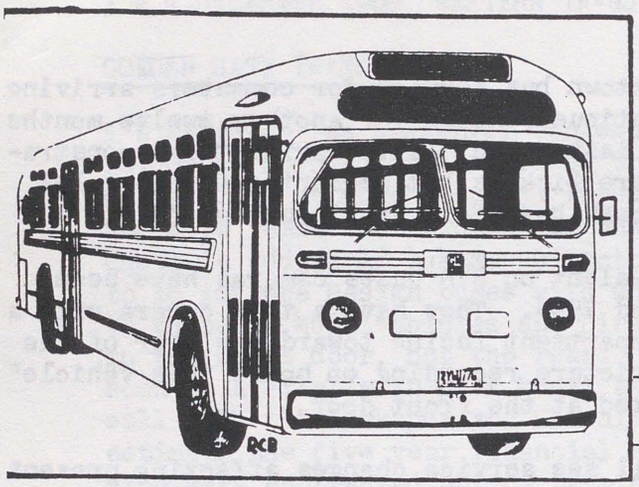


Western Transit

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT (RTD)

LOS ANGELES: The first of the new RTS II-04 model GMC buses began arriving at RTD Division 4, 7878 Telegraph Road in Downey, on Monday November 17th. Numbered 8200-9139 the serial numbers are slated to be as follows: 8200 - T80204/810394 and 8201-9139 - T80204/810696 thru 811634. The 8200 was to have been a "pilot" coach but was not completed in time to be shipped to RTD in advance of the order. The buses are being received minus head and side signs, run number signs and will not carry dashsigns. The head and side signs are to be installed at Division 4 and are the electronic type manufactured by Transign. The run number sign is reputed to also be of the electronic type. The first 35 or so buses received and okayed for service will be sent to the instruction departments for transportation and maintenance and may be seen at various points in the RTD system. Division 18 will be the first to receive RTS buses, in fact they are now running on lines 3-WEST 6TH-CENTRAL AVENUE-COMPTON and 836-IMPERIAL HIGHWAY with 29-WEST 7TH-SAN PEDRO STREET-COMPTON next. Division 6 will receive RTS next followed by Division 15 and the Flxible 870s will be transferred among Divisions 1, 3 and 5. Current plans call for all "Old Look" buses (except TDH 3714s 2500-2510) and all non air conditioned "New Look" buses (except TDH 4517s 2400-2404, TDH 4519s 2600-2604 and 411-GD-C2s 4000-4058) to be withdrawn from service and either sold or placed into a reserve fleet which will total about 450 buses. Every fifth new bus (8200, 8205, 8210, etc.) is owned by Lloyds Bank, Trustee who provided the 20% matching funds, and have a "trust plate" a fixed to the coach, similar to past practice when buses were purchased with Equipment Trust Certificates.

Refurbishing continues on the 4000 series Flxible buses. Tests are being conducted with Allison automatic transmissions and if successful the troublesome Spicer transmissions will be replaced. It is anticipated that the 4000s will replace the 1100 series Minibuses as they are refurbished. The 1100 series have about reached the end of their economical service life and can be expected to be retired in a gradual manner.

Five buses have either been scrapped or are in process of being scrapped and all were victims of accidents: 1058 (T8H5307A/1125), 3175 (T8H5307A/2313), 3186 (T8H5307A/2324), 6203 (111-CC-D5-1 53450) and 7455 (53102-8-1/60521). The body shells of the GMCs have been sold.

A one year Bike-N-Ride program began November 15 in which a number of 8000 series AM General buses from Division 8 operating on Line 88-SAN DIEGO FREEWAY EXPRESS have been equipped with special racks that can hold up to four standard size bicycles on the back of the bus.

Saturday and Sunday service was instituted beginning November 23rd on Lines 821-CERRITOS-WHITTIER-PICO RIVERA and 831-PARAMOUNT BLVD-PASSONS BLVD. The lines are operationally combined and last offered weekend bus service in 1977.

