274,000 per car plus sales tax and freight) to build 230 subway surface rail cars for SFMRy and Boston's MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY. SFMRy was to get 80 cars, but intends to exercise an option to purchase 12 more cars. Coach 3077 (T8H 5305) just released after about a year in the body shop after a tangle with a utility pole, has returned with the center strip lights removed and Luminator car card racks installed. Coach 3200 which was badly damaged while on a pull out trip has replaced 3077 in the body shop. SFMRy will soon lease 10 used PCCs from the TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION. The cars will be used for the two years it will take to complete the Muni subway on upper Market Street. It will cost about $10,000 for each car including acqusition, shipping and refurbishing.

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL BUS LINES (SMMBL)

SANTA MONICA: On March 13th the Santa Monica City Council awarded a contract to GMC for 25 T8H 5307As and 5 T6H 4523As. GMC was the only bidder as AM General withdrew its bid earlier and Flxible did not meet the SMMBL specifications regarding the seats. The 53 seaters will cost $43,400 each and the 45s $41,530 apeice for a total of $1,389,546.02 including tires according to Superintendent of Transportation Jack Hutchison. This was SMMBL's first order using a UMTA grant.

SAN DIEGO ECONOMY LINE, INC. (SDEL)

SAN DIEGO: SDEL has been granted an additional one year suspension (to April 1, 1974) in which to restore service on its Line 1-SAN DIEGO-LEMON GROVE-HOMELAND (WT 6/71).

AMADOR STAGE LINES, INC. (ASL)

SACRAMENTO: ASL has received Interstate Commerce Commission authority enabling the firm to operate in special operations in round trip sight-seeing and pleasure tours (escorted tours) beginning and ending at points in Sacramento (Sacramento), San Joaquin (Stockton), Yolo (Davis) and Placer (Roseville/Auburn) Counties, California extending to all points in the United States including Alaska but excluding Hawaii. CONTINENTAL TRAILWAYS TOURS, INC. and GREYHOUND HIGHWAY TOURS had protested but the Review Board felt the applicant offered truly localized service which the protestants did not although several of their tours are designed for Sacramento boardings. ASL presently operates between Jackson and Sacramento and Stockton/Jackson/Reno and has incidental interstate charter authority in those areas, but that authority does not permit operating tour service which can include hotels, meals and sightseeing.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT (SCCTD)

SAN JOSE: Several SCCTD coaches have emerged from the paint shop in the new color scheme - a basic white with a blue/white/orange belt rail stripe which forms a V pattern front, back and on both sides, just ahead of the exit or emergency door. The first buses painted were 6516, 6517 (TDH 4517s), 3502, 3504 (TDH 3501s) and 267 (TGH 3102). The interlocking CT logo has been put on both sides, the front and the back. Fleet numbers are black and small in size. The white paint has been applied to the entire exterior of the "New Look" coaches including the silver siding. Recent announcements indicate the buses SCCTD will purchase will be 33 seaters. Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Los Altos have raised considerable agitation over the present lack of transit and it appears these cities will be given early priority for new routes. Sunnyvale and Cupertino favor fixed routes while Los Altos and Mountain View prefer dial-a-bus service. Sunnyvale presented a proposal for five loop routes radiating from the new Community Center using 25 seat buses on half hourly schedules, but this plan has since been changed to three larger loops beginning downtown. SCCTD and Divisions 265 and 1225 of Amalgamated Transit Union have agreed to a new contract setting Operator's wages at $5.20 per hour plus 28½ cents Cost Of Living clause. For former SAN JOSE CITY LINES men this is an initial increase of $1.22 per hour plus COL, for PENINSULA TRANSIT LINES a hike of $1.40 plus COL and former PEERLESS STAGES operators get 97 cents plus COL. SCCTD has acquired 16 former AC TRANSIT TDH 4507s which have been repainted into the white/blue/orange paint scheme, but retain their AC numbers. The buses replace the eight former PEERLESS 4505s and 4506s and eight SJCL buses - 6619 (TD 3609), 6621, 6622, 6624-6627 (TDH 3610s) and 6505 (TDH 4507). The buses have new headsigns with gold lettering on a blue background. As of March 25th 1777, 1800, 1809, 1814, 1837 and 1852 were on hand.

