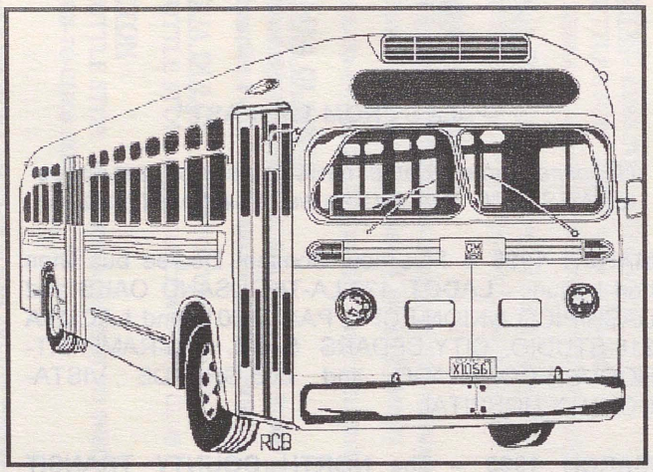
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VOL. 41, NO. 3 March 2003

SOUTHERN NEVADA TRANSIT COALITION (SNTC)

BOULDER CITY, NV. **SNTC** is now operating the former **CITIZENS AREA TRANSIT** public transit lines in both Mesquite (in northeast Clark County along Interstate 15) and Laughlin (in south county adjacent to the Colorado River and Bullhead City, Arizona). Service operates under the trade name SILVER RIDER *(Ed. Note – Nevada is the Silver State).*

CAT's parent organization, the REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, severed its ties to the rural areas of Clark County as part of an effort to control its budget deficits.

The one-route, three-bus Mesquite system, also serving Bunkerville, was transferred last September along with a one-year $200,000 RTC subsidy. **SNTC** 333-VIRGIN VALLEY replaced **CAT's** 602-MESQUITE LOCAL.

The Laughlin transition took place in December and includes a two-route, three bus system. RTC will save $350,000 annually while **SNTC,** a private nonprofit group operating with state and federal funds, will provide $150,000 annually. Each city will also contribute bus fare revenue to the programs.

New 777-LAUGHLIN CLOCKWISE replaced **CAT** 601-LAUGHLIN while 888-LAUGHLIN COUNTER CLOCKWISE replaced 603-LAUGHLIN. Line 777 operates hourly 24 hours a day, likely making Laughlin the smallest city with all day/all night transit.

RTC's pull out will enable the Town of Laughlin to now apply for federal funding for rural transit systems.

CAT used a fleet of 40-foot, low floor buses while the **SNTC** vehicles are vans.

Fares are $2 for adults, $1 for youth, seniors and persons with disabilities. Para-Transit Service fares are $3. Service animals can ride without charge. Other animals must be in a cage with a secure covered top and will be allowed if there is room. If a seat is required for a pet, it will be charged the full adult fare.

Last month **SNTC** and **BULLHEAD AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM** established an interchange between the two systems. **BATS** Dial-A-Ride buses will serve Laughlin at the Laughlin Visitors Center on Casino Drive, the main **SNTC** bus stop in town *(Ed. Note – **CAT** and **BATS** had been working on this program for over two years)*. The next step in the process will be the establishment of an inter-agency transfer agreement.

*(Ed. Note – Between about 1988 and 1996, Laughlin, Bullhead City and Kingman were served by routes of the privately owned **LAUGHLIN TRANSIT, INC.** with a fleet of SVMC trolleys, Goshen Coaches and Eagles (WT 8/92, 12/94). **LTI** was owned by Don Laughlin's (the father of the town) Riverside Resort. **LTI** discontinued all operations in 1996).*

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC)

SAN FRANCISCO: Below are applications before and decisions of the California Public Utilities Commission:

APPLICATIONS

Vinh The Nguyen dba REAL AIRPORT SHUTTLE has applied for PSC between Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara Counties and all Bay Area airports and establish a Zone Of Rate Freedom.

Jasvir Singh dba CLASSIC AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE for PSC between points in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties and Bay Area airports.

A and M Charters And Tours dba COMPASS TRANSPORTATION for Charter authority in TCP-16138-B with a home terminal in San Jose.

Hosein Nematbakhsh dba ABC SHUTTLE for PSC between Orange County points and John Wayne Airport.

DECISIONS

NORTH BAY AIRPORT EXPRESS SHUTTLE, INC granted PSC between points in Napa, Sonoma, Marin and San Francisco Counties and Bay Area airports and establish a ZORF.

BLUE & GOLD FLEET, L.P. to discontinue Alameda-Oakland Passenger Vessel service upon completion of its contractual agreement was dismissed.

Ajmer Singh authorized to extend the area of his on-call airport PSC to include points in Solano, Napa, Marin and San Mateo Counties.

Mohammad Sohail Azam granted PSC to operate between points in Marin, San Francisco, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties and San Jose Airport with ZORF

HARBOR BAY MARITIME, INC. authorized to increase passenger fares between HARBOR BAY FERRY terminal in Alameda and points in San Francisco.