SCRTD Continued

The experimental Line 600-AMTRANS SHUTTLE providing downtown bus service for commuters arriving the Union Station at 750AM each weekday morning will continue running for another twelve months. The service was instituted for a six month trial period last March 31st. During the demonstration program AMTRAK riders received complimentary bus fare tickets but beginning November 1st with the withdrawl of CALTRANS subsidy funds a 50 cent cash base fare was inaugurated.

In an effort to reduce the crime wave that has been prevalent on RTD buses cameras have been installed initially on ten buses including 7550, 7552 and 7558. They have a tele camera with a constant red light mounted just above the Operator's compartment facing toward the rear of the bus with signs reading "For your protection continuous picture recording on board this vehicle" in red letters on white decals. The decal is also located at the front door.

December 21st is the date of the winter Shake Up and will see service changes affecting present lines 20, 22, 23, 27, 36, 39, 39X, 65, 95, 162, 760 and 770 (WT 9/80). Details of the changes will be presented next month.

CITY OF CORONA

CORONA: The city began (October 30, 1980) a new fixed route service between Home Gardens, Corona and the Butterfield Plaza on North Main Street. The route operates along Magnolia Avenue from Home Gardens, along Sixth Street in Corona and north on Main to the Butterfield Plaza. The service is operated hourly Monday through Saturday charging 50¢ for adults, 25¢ for seniors/ handicapped and anyone under three rides free. Riders under age 18 pay only 25¢ on Saturday. The Dial A Ride system is still in operation since a large part of Corona still has no fixed public transit and the DAR in Home Gardens is restricted to the handicapped. Service begins eastbound from the Corona Mall at 635AM with the last trip at 535PM and from the Butterfield Plaza from 722AM to 622PM. Along the route two stops are made daily at the County Administrative Building (1027AM and 227PM). Transfers, good for three hours, are available between the fixed route and DAR systems. Transfers are free from DAR to FR but count as half the DAR fare when transferring from FR to DAR. The city hopes initiation of the new service will enable it to meet requirements of state law which stipulate that fares generate 20% of a transit system's operating expenses in an urban area. Before the new service fares generated about 11% with the remainder coming from subsidies.

SIERRA HIGHLANDS BUS COMPANY (SHBC)

MERCED: The California Public Utilities Commission has authorized SHBC to operate a bus route between Merced and Bass Lake also serving Oakhurst and Mariposa. Two round trips each day are planned:

Lv Bass Lake	600AM	Ar Merced	745AM
Lv Merced	900AM	Ar Bass Lake	1050AM
Lv Bass Lake	1130AM	Ar Merced	115PM
Lv Merced	400PM	Ar Bass Lake	550PM

The Merced terminal will be at the Trailways station at 1622 N Street and SHBC will also serve the AMTRAK station at 24th and K. The firm presently operates nine buses and for four months ending November 29, 1979 has a gross revenue from shop and bus operations of $277,001. The company indicated to the PUC that it had a net worth of $80,441 and was financially able to conduct the new operations.

DO NOT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR SUBSCRIPTION TO WESTERN TRANSIT FOR 1981

GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT (GGT)

SAN RAFAEL: Bus passenger congestion has been mounting on GGT buses exceeding, at times, 10,000 on morning and afternoon trips causing additional standees. Maintenance requirements allow no more than 235 buses to be used during commute hours and the district hopes to remedy the problem by adding four seats to 221 of its 260 buses which will be equal to adding 18 buses. Directors have authorized the district to seek bids for up to 18 Advance Design buses with wheelchair lifts. The specifications will be similar to those on MUNI vehicles and Directors have requested that the buses have lifts mounted in the front door, not the rear. Reduced fares for elderly and handicapped persons will soon be available in peak hours as well as off peak. A study of whether to lease or sell both the Larkspur and Sau alito ferryboats has been ordered. Counsultants will estimate the five year financial effect on bus and bridge operations if the ferry division were contracted out or terminated commencing in fiscal year 1981-82.

