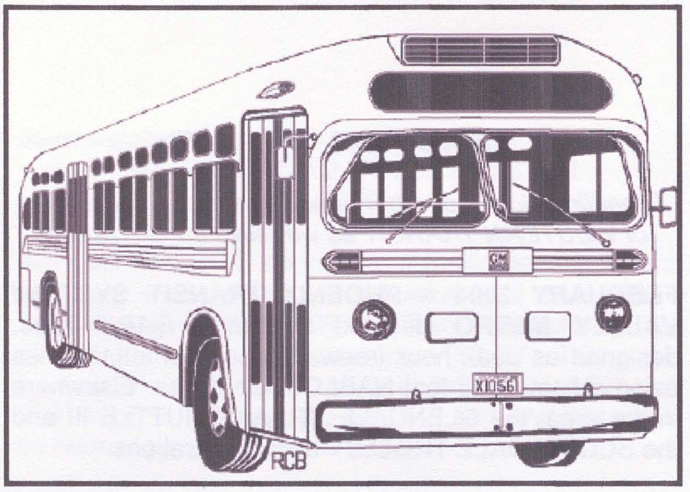


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VOL. 47, NO. 2 **February 2009**

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (RTA)/ SUN TRAN (ST)

TUCSON, AZ: The Pima County **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY** was created in 2004 to develop a 20-year regional transportation plan to merge several entities into a single agency to deal with all facets of transportation.

RTA serves the cities of Tucson and South Tucson, Pima County, the towns of Marana, Sahuarita and Oro Valley, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohon O'odam Nation. Each of these appoints one **RTA** Board member as does the Arizona Department of Transportation.

A transportation plan, approved by voters in 2006, is funded by a countywide half-cent excise (sales) tax.

Last month, the **RTA** Board approved a plan for a seamless transit system and the funding needed to implement the improvements.

Components of the regional system include—branding with a commonly linked name for all transit services beginning with the word "Sun" to tie it to the name most associated with the largest transit system currently in operation, **SUN TRAN.**

The new names include **SUN EXPRESS** for all express buses serving outlying areas, **SUN VAN** for **VAN TRAN, SUN CONNECT** for **PIMA COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT** routes serving Ajo, Marana, San Xavier, Tucson Estates and Green Valley/Sahuarita and future neighborhood circulators in Marana and Oro Valley.

SUN RIDE SHARE is the new name for RIDE SHARE, a vanpool and carpool program that is managed under Pima Association of Governments, which also manages the **RTA.**



The first obvious change will be the colors on the 47 new BRT style Gilligs and 42 new **SUN VAN** paratransit vehicles going into service in mid month. The colors are a mix of metallic silver, blue, yellow and white.

The Transit Elements of the RTA Project List include weekday evening bus service expansion, weekend bus service expansion, bus frequency and area expansion, neighborhood circulators, express bus expansion, park and ride transit centers and Downtown-University high capacity transit (streetcar).

Several of these programs have already started, in particular, the night and weekend service expansion and the express bus program.

Three new **SUN TRAN** express lines began operation on February 16th including 107X-ORO VALLEY-DOWNTOWN TUCSON, two directional 110X-RITA RANCH-DOWNTOWN TUCSON and 203X-ORO VALLEY-AERO PARK.

Several new park and ride lots have been established for these lines which will be serviced by the new buses with amenities including high back cushioned seats, arm and footrests and heat rejection window glass.

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC)

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

DECISIONS

PROCORO LOPEZ dba EL RAPIDO granted authority (PSC 21512) to operate as an on-call, door-to-door passenger stage corporation between San Ysidro and Riverside serving the intermediate points of Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, Oceanside, Bonsall, Fallbrook, Rainbow and Temecula and to establish a ZORF.

THE BOUNCE SD, INC. has been authorized to operate scheduled service over seven routes between points in the cities of San Diego, Chula Vista and Del Mar, to serve as an anti-drunk driving, individual fare for hire PSC and to establish a Zone Of Rate Freedom.

Payma Management System, LLC dba ACCESS SHUTTLE was granted authority to extend its PSC to include service to Los Angeles and additional points in San Diego County and to establish a ZORF.