Please send news from your area to Western Transit, 11112 Ivanhoe Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840-1133

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"PAGES FROM THE PAST"

(Headline stories or other news items from past issues of WESTERN TRANSIT as we relive transit history)

MARCH 1998 – Five new Consent Decree bus lines had begun – **LADOT** 422-LA-THOUSAND OAKS and DASH/PICO UNION-ECHO PARK (601) and **LACMTA** 218-STUDIO CITY-CEDARS SINAI, 603-RAMPART-HOOVER-COLORADO and 605-GRANDE VISTA-COUNTY HOSPITAL

MARCH 1993 – The **NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT** was sporting a new dark blue over white over aqua paint scheme, five new CNG and twenty four new diesel Flxible Metros and a new fare structure ($1 on local and $1.25 on premium fare lines).

MARCH 1988 – CHULA VISTA TRANSIT began the new 708-NATURE CENTER SHUTTLE between Bayfront/E Street Trolley Station and the recently opened Chula Vista Nature Interpretive Center.

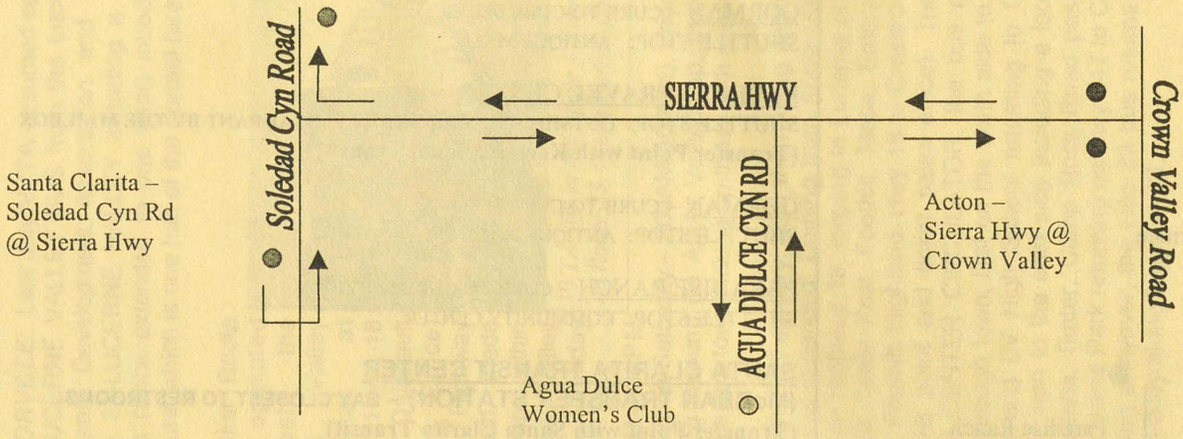
MARCH 1983 – GREYHOUND LINES, INC. instituted major scheduling changes within California including changes on FORT BRAGG-SAN FRANCISCO, STOCKTON-SONORA, TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, LA-SANTA PAULA-VENTURA and LA-BISHOP-RENO (all eventually discontinued) and was proposing many other adjustments as a result of industry deregulation.

MARCH 1978 – SAN DIEGO TRANSIT CORP. introduced its first accessible buses (GMC TDH 5303s 346-350 retrofitted with front door lifts and assigned to special runs on Lines 3-OCEAN VIEW BLVD and 7-UNIVERSITY AVE). As a pilot project, bicycle racks were installed on the backs of forty **SDTC** buses.

WT STAFF FOR THIS MONTH

EDITOR:	Edmund Buckley
ASSOCIATE EDITOR:	Craig Barnes
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT:	Jim Moore
SENIOR STAFF:	Alan Fong Charles Hobbs Russ Jones
REPORTERS & SOURCES:	David Davenport J. K. Drummond Hank Fung Guillermo Merino M. Ray Mullins Andrew Novak Scott Page Warren F. Quon

Acton/Agua Dulce Route



(MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY SERVICE)