OMNITRANS (OT)

SAN BERNARDINO: All 41 GMC RTS-II buses, equipped with wheelchair lifts and kneeling feature and seating 43 passengers have arrived and will be placed into service. 26 of the buses will replace the Merceds Benz 0309Ds (100-124) and the others will be placed into a reserve fleet increasing the OT fleet from 82 to 97. Public hearings have been held on OT's plans to realign many of the present circuitous lines to provide trip times more competitive with an automobile. In addition to alignment changes frequencies would be changes from 60 to 45 or 40 to 30. Half hour service would be provided on 14-MONTCLAIR-YUCAIPA between Fontana and Redlands; nine lines, instead of four, would run to Montclair Plaza; and local services in Fontana, Rialto, Bloomington, Redlands and Yucaipa would either be straightened out with more direct lines using more buses on present headways or have increaed service frequencies.

RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY (RTA)

RIVERSIDE: RTA, which has been plagued with management and financial problems since it began providing bus service in western Riverside County in 1977, may be headed toward management by an outside private firm. Directors have solicited bids from several firms including ATE Management and Service Company (which firm presently manages OT) and Community Transit Service, Inc. (which firm operates certain Dial A Ride areas for RTA already).

PALO VERDE VALLEY TRANSIT AGENCY (PVVTA)

BLYTHE: PVVTA achieved only a 5.3% farebox recovery rate during the first quarter of this fiscal year (state legislation calls for 10% over the year) and talks will soon be underway with the City of Blythe and Riverside County in an effort to save administrative costs by using existing city facilities. It is possible the bus system could become a city department, the joint powers agreement dissolved and funds for the unincorporated area service ould be provided by the county. The CITY bus route is also to be reduced to a 7½ mile circuit by eliminating two loops and forming a "figure eight" which can be completed in thrity minutes. 7th & Hobsonway is the center of the loop. Service will operate from 730AM to 500PM weekdays and 800AM to 500PM Saturday. The COUNTY route will retain four of its six present trips, 930AM, 1100AM, 200PM and 330PM and service will no longer be provided to the Rivera Drive area.

SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (SBMTD)

SANTA BARBARA: Saturday service on Line 12-GOLETA-SANTA BARBARA EXPRESS was started. Hourly service 815AM to 1115AM and 355PM to 645PM is provided using one bus. Weekdays half hourly all day service is provided including trips using buses equipped to handle bicycles.

MOUNTAIN AREA TRANSIT COMPANY (MATCO)

BIG BEAR LAKE: MATCO was scheduled to commence operations between Big Bear Lake and San Bernardino on onday November 24 (WT 12/79, 11/80). MATCO owner Jerry Hanford purchased a 28 passenger four wheel drive International which he plans to operate in and around the ski lift areas of Big Bear Lake. Also acquired was a former GREYHOUND LINES PD 103 for regular route service pending other equipment to be acquired a little later. Two round trips per day are scheduled using the Greyhound Depot in San Bernardino as the MATCO terminal.

HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY (HTA)

EUREKA: All five Transcoaches have been disposed of by HTA. Two were sold to Travel ines, Inc. of Puyallup, Washington, two to Luv Equipment Company of Carrollton, Texas and one to Mt. Lassen Transit Company of Red Bluff for operation between Red Bluff and Susanville. Beginning November 17th HTA started to issue an "OOPS Ticket" to passengers unfortunate enough to be on the bus when it broke down. The ticket is then good for a free ride the next time the passenger rides the bus.