THE WINE LINE, LLC. has been granted a "hop on, hop off" PSC—24606 to transport passengers visiting any of the 21 wineries on State Highway 46 in San Luis Obispo County, beginning in Paso Robles or Atascadero, serving other cities for pick ups on-call, making ten stops and to establish a ZORF.

Marco and Sara Villagomez dba AMADEUS LIMOUSINE AND SHUTTLE have been authorized to transfer their passenger stage certificate to *AMADEUS LIMOUSINE & SHUTTLE, INC,* a California Corporation.

HOW TO CONTACT US
Edmund Buckley ebuckley@western-transit.com
Craig Barnes cabarnes@western-transit.com

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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)

FEBRUARY 2004 – PHOENIX TRANSIT SYSTEM/ VALLEY METRO debuted their first *RAPID* lines, designed as peak hour freeway based commuter lines using a fleet of 45-foot NABI Compo buses. Elsewhere in the area, the GLENDALE URBAN SHUTTLE III and the SCOTTSDALE TROLLEY began operations.

FEBRUARY 1999 – AIRPORT BUS, in addition to its four Airport bus routes, was operating several others including DOWNTOWN LA SHUTTLE, ANAHEIM-BUENA PARK SHUTTLE, DISNEYLAND-NEWPORT BEACH, ENTERTAINMENT EXPRESS and three Disneyland shuttles — HARBOR-NORTH, HARBOR-SOUTH and R-RAMADA.

FEBRUARY 1994 – Five new **MTA** small bus lines, 545 and 621-624, developed by the Corporate Transit Partnership and operated as BDOF lines with a fleet of 17 Econoline/Aerotechs (9850-9866) began operations.

FEBRUARY 1989 – LOUNGE CAR TOURS began operating what turned to be the short lived BUENA PARK-ANAHEIM-ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT route after lawsuits were filed by **GROUND SYSTEMS, INC.** challenging **LCT's** operating authority.

FEBRUARY 1984 – Following the loss of suburban area service contracts to the new **CCCTA** and to DAVE operating **TRI DELTA TRANSIT** and expecting to loss the **BART** Express Bus contract, **AC TRANSIT** was deciding how best to organize and utilize resources to operate economically in outlying communities.

WT STAFF FOR THIS MONTH

EDITOR:	Edmund Buckley
ASSOCIATE EDITOR:	Craig Barnes
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT:	Jim Moore
SENIOR STAFF:	Allen Copeland Alan Fong Andrew Novak
REPORTERS & SOURCES:	Bob Burrowes Dana Gabbard Russ Jones Warren F. Quon

(Continued from page 1)

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM (MTS)

SAN DIEGO: **MTS** conducted a public hearing in mid-month on a recommended restructuring of *SORRENTO VALLEY COASTER CONNECTION.* Two plans were offered, the first, all nine bus routes (89, 971-978) would be discontinued and, the second, Routes 971, 972 and 978 would be retained and rerouted, 973 and 974 would be restructured with 89 and 975-977 discontinued.

MTS has provided connecting service to employment centers in Sorrento Valley and University Towne Center for **NCTD** *COASTER* trains since 1997.

FY 07/08 was the last year **MTS** received funding from the Air Pollution Control District for the program and **MTS, NCTD** and SANDAG agreed to seek replacement funding. Plans called for SVCC to be funded using fare revenue, $300,000 in MTS' Transit Development Act funding, $130,000 in *COASTER* fare share revenue and any additional funding that could be found. A $1 per ride charge was implemented last September *(WT 9/08).*

Following implementation of the SVCC fare and an increase in *COASTER* fares, ridership on these routes dropped by one-third (average of 554 per weekday) and the cost per passenger increased to $6.16.

Efforts to secure additional funds were unsuccessful and the **MTS** Board voted to implement the second alternative, subject to execution of a cost sharing agreement with **NCTD** and to discontinue operations on or after April 1, 2009 without such an agreement.

MTS has executed another option with New Flyer, this for 38 C40LF buses (**MTS**-South Bay 2838-2873 and **CHULA VISTA** 7301-7302). These buses are expected to arrive at the end of 2009/beginning of 2010. The new **CV** units will replace the 1995 Gillig diesels 032-033.