MORNING

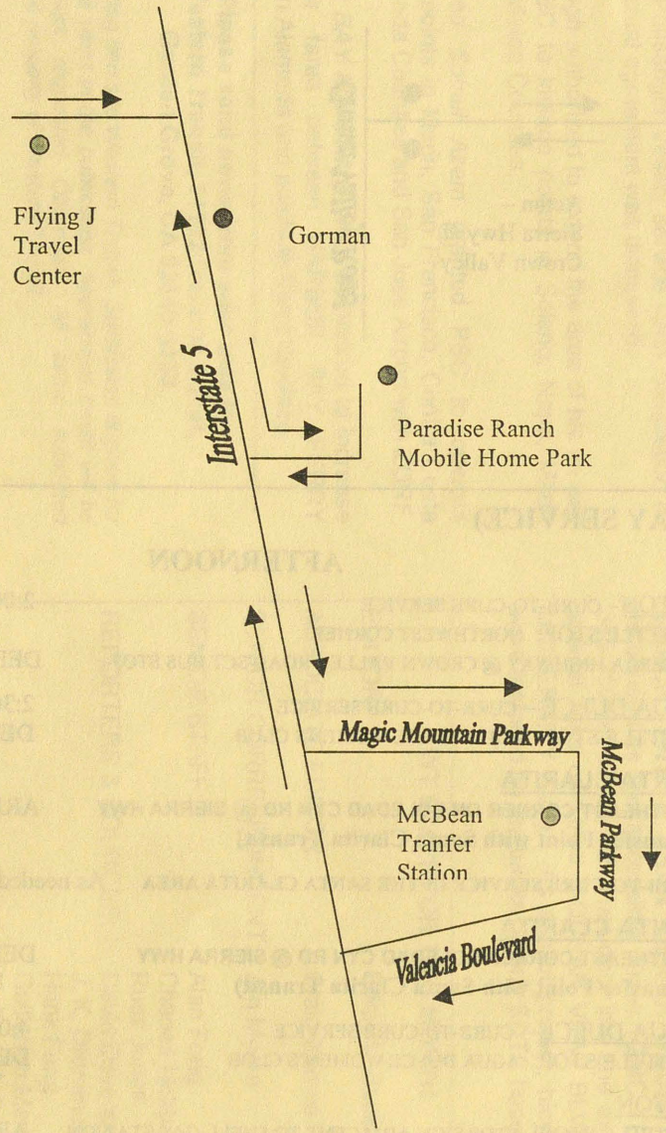
ACTON - CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	9:00 – 9:15
SHUTTLE STOP: NORTHWEST CORNER	
SIERRA HIGHWAY @ CROWN VALLEY ROAD SCT BUS STOP	DEPART 9:15
AGUA DULCE – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	9:30 – 9:45
SHUTTLE STOP: AGUA DULCE WOMEN'S CLUB	DEPART 9:45
SANTA CLARITA	
NORTHWEST CORNER ON SOLEDAD CYN ROAD @ SIERRA HWY	ARRIVE 10:05
(Transfer Point with Santa Clarita Transit)	
CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE IN THE SANTA CLARITA AREA	As needed from 10:05 - 10:40
SANTA CLARITA	
NORTHWEST CORNER ON SOLEDAD CYN ROAD @ SIERRA HWY	DEPART 10:40
(Transfer Point with Santa Clarita Transit)	
AGUA DULCE – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	11:00 – 11:15
SHUTTLE STOP: AGUA DULCE WOMEN'S CLUB	DEPART 11:15
ACTON	
SHUTTLE STOP: STOP SIGN ADJACENT TO SHELL GAS STATION	ARRIVE 11:30
CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	11:30 – as needed

AFTERNOON

ACTON - CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	2:00 – 2:15
SHUTTLE STOP: NORTHWEST CORNER	
SIERRA HIGHWAY @ CROWN VALLEY ROAD SCT BUS STOP	DEPART 2:15
AGUA DULCE – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	2:30 – 2:45
SHUTTLE STOP: AGUA DULCE WOMEN'S CLUB	DEPART 2:45
SANTA CLARITA	
SOUTHEAST CORNER ON SOLEDAD CYN RD @ SIERRA HWY	ARRIVE 3:05
(Transfer Point with Santa Clarita Transit)	
CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE IN THE SANTA CLARITA AREA	As needed from 3:05 - 3:40
SANTA CLARITA	
SOUTHEAST CORNER SOLEDAD CYN RD @ SIERRA HWY	DEPART 3:40
(Transfer Point with Santa Clarita Transit)	
AGUA DULCE – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	4:00 – 4:15
SHUTTLE STOP: AGUA DULCE WOMEN'S CLUB	DEPART 4:15
ACTON	
SHUTTLE STOP: STOP SIGN ADJACENT TO SHELL GAS STATION	ARRIVE 4:30
CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	4:30 – as needed

***CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE IS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ONLY**
***DRIVERS WILL ALSO ASSIST YOU IN AND OUT OF THE VEHICLE WITH YOUR GROCERY BAGS OR PARCELS, BUT WILL NOT CARRY THEM TO YOUR DOOR.**

Gorman Route



FRIDAY SERVICE ONLY

MORNING

PARADISE RANCH MOBILE HOME PARK – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	9:00 – 9:15
SHUTTLE STOP: COMMUNITY CENTER	DEPART 9:15
GORMAN – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	9:35 – 9:45
SHUTTLE STOP: ANTIQUE MALL	DEPART 9:45
FLYING J TRAVEL CENTER	ARRIVE 9:50
SHUTTLE STOP: **OUTSIDE THE CROOKERY RESTAURANT BY THE MAILBOX**	DEPART 10:10
(Transfer Point with Kern Regional Transit)	
GORMAN – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	10:15 – 10:25
SHUTTLE STOP: ANTIQUE MALL	DEPART 10:25
PARADISE RANCH – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	10:45 – 10:55
SHUTTLE STOP: COMMUNITY CENTER	DEPART 10:55
SANTA CLARITA TRANSIT CENTER	
(McBEAN TRANSFER STATION) – BAY CLOSEST TO RESTROOMS	ARRIVE 11:15
(Transfer Point with Santa Clarita Transit)	
CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE IN THE SANTA CLARITA AREA	AS NEEDED FROM 11:15AM - 2:30PM

AFTERNOON

SANTA CLARITA TRANSIT CENTER	
(McBEAN TRANSFER STATION) – BAY CLOSEST TO RESTROOMS	DEPART 2:30
(Transfer Point with Santa Clarita Transit)	
PARADISE RANCH MOBILE HOME PARK – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	2:50 – 3:00
SHUTTLE STOP: COMMUNITY CENTER	DEPART 3:00
GORMAN – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	3:20 – 3:30
SHUTTLE STOP: ANTIQUE MALL	DEPART 3:30
FLYING J TRAVEL CENTER	ARRIVE 3:35
SHUTTLE STOP: **OUTSIDE THE CROOKERY RESTAURANT BY THE MAILBOX**	DEPART 3:55
(Transfer Point with Kern Regional Transit)	
GORMAN – CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	4:00 – 4:10
SHUTTLE STOP: ANTIQUE MALL	DEPART 4:10
PARADISE RANCH MOBILE HOME PARK	
SHUTTLE STOP: COMMUNITY CENTER	ARRIVE 4:30
CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE	4:30 – as needed

***CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE IS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ONLY**
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(Continued from page 1)

CITIZENS AREA TRANSIT (CAT)

LAS VEGAS, NV: January 28th saw **CAT's** semi-annual service change including the establishment of a NEW Commuter Express Route – 808-CORAL LINE (CHARLESTON), increased frequencies on 301-LAS VEGAS BLVD SOUTH (STRIP) and 806-EASTERN, but also the discontinuation of six lines — 205-OAKEY, 219-CRAIG, 302-STRIP EXPRESS, 404-SUMMERLIN CIRCULATOR, 801-LAS VEGAS BLVD NORTH EXPRESS and 802-RANCHO ROAD EXPRESS.

Line 808-CORAL LINE (CHARLESTON) operates on weekdays during peak hours supplementing Local Line 206-CHARLESTON.

Last November, Nevada voters approved Question 10, a $2.7 billion transportation funding initiative, but the question was only advisory and must be approved by the Nevada state legislature. If that happens, the **CAT** system would not receive any of those funds until at least next fall. To operate within the current year's budget, **RTC/CAT** was required to reduce costs by $2.8 million, which included the above changes and transfers of Mesquite and Laughlin to the **SOUTHERN NEVADA TRANSIT COALITION.**

CITIFARE (CF)

RENO, NV: **CF** bus operators, dispatchers and customer service representatives, employees of contractor TRANSIT MANAGEMENT OF WASHOE, were scheduled to vote on a new labor agreement *(WT 6/02, 7/02, 8/02)* December 29th.

Although neither side would discuss specifics, the wage offer was larger than original 6 percent over three years offered by TMW but less than 12 per cent previously demanded by Teamsters Local 533. There were provisions for a pension increase. Health insurance and sick leave, the other issues, were not mentioned. *(Ed. Note – By the lack of publicity on labor issues in Reno, we presume the employees okayed the contract).*

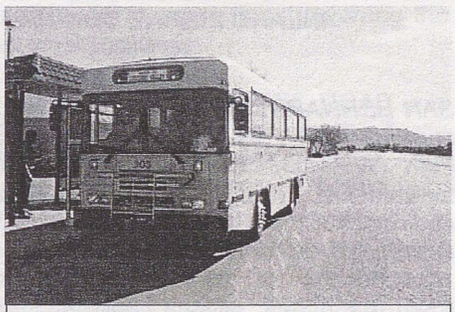
February 1st saw the first fare increase in six years. The Adult cash fare increased from $1.35 to $1.50, Youth fare rose to $1.25 and senior/disabled to 75 cents. Prices of 10-Ride ($13.50), 7-Day ($18) and 31-Day ($60) Passes all increased and three new passes were introduced — 1-Day ($4), 3-Day ($10) and 40-Ride ($50). *(Ed. Note – prices shown are for the Adult fares).*

A series of service reductions are planned for this May to offset declining ridership and sagging sales tax revenues.

VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (VVTA)

VICTORVILLE: Last July **VVTA** assumed operations of the LUCERNE VALLEY BUS from the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association and established Route 23-LUCERNE VALLEY including a special six month (since extended to one year) introductory fare structure, which is one half of the normal fares.

The first Route 23 operated between the Apple Valley terminal at Outer Hwy 18 and Quinnault (Post Office) along Highway 18 and made two loops within Lucerne Valley (six weekday round trips – 600AM-700PM with four on Saturday – 800AM-400PM). Prior to the first morning inbound (to Apple Valley) trip, the bus would circulate thru town picking up those with reservations.



VVTA 303 at the Apple Valley Post Office on Route 23. Craig Barnes photo.

Beginning in February, both the routing and the service span was expanded. Coming from Apple Valley, buses travel on Highway 18, looping in Lucerne on the south side via Trade Post, Foothill, Mesa, Emerald, Crystal Creek, Foothill, Highland, Hwy 18 to Crossroads Center (terminal point and ticket sales office). Then, as the TOWN CENTER CIRCULATOR, the bus makes two loops through town, first on the north side to LV Middle School and LV High School returning to Crossroads Center, then to the east side including a loop via Hwy 247, Visalia, Sutter, Camp Rock Road passing Moss Mobile Home Park returning on Hwy 247 to Crossroads. Following a layover, the Line 23 bus returns directly to Apple Valley along Highway 18.

Weekday hours are now 600AM-1000PM with Saturday 800AM-900PM.

VVTA purchased two more Bluebird CSFE2409s which are numbered 303 and 304 and both painted teal. 303 is usually assigned to Line 23 and 304 is the County Routes (21, 22, 23) system spare. The one-door buses have 26 mostly forward facing Freedman brand seats, are accessible with two wheelchair stations and curtain headsigns.