MOUNT LASSEN MOTOR TRANSIT COMPANY (MLMTC)

RED BLUFF: MLMTC has purchased a Transcoach from the HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY which it will use on its regular route between Red Bluff and Susanville. Steve Jones, MLMTC President, will be installing a door in the rear to load and freight and mail and a partition will be installed to separate the passengers from the mail, express and freight. MLMTC also applied to the Public Utilities Commission for a Class B Charter Party Certificate, which hearing has been held and the decision is expected to be favorable. The firm, being an interstate carrier, has undertaken steps to register their regular route certificate with the ICC in order to perform interstate charter movements.

CITY OF ANDERSON, CALIFORNIA

This city, in Shasta County, has requested bids from potential operaters of a bus system in the small Sacramento Valley city. The City Council b- -olled th bidding down to two firms, DAVE Systems and NORTH COAST REDWOOD TOURS of Orick, California. DAVE offered to operate the system (which will consists of one bus (a van) at $66,000 per vehicle per year while NCRT quoted a rate of $48,000 per vehicle per year. The council has yet to reach a decision.

ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT (ACT)

OAKLAND: The OAKLAND DOWNTOWN SHUTTLE SERVICE line began November 24 using 2200 series Minibuses operating on a loop thru the downtown area charging a 25¢ fare. Each bus is equipped with a "muted musical signature" which is a recording that announces the arrival of the bus at its stops. Two direction service is offered along 1st, Broadway, 20th and Oak or Madison. AC is now receiving 175 new lift equipped Flyer Industries, Inc. Model D901A "New Look" buses, twenty 35 foot and 155 40 foot units. All buses will be equipped with electronic destination signs in the front and on the side and with route number boxes in the rear window. AC will be seeking bids for retrofitting 36 buses (the 8000 series Flxible 53102-8-1 units used in BART service) with wheelchair lifts. Sixty buses will soon be equipped with surveillance cameras in efforts to reduce vandalism and misbehavior aboard AC buses.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1981

WTS MEETINGS - SECOND SUNDAY EACH MONTH - 272 ALPINE STREET IN THE BACK, PASADENA
730PM, JAN 11, FEB 8, MAR 8

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT (OCTD)

SANTA ANA: A federal grant has been received toward purchase of sixty Advance Design lift equipped buses to be delivered in early 1982 and the OCTD Board has approved application for state funds to partially fund purchase of 65 lift equipped small buses and vans to replace aging vehicles in the Dial A Ride fleet. Line 202A-THE CITY-LAGUNA HILLS was discontinued after October 30 and Line 271-NEWPORT CENTER-SANTA ANA EXPRESS was discontinued after December 12, both victims of very low ridership. Both lines were inaugurated last September. Dial-A-Ride service came to all parts of the county except Laguna Beach, San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente and the Dial-A-Lift program was merged into the DAR program in a series of changes occurring between November 17 and December 15. Remaining areas are to receive DAR in July 1981. The Tustin City Dial A Ride service was discontinued with inauguration of OCTD service, Tustin being the only city providing such service in advance of district operations.

GOLDEN EMPIRE TRANSIT DISTRICT (GET)

BAKERSFIELD: System wide Sunday, but not six major holidays, service began in Bakersfield on December 7th as hourly service was inaugurated on all twenty lines between 10AM and 6PM. Actually 18 lines have hourly service while 2-OILDALE runs every 40 and 3-OILDALE NORTH runs every 45 minutes. Previously no Sunday service was offered anywhere on the system nor was Saturday service provided on 19-CAL STATE (Ed. Note - it is presumed that 19 now also operates on Saturday). GET-A-Lift service for handicapped is also provided. GET Directors have okayed planned expansion of bus service to the Rosedale, Highland Knolls, Greenfield, Pumpkin Center and Olive Drive/Norris Road areas.

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AS THE GM SEES

May I speak frankly to WTS members? I am very disappointed that we were unable to have business meetings in October and November for lack of enough members to have a quorum. It is discouraging to schedule films and bring slides to show to so few.

Again, you are encouraged to make a special effort to be at our monthly meetings. They are interesting and worthwhile. If you like bus slides I have been fortunate enough to obtain some excellent ones from the past, other members have good ones too. For the rail transit buffs a tour along PE lines with Walt Abbenseth's slides are a treat. Be there -- you will enjoy it.