*(Ed. Note - the 37 buses ordered in October (WT 11/08) will be numbered 2801-2837. The 2800s are intended to replace **MTS** 2001-2051, 2101-2117 and 2151-2155 whose CNG tanks expire in 2010. **CV** 7201-7205 are to replace their 1991 Gillig 1208 and the last Orion I, 026).*

January 25th saw a number of changes, several related to the planned March opening of the Rancho Bernardo Transit Station and Del Lago Transit Station on I-15.

20/20B-RANCHO BERNARDO was shortened and ends at Duenda Rd and West Bernardo where a temporary free shuttle is timed to connect to and from North County Fair. When the transit stations open, the shuttle will be discontinued and 20/20B extended north to Del Lago and a connection with **NCTD** Line 350.

Several morning northbound and afternoon southbound trips have been added between City College Station and North County Fair. These trips run non stop between the two points and operated by buses that would otherwise be off-routing between two revenue trips.

The limited stop zone of 10-UNIVERSITY LIMITED was extended west from Park Blvd. to 5th Avenue with selected stops discontinued to speed travel times.

MTS is holding a series of open houses at transit centers to advise their passengers how the state budget crisis impacts **MTS** service and to provide input on **MTS** proposals to further reduce service including possible discontinuation of 18-MISSION VALLEY, 84-POINT LOMA, 86-UNIVERSITY CITY, 834-SANTEE and 844-POWAY LOCAL.

NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT (NCTD)

OCEANSIDE: January 25 saw a large service reduction on the *BREEZE* bus system as eleven lines were discontinued and others altered.

A combination of significantly reduced transit assistance from the State of California and reduced sales tax revenues forced **NCTD** to reduce service levels to live within their budget limits.

The following lines were discontinued — 311/312-WEST OCEANSIDE, 324-CARLSBAD VILLAGE - COSTA SERENA, 338/339-VISTA-QUARRY CREEK VIA HACIENDA, 341/442-PALOMAR COLLEGE-CAL STATE, 348-SOUTHWEST ESCONDIDO, 349-SOUTHEAST ESCONDIDO, 365-ENCINITAS-THE FORUM and 397-OCEANSIDE-FALLBROOK VIA CAMP PENDLETON.

There were two expansions - 347-SAN MARCOS LOCAL now serves the San Marcos *SPRINTER* station and the Barham Drive/Woodland Parkway/West Valley Parkway areas on weekdays only.

Former 388-ESCONDIDO-VALLEY CENTER-PALA was expanded into a two directional loop - 388 travels hourly from Escondido counter clockwise along CA Highway 76 via Valley Center to Pala while 389 travels hourly from Escondido clockwise along I-15 to Pala.

This one year demonstration service is funded by a Section 5311 (c) Tribal Transit grant received by the Reservation Transportation Authority. The objective of the program is to increase accessibility of tribal nations to the transit network. RTA applied for funding based on an analysis of service gaps conducted by SANDAG, in cooperation with **NCTD** and **MTS.**

LUX BUS AMERICA (LBA)

ORANGE: **LBA** recently moved its Anaheim terminal to the Travel Center of the Garden Walk in Anaheim (a new outdoor shopping and restaurant development) replacing the Anaheim Plaza Hotel.

While continuing to serve the Golden Nugget Las Vegas on Fremont Street downtown, they relocated their two Las Vegas Strip stops to The Flamingo at 3555 Las Vegas Boulevard South and Harrah's Hotel and Casino at 3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South.

LBA continues to operate one daily round trip between Anaheim and Las Vegas, one daily round trip between Anaheim and San Diego and two daily round trips between Anaheim and Los Angeles.

LBA now offers its customers the ability to make on-line reservations directly with **KARMEL SHUTTLE & TRANSPORTATION** for trips between Anaheim and LAX Airport, Cruise Ship terminal in San Pedro and Catalina Terminal in Long Beach. *(Ed. Note - **KS** is primarily an airport shuttle van company).*

VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (VVTA)

HESPERIA: The recently added half hour service on Saturday *(WT 9/08)* was discontinued with the service hours shifted on February 2nd to weekday mornings adding trips at 730AM, 830AM and 930AM to 45-VICTORVILLE-HESPERIA.