The VICTOR VALLEY COMMUTER service *(WT 8/02)* continues to grow and, thanks to funding obtained

(Continued on page 4)

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through a Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District grant, for a limited time the price of monthly passes will be reduced fifty per cent — to $75 — while METROLINK pass holders will save an additional $20. The **VVTA** Board will evaluate the fare structure and ridership impacts during this promotional period to determine if an ongoing strategy is necessary as the VVC service continues.

OMNITRANS
INLAND EMPIRE CONNECTION
(OT/IEC)

SAN BERNARDINO: The **OT** Board recently gave final approval to "FY 04-08 Fare Policy and Implementation Plan" *(WT 1/03)* including introduction of a discount fare for students, limiting introductory fares to twelve months and discontinuing the introductory OmniLink fares in Colton, Grand Terrace and Chino Hills.

Early this month, several public hearings were held to receive comments on proposed service changes, some set for next September, but most for January 2004.

Changes include combining portions of 1–COLTON-DEL ROSA with 5-DEL ROSA-CAL STATE, 3–BASELINE-HIGHLAND with 14-FOOTHILL, 6–MUSCOY-CAL STATE with 11-MUSCOY and 10–BASELINE with 12-REDLANDS-HIGHLAND.

22–RIALTO LOCAL would have two branches in North Rialto while 29–FONTANA-CEDAR would be rerouted to go east on Valley and south on Cedar, looping via Slover, Locust, 11th, Cedar, Santa Ana, Spruce and Slover back to Cedar. NEW 28-SOUTH FONTANA would run from Sierra & Marygold along Sierra, Slover and Mulberry operating hourly on weekdays only.

30-NORTH REDLANDS and 31–SOUTH REDLANDS would be replaced by REDLANDS TROLLEY 1 and 2 also serving the University of Redlands and the new Citrus Plaza, beginning in September.

60-CHAFFEY-ONTARIO MILLS would connect Ontario Airport with Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga Town Center, METROLINK and Ontario Mills Mall. NEW 64-RANCHO CUCAMONGA would run between Chaffey College and Montclair via Wilson, Carnelian, 19th, Euclid, 21st, Mountain and 7th. Line 67 would operate between Ontario and Fontana along Euclid, Baseline and Sierra while Line 68 would be extended into Chino along Ramona, Riverside and Central. Line 70 would be replaced by portions of three other routes while 72-CHINO HILLS would be discontinued.

INLAND EMPIRE CONNECTION's 90-MONTCLAIR-SAN BERNARDINO and 100-RIVERSIDE-SAN BERNARDINO would be combined into the NEW 90 also serving Riverside Metrolink, Cooley Ranch and San Bernardino Metrolink on a 40-minute headway. This change is also planned for September.

The **OT** CEO/General Manager has been authorized to 1) cancel the joint contract with **RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY** as of June 30, 2003; 2) extend the TRANSPORTATION CONCEPTS, INC. contract until August 31, 2003 and 3) issue an RFP for provision of transit operations and management services for **OT** Lines 7-SIERRA WAY, 8-MENTONE-YUCAIPA, 9-YUCAIPA, REDLANDS TROLLEY Routes T1 and T2 (**OT** 30 and 31) and **IEC** Line 90.

OT currently has a joint contract with **RTA** to manage and TCI to operate **IEC** Lines 90 and 100. The first option year was to expire this June 30. Either agency can withdraw its contractual agreement at any time. **OT** and **RTA** would then administer their share of the contract and TCI would be directly responsible to each agency as though there were two contracts.

RTA previously approved continued funding of Line 100 through June 30, 2003 and development of a non-financial Memorandum Of Understanding for inter-county bus service to include **IEC** Line 100 and new **RTA** Line 60-RIVERSIDE-MONTCLAIR EXPRESS.

The RFP will be for a period of up to five years with a two-year base and up to three one-year extensions. The new contract would include addition of 12 mid-size buses (Dennis Thomas SLF 230s) on Lines 7, 8 and 9, the three new City of Redlands Trolleys (SVMC) and current Neoplan AN440As (9701-9707) on Line 90/100.

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1704 officials said this is an alteration to working conditions and must be negotiated in advance. **OT** officials have said that no current employee would be furloughed, but that the numbers of new hires would be reduced.

Cummins Westport, Inc. has announced the purchase, by **OT,** of 57 natural gas bus engines to equip the 12 Dennis Thomas SLF 230 buses to be delivered in June plus 22 New Flyer C40LF buses for delivery this fall and 23 more New Flyers in the fall of 2004.

RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY
INLAND EMPIRE CONNECTION
(RTA/IEC)

RIVERSIDE: The second batch of 47 CNG powered NABI 40-foot low-floor buses (2201-2247) are now in service, most assigned to Hemet Division. The 9501-9517 CNG powered Flxible Metros returned to the Riverside Division and most, if not all, of the diesel fleet

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
(TMC RTS 4001-4009, 9001-9004 and 9201-9220 and Flxible Metros 9301-9317) is either in contingency or soon will be for sale.

The four 1992 model TMC RTS 06s (9211-9212 and 9216-9217), transferred to **IEC** last year *(WT 4/02),* have been replaced by **RTA's** three 1997 model New Flyer C40LF buses (9701-9703).

At Riverside's Downtown Bus Terminal, **IEC** Line 100-RIVERSIDE-SAN BERNARDINO and the **SUNLINK** RIVERSIDE-PALM SPRINGS-PALM DESERT route have been relocated from the station to a newly created zone along Fairmont Blvd., just north of the terminal.