CITY OF SUNNYVALE

SUNNYVALE: The Electrobus was demonstrated to members of the City Council and staff on March 27th. The Council has given the City Manager approval to proceed with plans for a minibus system consisting of four loop routes serving the newly opened Community Center from different quadrants of the city and using buses of the 25 passenger minibus type. Service would run from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM on weekdays at a ten cent round trip fare and is intended primarily to serve senior citizens. Purchase of the buses and operating costs for a four year period are estimated at $465,000, funding being provided from Federal revenue sharing funds. If the system is approved as part of the next city budget in July operations would begin about January 1, 1974. This local city sponsored service was proposed as a means of filing the four year gap left by SCCTD's plan which would not bring local community service to Sunnyvale until 1977.

ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT (ACT)

OAKLAND: General Motors has been awarded a contract for 55 45 seat buses for its model T6H 4523. The district has authorized sale of 24 TDH 4507s, eight on the open market at not less than $1750 each and sixteen to SANTA CLARA COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT at $1900 apiece. Line 94-GOLDEN GATE FIELDS, which operates during the racing season at the Albany track from Shattuck Avenue and Center Street in Berkeley to the race track has been revised to operate past BART/Berkeley and BART/North Berkeley stations. Coach 666, a T6H 5305, one of the first three operating steam buses in the nation, has been converted back to a diesel powered coach. According to the Steam Bus project reports the bus can compete with diesel power in terms of road performance and noise and is considerably less polluting. Although Line 33/33R-RICHMOND-BERKELEY-OAKLAND EXPRESS was to be discontinued with the beginning of BART's Richmond line (WT 3/73) it is still being operated on an experimental basis, still with 15 minute base service but reduced (from pre-BART levels) peak hour schedules. Because of the continued operation of Line 33R thought is being given to discontinuing Line 72B-RICHMOND-EL CERRITO (WT 3/73) which operates five morning and four afternoon trips between Richmond and BART/El Cerrito. Sunday only service on a combined route 82-FAIRWAY PARK/92C-SOUTHLAND SHOPPING CENTER was begun March 4th on a 65 minute headway between 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY TRANSIT DISTRICT (SFVTD)

Assembly Bill 515 introduced by Assemblyman Robert Cline (R-Canoga Park) would transfer authority for a Valley transit network to the new agency from the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT. The proposed district would include Burbank, Hidden Hills, San Fernando, Simi Valley, portions of both Los Angeles and Ventura counties and that part of the City of Los Angeles referred to as the San Fernando Valley, generally north of Mulholland Drive. Cline envisions smaller buses on more frequent schedules operating on a grid system. A five man Board of Directors would select a manager and staff.

REGIONAL TRANSIT (RT)

SACRAMENTO: RT Coach 4530 (Ex STA 401 - TgH4521A/079) was unveiled March 12 The new scheme features a basic all white body from the roof to the rub rail with unpainted aluminum below. Between the belt rail and rub rail are three horizontal stripes with thin white stripes in between - on top is a thin gold stripe, white, thin dark blue, white and a wide gold stripe. On both sides of the coach just in back of the last side window the stripes sweep up and go across the air conditioning unit. The name REGIONAL TRANSIT is lettered in white on the blue stripe and large RT logos appear on both sides with small logos on the front and on the back on the AC unit. The front is white on top and around the windows, the dark blue appears just below the front window, gold across the area which includes the headlights and directional signals and white below. The wheels are white and the coach number appears in black on the white area. White coach numbers have been placed on the rear windows with the name "RT" just below the rear window. RT Directors have decided all present vehicles should receive the new RT logo including those which will be phased out during the year. Coach 4531 (ex 402) was painted March 23rd, 4532 (ex 403) was splashed on March 30th and 3700 (ex 203) was next. SACRAMENTO TRANSIT AUTHORITY passed on at 1140 PM on March 31st as Operator J. McLeod (second from bottom seniority wise) working Run 10, Line 5 pulled in with coach 415 (T6H 4521A). RT was born at 648 AM Sunday April 1st with Mrs. E. Lenard doing the honors with coach 302 (TDH 4519) on Run 1 on Line 1. STA, in its last days, leased eight TDH 4507s from AC TRANSIT on a month to month basis to aid the equipment shortage. The following buses comprised the final STA Roster:

Coach Nos.	Builder	Model/Serial Numbers	Year	Notes
1-2	Minibus	MBTC/365-366	1969	Trams
91-94	Minibus	MB 711/351-353, 350	1967	Air conditioned
101-115	GMC	TDH4512/1258-1272	1956	
116-120	GMC	TDH4512/2135-2139	1957	
121-130	GMC	TDH4512/2833-2837, 2805-2809	1958	
131-135	GMC	TDH4517/333-337	1960	
136-140	GMC	TDH4517/1086-1090	1961	
141-145	GMC	TDH4517/1377-1381	1962	Air conditioned
203	GMC	SDM4502/127	1966	AC, RR
204-206	GMC	S6H4503A/016-018	1969	AC, RR
251-252	GMC	TDH4519/1199-1200	1966	AC, RR
301-310	GMC	TDH4519/051-055,334-338	1964	AC
311-315	GMC	TDH4519/769-773	1965	AC
316-325	GMC	TDH4519/1191-98,1514-15	1966	AC
404-415	GMC	T6H4521A/082-093	1968	AC
4500-4502	GMC	T6H4521A/079-081	1968	AC, ex 401-403
5501-5506	GMC	TDH4507/1672,71,76,75,73,74	1947	Ex Sacto City Lines
5507-5508	GMC	TDH4507/1801-1802	1947	Ex Sacto City Lines
5509-5510	GMC	TD4506/774,780	1946	Ex Gibson 6501-6502
5646-5651	GMC	TDH3610/1168,74,75,76,78,72	1948	Ex Sacto City Lines
5652-5656	GMC	TDH3610/1173,69,70,71,79	1948	Ex Sacto City Lines
5659	GMC	TDH3610/317	1947	Ex Sacto City Lines
1704,22,27,29	GMC	TDH4507/1438,41,90,36	1947	AC Transit-leased
1747,1805,25,27	GMC	TDH4507/1494,1549,46,37	1947	AC Transit-leased

EQUIPMENT REPORT

Below is a list of passenger equipment either acquired or disposed of by Western operators since our last report. Neither completeness nor currency is implied.

Name of Company	Vehicle Nos.	Builder	Model/Serial	Comments
NEW EQUIPMENT				
Orange County Transit	301-316	Flxible	111DCD061/57100-57115	36 fwd seats
Golden Gate Transit	401-406	MCI	MC5B/- (402 is Serial 9918 Unit 7056)	41 reclnr
SCRTD	1000-1099	GMC	T8H5307A/1067-1166	47 seater
American Pacific Stage Co(	901-904	GMC	P8M4905A/328-331	47, RR
(	905-907	GMC	P8M4905A/362-364	47, RR
American Buslines-LA Div	25563-25566	B & C	05SE/8950-8953	LA-Chgo
Miss Velmas Singers (LA)	unnumb	B & C	05SE/8923	Pvt bus
NEW RAPID TRANSIT CARS				
BARTD (	108-226	Rohr	A Cars	75 seat
(	501-554	Rohr	B Cars	RT Cars
USED EQUIPMENT				
Northgate Transit Co	unkn	GMC	TGH3101/268	ExCCMBL 304
Aztec Bus Lines	901-910	GMC	TDM4801/001,063	ExGLW 9450,9512
			004,020	9453,9469,
			-,016	-,9465
			018,022	9467,9471
			024,057	9473,9506
Aztec Bus Lines	2479,2483	GMC	TDH3714/266,367	For parts
Rouge Valley Stages(Medford)	401	GMC	PD4501/199	Ex GIE 4266
East Valley Transit	5101-5104	GMC	TDH5105/3267-3270	Ex SMMBL 5101-04
Contl Bus System	11312-11313	B & C	05GE/7801-02	Ex TTI 39301-02
DISPOSITIONS				
Culver City Municipal	3502	GMC	TDH3501/189	For sale
Eastshore Lines	302	GMC	PD4104/768	To pvt party
Associated Chtr Bus Co	A6012D	GMC	TDH 4509/1322	To pvt party
Torrance Transit System	331	GMC	TDH4512/ 372	To Tom Helliwell

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