23-LUCERNE VALLEY was recently rerouted in Apple Valley in both directions to travel along Outer Highway 18, Central, Bear Valley to Highway 18 to serve several area mobile home parks.

The **VVTA** Board approved the second of two one-year contract extensions with *VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION. VT* will now provide all operations and maintenance through March 31, 2010 *(Ed. Note - this is the second **VVTA**/VT contract, the first having begun in 1998 when the firm was FORSYTHE & ASSOCIATES who was purchased by ATC/VANCOM, then purchased by VT).*

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT (RTD)

*STOCKTON: (Ed. Note - related to continuing reductions in state transit funding, **RTD** has recently implemented a series of service reductions).*

On both Christmas and New Years Day, **RTD** did not operate any fixed route bus service, but instead offered limited DIAL-A-RIDE service on a first-come, first served basis at a premium fare of $5.00 per trip. Reservations were required five days in advance and limited to one round trip per passenger per holiday.

January 25th brought discontinuation of Interregional Commute 157-STOCKTON-DUBLIN/PLEASANTON (HACIENDA BUSINESS PARK) and 162-STOCKTON-LOCKHEED 1 (SUNNYVALE). Each of these lines had offered one commute hour round trip.

As replacement for the 157, 160-STOCKTON-BART 1–DUBLIN/PLEASANTON was extended beyond the BART Station into Pleasanton at Safeway and Dublin at Western Regional Office.

In addition, passengers can now ride Routes 151 and 167 buses through Livermore to the Pleasanton Wal-Mart Shopping Center.

Route 172 stops were adjusted to pick up passengers in Tracy for Sunnyvale. Priority seating assignments on 172 were subject to a lottery draw last month and **RTD** coordinated the drawing procedure with Lockheed Martin for a smooth transition.

Stockton Metro and County Wide Fixed Routes (90 series Hoppers) were reduced also. The discontinued Route 9 was partially replaced by an extended 8 serving Lincoln/Weber, Filbert/Myrtle and Eastland Plaza. Routes 62 and 74 were combined into new 62 offering direct service between Feather River/March, Wal-Mart (Holman Road) and Morada/Diamond Bar but with a loss of weekend hours. Route 60 was also discontinued.

The weekend service span on several other routes was also shortened with buses beginning later in the morning and ending earlier in the afternoon - 54, 55, 61, 63, 65, 66, 71, 73, 76, 77, 80, 83 and 610.

Evening service on 23-STOCKTON-LODI was replaced by a combination of METRO EXPRESS 40 from downtown Stockton and new 93 service between Pacific/Youkts and Lodi. 24-LODI-STOCKTON was reduced to two round trips during weekday peak hours.

Former 26-TRACY-STOCKTON-MANTECA was split into 26-STOCKTON-LATHROP-TRACY also serving the County Hospital and 27-STOCKTON-MANTECA.

HOPPER 94 continues to operate weekdays between Stockton and Linden (four peak hour round trips), no longer serving Morada, Cherryland and Holman Road. HOPPER 95 now operates four peak hour weekday round trips between Manteca and Escalon only.

SJRTD
San Joaquin Regional Transit District

SOUTH COUNTY TRANSIT/LINK (SCT)

GALT: On December 1st **SCT** replaced the four local city routes in Galt and nearby areas with a new DIAL-A-RIDE system. The LODI-DELTA and HIGHWAY 99-GALT-SACRAMENTO fixed routes continue to operate.

DIAL-A-RIDE operates between 700AM and 600PM on weekdays and between 830AM and 400PM Saturdays.

This service substitution brought dramatically increased fares - regular riders who used to pay $1.00 now pay $2.50, students 75 cents to $1.75 and senior/disabled 50 cents to $1.75.

Last October, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of **SCT,** awarded *STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS OF MODESTO* a new 43-month, $5 million contract to operate the new system, replacing *COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION AGENCY, INC.* a nonprofit agency that had operated the system since 1980. *STORER, CTAI, FIRST TRANSIT* and *MV TRANSPORTATION* all submitted proposals.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET AND PUBLIC TRANSIT

SACRAMENTO: The State of California has had severe budget issues for the last several years and has attempted to solve their problems in a variety of ways, including diverting approximately $3 billion from transit funds, primarily the State Transit Assistance Program, and placing that money into the General Fund.