The **RTA** Board will soon consider establishing fares for the four Regional Flyer express bus services, expected to begin this summer *(WT 2/03)* plus two commute lines to be operated jointly with **OCTA,** 793-RIVERSIDE-CORONA-IRVINE and 794-RIVERSIDE-CORONA-SOUTH COAST METRO, the first transit lines to use the Highway 241 Eastern Corridor Toll Road. Start up dates for the Orange County buses have not been set.

It was recommended that 60-RIVERSIDE-MONTCLAIR, 63-TEMECULA-CORONA and 215-RIVERSIDE-SUN CITY use the current **RTA** fare structure while 76-TEMECULA-OCEANSIDE and 793 and 794 charge $4 cash one way with monthly passes available.

NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT (NCTD)

OCEANSIDE: Phase Two of **NCTD's** Fast Forward route and service restructuring program took place on January 26th and included changes primarily in the northern portion of the service area *(WT 3/02).*

Routing and/or number changes were made on former lines 301, 304, 312, 319, 321, 322, 336, 341, 342. 344 and 393. Discontinued were 311-OCEANSIDE, 331–VISTA LOCAL and 361-ENCINITAS LOCAL.

NEW are 101-OCEANSIDE-UTC VIA HWY 101 (former 301), 311/312-SAN DIEGO ST-OCEANSIDE BLVD, (a two direction loop within Oceanside), 324-CARLSBAD VILLAGE-VISTA VIA PLAZA CAMINO REAL, 325-TRI CITY-PLAZA CAMINO REAL VIA VISTA WAY, 333-VISTA-BOBIER DRIVE-ARCADIA, 334/335-VALE TERRACE-EUCALYPTUS (a two directional loop within Vista), 336/337-SANTA FE AVE-VISTA WAY (another Vista two-way loop), 338-VISTA-TRI CITY VIA OLIVE AVENUE and 365-ENCINITAS RANCH.

Also new, but serving specialized weekday peak hour markets (commuters or students) are 419-SOUTH CARLSBAD BUSINESS PARKS, 422-CARLSBAD CIRCULATOR, 441-SAN MARCOS CIRCULATOR, 444–ARMADA DRIVE COASTER CONNECTION, 445-LOKER AVENUE COASTER CONNECTION, 447-REX INDUSTRIES and two new "Fast And Simple Transportation" (FAST) areas in Encinitas and San Marcos. FAST offers advance reservation, curb to curb transportation within selected geographic areas.

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (OCTA)

ORANGE: The System Shake Up took place March 9th and included a number of changes, most involving the contract operated, small bus lines.

75-JAMBOREE ROAD was rerouted to serve the Tustin METROLINK Station, 80-HAMILTON/VICTORIA and 173-ORANGE AVENUE were combined into the NEW 173 which operates from South Coast Plaza to Orange & 17th (Costa Mesa) as before, then via 17th, Newport, Victoria/Hamilton, Magnolia, Atlanta, First and PCH (Huntington Beach). 461-SARTC-ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT was discontinued while 463-SARTC-SOUTH GRAND was extended from St. Andrew & Grand along Grand, Warner and Main to MacArthur (Hutton Centre). NEW Rail Feeder 490-LAGUNA NIGUEL METROLINK STA-ALISO VIEJO began operating on weekday peak hours via Forbes Road, Crown Valley, Moulton, Aliso Creek, La Paz, Avila, Alicia, Aliso Creek, Pacific Park, Laguna Hills, Columbia, Aliso Creek and Glenwood/ Pacific Park to Enterprise.

CALIFORNIA NEWS BRIEFS

FOOTHILL TRANSIT has extended, until January 2007, the Pomona Operations and Maintenance Agreement with FIRST TRANSIT, INC. Also approved were service changes for **FT** buses to serve the new Sierra Madre Villa Station on the GOLD LINE.

M. V. TRANSPORTATION, INC. has been awarded two Northern California contracts — a five year, 59 bus pact for **MERCED COUNTY TRANSIT** starting this July and a four year Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride contract to manage and operate **CALAVERAS TRANSIT.**

The City of Gardena, for **GARDENA MUNICIPAL BUS LINES,** recently hired firms, one for an environmental report and a second for preliminary engineering, for a new, 100 bus, operations and maintenance facility to be located at 139th & Western on the site of the former Discount Priceland.

CULVER CITY BUS celebrated its 75th anniversary on March 4th by offering Free Rides all day long to an estimated 18,000 passengers.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Beginning February 16, **SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL BUS LINES** stopped serving the UCLA Bus Terminal on Hilgard Avenue between 1000PM and 700AM and instead operates on campus along Westholme, Charles E. Young Drive and Manning to Hilgard.

MUNICIPAL AREA EXPRESS (MAX)

TORRANCE: On March 4th **MAX** implemented what has been called the first substantial changes since the inception of the **MAX** program in 1990, except for the discontinuation of 1-BEACH CITIES when Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach withdrew their funding.