If you change your address please notify the Editor in Santa Ana. Changes are delayed if sent to me in San Gabriel.

The Fall 81 Motor Bus Society Convention in San Francisco is now less than one year away. With prices going up it is a good idea to begin saving now, It would be super to have a good number of WTS members there.

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EQUIPMENT REPORT

PROPERTY	FLEET NOS	BUILDER	MODEL/SERIAL	NOTES
NEW				
AC Transit	(1000-1154	Flyer	D901A10240/1905-2059	
	(2000-2019	Flyer	D901A10235/2060-2079	
Torrance Transit	(400-403	Flyer	D10235C/mixed	
	(404-412	Flyer	D10240C/mixed	
Express Tours	703-707	MCI	MC9/-	703 isS15279,U35231
Hamman Stage Line	102	MCI	MC9/-	
SF Muni Railway	8902	Dodge	Royal 300/B35JT9Y200862	
Tri Met (Portland)	200-210	GMD	T6H4523N/3500028-38	
Calgary Transit System	980-1016	GMD	T6H5307N/M1367-M1403	
Denver RTD	771-782	GMC	P8M4905A/1698-1709	
Via Metropolitan Transit	321-443	GMC	T7020H/810007-810129	
Pueblo Transportation Co	110,120,130,140	GMC	T7020H/810130-810133	
Las Vegas Transit System	unkn	GMC	T8020H/810395-810399	
CITRAN (Fort Worth)	401-429	GMC	T8020H/810400-810428	
CITIFARE (Reno)	101-113	GMC	T7060H/810572-810584	
Riverside Transit Agency	2301-2318	GMC	T8020H/810671-810688	
SCRTD	(8200	GMC	T8020H/810394	
	(8201-9139	GMC	T8020H/810696-811634	
Hertz (SFO)	1,3-5,7,11-13	GMC	T7J603/A006,A013,-,-,A012, -,A009,A007	
SAMTRANS	9640-9652	Flyer	D102L0C/2093-2105	Front door lifts Assigned to GLW operated Mainline service
USED				
Royal Coach Tours	511	GMC	PDH4107/309	Chtr Coaches 86
Western Charter	833	GMC	PDH4107/843	GLW 7963
Eastshore Lines	30	GMC	SDH4502/005	Sierra Pacific 309
Falcon Chtr Service	(95-96	GMC	P8M4905A/1488,1677	ESL 337-338
	(97	GMC	H8H649/071	ESL 339
Parish Charter Lines	103	MCI	MC5A/5984-6456	GLW 7234
County Transit (San Jose)	209-210	M-P	0309D/309382-10026801, 10023593	Dub Shaw Ford Leasing, Ft Worth
	4600-4655	GMC	TDH5302/mixed*	TNJ via Nimco
	4800,01,28	GMC	TDH5301/766,3409,3052	Nimco
	4814,59,68, 79,80	GMC	TDH5302/538,240,371, 354,375	
	4840,48,50	GMC	TDH5304/181,233,244	

*-Serials for 4600-4655 are TDH5302/172,189,202,205,221,211,227,236,238,256,260,268, 264,266,272,273,353,357,396,159,151,153,240,262, 167,152,145,174,190,168,194,267,206,203,390,163, 228,395,148,252,193,394,388,358,389,355,365,391, 184,208,262,269,361,379,384,387

Former TNJ fleet number-P328,P345,P358,P361,P377,P367,P383,P392,P394,P412,P416,P424, P420,P422,P428,P429,R300,R304,R343,P315,P307,P309,P396,P418, P323,P308,P301,P330,P346,P324,P350,P423,P362,P359,R337,P319, P384,R342,P304,P408,P349,R341,P335,P305,R336,P302,P312,R338, P340,P364,P418,P425,R308,R326,R331,R334