All three lines (2-PALOS VERDES, 3-SAN PEDRO and 3X-SAN PEDRO EXPRESS) were extended to begin/end at the Airport Superior Court on La Cienega and also serve the GREEN LINE Aviation Station enroute to former Imperial & Douglas terminal. Later trips (about 600PM) were added on Lines 2 and 3.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA)

LOS ANGELES: A public hearing has been set for April 12 on fare change proposals including — reducing the cash fare to $1.25, introducing Day Passes, elimination of paper transfers, a reduction in the number of fare zones from 4 to 2 and increases in Pass prices.

Another April hearing will review the Westside/Central Sector June 2003 service change plans. The major element is discontinuation of three lines — 3-SUNSET BL-BEVERLY DR, 22-BRENTWOOD SHUTTLE and 220-ROBERTSON BLVD-CULVER CITY-LAX. *(Ed. Note – Both 3 and 22 have been "on the block" before. There are other buses on the same streets,* ***MTA*** *14 on Beverly Drive and* ***SMMBL*** *4 on San Vicente. 4 operates more often than 22, has more connections and a lower fare. Line 220 is a different story, offering service on some streets and in areas with no other buses. This is likely a bus line that should be retained for coverage and connectivity purposes).*

The service contracts awarded to TRANSPORTATION CONCEPTS last year *(WT 5/02)*, required buying new buses. TCI bought 19 Econoline/Aerotechs for Lines 218, 625, 626, 631 and 646 — **MTA** 12537-12555 — which arrived last fall and 15 EZ Riders for Lines 603 and 605 — **MTA** 12556-12570 — which began arriving in February with many now in service.

The propane powered EZ Riders have 26 longitudinal, fiberglass with gray padded insert Freedman brand seats, gray interiors, GFI Gen-Fare drop type fareboxes and Twin Vision electronic head and side signs.

ALL WEST COACHLINES, INC. (AWC)

SACRAMENTO: Last December 9th **COACH USA** subsidiary **AWC** changed its SACRAMENTO-RENO CASINO EXPRESS and now offers three round trips (730AM, 1030AM, 200PM) Monday thru Thursday with the fourth trip (530PM), previously daily, now running on Friday thru Sunday.

In Reno and Sparks, the buses continue to serve Club Cal-Neva and the Nugget Casino, with the Reno Hilton added replacing The Sundowner.

A round trip ticket is only $24.00 with each of the hotels offering different discount bonuses to **AWC** passengers.

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT (RT)

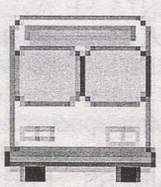
SACRAMENTO: Public meetings were recently held in Elk Grove to receive comments on plans to replace **RT** Line 53 with a new "Neighborhood Ride" small bus line in this southern Sacramento County city.

(Ed. Note – previous plans met with opposition from residents who did not want full size buses on their streets. The City of Elk Grove, who contracts with ***RT*** *for bus service, has recently been threatening to end that agreement and possibly contract with a private firm or start their own municipal system).*

SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FAIRFIELD-SUISUN TRANSIT SYSTEM (STA/FSTS)

FAIRFIELD: On March 3rd **STA** expanded **FSTS** Route 30-FAIRFIELD-DIXON-DAVIS extending the line to and from downtown Sacramento operating in downtown via Capitol, 5th, J St, 9th, P St and 5th to Capitol..

Five weekday round trips are offered — two morning, one midday and two afternoon using two buses. Distance based fares are charged. The fare between Fairfield and Sacramento is $3.75 cash ($1.85 senior/disabled) with a $79 monthly pass.



(Continued on page 7)

TULARE COUNTY TRANSIT
Visalia, California

FLEET NOS.	BUILDER	MODEL	VIN NOS.	YEAR
AGENCY PROVIDED				
7100	Ford/Collins	Econ/Diplomat	PHA71986	1993
7101	Ford/Collins	Econ/Diplomat	PHA71987	1993
7102	Ford/Collins	Econ/Diplomat	PHB50055	1993
7103	Ford/Collins	Econ/Diplomat	PHB50053	1993
7104	Ford/Collins	Econ/Diplomat	SHB84319	1995
7105	Ford/Collins	Econ/Diplomat	SHB84318	1995
7106	Ford/El Dorado	Econ/Aerotech	YHB83249	2000
7107	Ford/El Dorado	Econ/Aerotech	YHB83250	2000
7108	Ford/El Dorado	Econ/Aerotech	YHB83251	2000
CONTRACTOR (OBS) PROVIDED				
194	TMC	MC-9	DR004078	11/83
208	MCI	MC-9	——	——

TCT has eight fixed routes and three Dial-A-Ride areas operated by ORANGE BELT STAGES/ TRANSWEST SPECIALTIES under contract to the County Department of Public Works with accessible buses and cutaways.

(Continued from page 6)

GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT (GGT)

SAN RAFAEL: Discontinuation of the entire Ferry Shuttle network and five other lines (*WT 9/02, 10/02),* took place on March 9. FS buses were 3-TAMALPAIS VALLEY, 13-EAST CORTE MADERA, 15-CORTE MADERA-LARKSPUR, 29-SAN RAFAEL, 31-SAN RAFAEL-PEACOCK GAP, 41-LUCAS VALLEY-MARINWOOD, 67-S.F. CIVIC CENTER and 69-S.F. FINANCIAL DISTRICT.

There are alternatives for some of these. 1-MARIN CITY-STRAWBERRY now stops inside the Larkspur Ferry Terminal while selected trips on 10-TIBURON-SAN FRANCISCO extend into Tam Valley. Selected trips on 60-NOVATO-S.F. and 70-SANTA ROSA-S.F. now stop at Manzanita Park & Ride and also serve the Financial District.

Also dropped — 30-SAN RAFAEL-SAN FRANCISCO, 65-POINT REYES-SAN RAFAEL, 71-SANTA ROSA-SAN RAFAEL, 78-SEBASTOPOL-S.F. FINANCIAL and 90-SONOMA-SAN FRANCISCO.

SONOMA COUNTY TRANSIT started a NEW Line 50-SEBASTOPOL-ROHNERT PARK offering 3 morning southbound and 3 evening northbound trips meeting **GGT** Line 72-SANTA ROSA-ROHNERT PARK-S.F. FINANCIAL at Rohnert Park Expressway Park & Ride.

Also NEW is **SCT** Line 38-SONOMA VALLEY-SAN RAFAEL which leaves Aqua Caliente and Arnold at 605AM, serves Sonoma Plaza and all former **GGT** 90 stops between Sonoma and Schellville, then operates non stop to San Rafael arriving 707AM and **GGT** Line 26 connections. The process is reversed at night.

Also starting March 9th, **GGT's** San Francisco bus storage facility was relocated to Eighth & Harrison. As a result, all **GGT** Commute and Basic Bus service South of Market was affected. Southbound buses were extended to 8th & Folsom and all Northbound buses now begin at Folsom & 8th. New bus stops along Howard and Folsom have been requested from the City and County of San Francisco.

Northbound Financial District buses will now operate on North Point Street and southbound buses will operate on Beach Street during all times of the day.

ACTON-AQUA DULCE-GORMAN SHUTTLE (AAGS)

SANTA CLARITA: Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and **SANTA CLARITA TRANSIT, AAGS** is a fare-free, designated day system serving Acton, Aqua Dulce and Santa Clarita and Gorman, Frazier Park and Santa Clarita.

ACTON-SANTA CLARITA operates one morning and one afternoon round trip on Mondays and Wednesdays while GORMAN-FRAZIER PARK-SANTA CLARITA runs the same level of service, but on Friday only.

AAGS is operated by the SANTA CLARITA VALLEY COMMITTEE ON AGING CORP. under contract to the County. The service will be free of charge during its one year demonstration period. If **AAGS** is made permanent, a fare will be charged.

EQUIPMENT REPORT

(All properties are located in California unless otherwise noted)

PROPERTY	FLEET #'S	BUILDER	MODEL/VIN #'S	DATE	NOTES
-NEW-					
LADOT (First Transit)	98034-98036	ElDo Natl	MST Falcon/XCA85062, 065, 064	1998	1
LACMTA (C-USA)	9950-9969	Thomas	TL-960/11101891-910 (mixed)	2001	
LACMTA (TCI)	12537-12555	Ford/ElDo	Econ/Aerotech/—	2002	
	12556-12570	ElDo Natl	EZ Rider/3C084085-099	2003	
San Diego Transit Corp	1801-1822	New Flyer	C40LF/—	2001	
	1823-1873	New Flyer	C40LF/1U023348-398	2001	
-USED-					
Frontier Tours (NV)	13703	MCI	102A3/GP040924	08/86	2
Inland Empire Connection	9701-9703	New Flyer	C40LF/VU017635-637	1997	3
Visalia City Coach	1985	SVMC	3000T/MC003956	06/91	4
-DISPOSITIONS-					
Golden State Transp Co	60108	MCI	102DL3/—		5
All West Coachlines	68211	MCI	102C3/NP044183	09/91	6
	68220	TMC	102C3/KR007465	12/89	6
	68221	TMC	102A3/KR006969	02/89	6
	68222-68223	TMC	102A3/KR007013, 043	03/89	6
	68224-68225	MCI	102C3/LP043568-569	09/90	6
	68226	MCI	102C3/LP043464	05/90	6
LACMTA	1133,1134,1153	Neoplan	AN440A/3/HL013353, 354, 373	1987	7

-NOTES-

1. Additional information.
2. Ex Antelope Valley Bus, Inc. 61209.
3. Ex Riverside Transit Agency, same numbers.
4. Ex Whittier Transit System, same numbers.
5. For sale at Transit Sales International in Riverside.
6. To CUSA in Las Vegas, NV for sale – 68211, 222, 223, 224 now at ABC Bus Sales in Garden Grove.
7. Sold at Ken Porter Auction Company in Torrance.

Some former GOLDEN STATE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY buses have been transferred to CRUCERO USA, repainted and renumbered and seen daily in Los Angeles-San Ysidro service. Some of the rest are still in GSTC colors and parked at the Los Angeles GREYHOUND LINES, INC. garage while others are now available for sale through Transit Sales International.

The METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD, on behalf of its member agencies, will soon award a $112 million pact to NABI for purchase of 111 35 and 40 foot CNG buses with options for up to an additional 186 buses *(Ed. Note – likely signaling the end of diesel powered buses in southern San Diego County in about five years or so).*



Long Beach Transit 2307, a 2003 New Flyer D60LF at the factory just before delivery.



Coach USA 6282 at Bonanza Bus Lines in Rhode Island. Ex Coach USA-Salt Lake City Coaches.

Donald Champlin photo.