Most transit agencies in the state rely heavily on STAF dollars and have been hard pressed to replace them.

In 2006, California voters approved the sale of $3.6 billion in bonds to support the funding of the Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA). Recently, the State Legislative Analyst Office recommended that the state refrain from selling the bonds and also eliminate the State Transit Assistance Account, based upon their conclusion that transit investments do not contribute to the economy of the state. The State Budget signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger earlier in the month eliminates STAF and prohibits reconsideration of transit funding in California until after FY 2012/13.

Elimination of the STAF and PTMISEA programs will result in the loss of $11 billion in statewide transit investment over the four years including $46.4 million to **SANTA CRUZ METRO** and $40 million to **ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.**

For **SANTA CRUZ**, this means eliminating construction of their new Operations Building Project, loss of funding for replacement *PARACRUZ* vans and regular transit buses, loss of funding for a smart card program and reductions in service (estimated at 38%) to reflect the available fleet - 83 fixed route buses reduced to 52.

OCTA is estimating a 30% reduction in service (500,000 annual service hours of the current budgeted 1.9 million). Reductions were implemented in December 2008 *(WT 12/08)* with more to come in March and June 2009 and likely several more Shake Ups. *(Ed. Note - while layoffs have yet to occur, with these kinds of reductions, they have to be expected).*

The California Transit Association is considering polling and focus group activities to determine the feasibility of developing a transit funding protection initiative to be submitted to California voters.

ELK GROVE TRANSIT (EGT)

ELK GROVE: Higher fares and a new contract operator are in **EGT's** future.

The city will soon (8/31/09) terminate a multimillion dollar, multi year fixed route and paratransit operations contract with *MV TRANSPORTATION, INC.* and issue a new RFP.

Last summer, City Council members claimed the 4 1/2 year, $19 million agreement had been loosely managed when the city found it had a $1.8 million budget overrun. In part, the problem was caused by contract language that did not keep up with the system's growth. Changes already made plus those still needed were deemed too extensive to renegotiate the existing contract.

Increases in fares for both fixed routes and paratransit are expected soon. Under the staff proposals, regular rider fixed route fares would rise from $1.50 to $2.25 and students/seniors/disabled would increase from 75 cents to $1.10. Transfers would double to 50 cents and fixed route monthly passes would rise from $60 to $100.

Paratransit fares would also rise - $100 monthly passes would be replaced with 10-ride passes for $35 or 10-ride passes for $75. *E-VAN* passes, now valid on city routes for a free ride, would be replaced by $40 ones.

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COUNTY CONNECTION)

CONCORD: March 23rd will usher in a completely revised (and smaller) transit system with a weekday network and a separate weekend network. This is **CC's** response to the reduction of sales tax revenues and the elimination of the State Transit Assistance fund.

The weekday network will include 24 local lines, seven

express and four school trip lines. On weekends, the system will include ten local lines.

The weekday system will include 1-ROSSMOOR, 2-BART/WALNUT CREEK-TROTTER WAY, 4-BART/ WALNUT CREEK-BROADWAY PLAZA, 5-SOUTH BROADWAY-CREEKSIDE DR, 6-BART/LAFAYETTE-ST. MARY'S-MORAGA, 6L-BART/ORINDA-ORINDA VILLAGE, 7-TREAT BLVD, 8-MONUMENT BLVD FLEX ROUTE, 9-DVC-NORTH MAIN, 10-CLAYTON ROAD, 11-TREAT BLVD-OAK GROVE RD, 14-MONUMENT BLVD, 15-CONCORD-TREAT BLVD-WALNUT CREEK, 16-AMTRAK-ALHAMBRA AVE-MONUMENT BLVD, 17-BART/CONCORD-SOLANO WAY-OLIVER, 18-AMTRAK-DVC-GREGORY LANE 19-PACHECO BLVD, 20-WILLOW PASS RD-SUN VALLEY, 21-WALNUT CREEK-SAN RAMON, 25-BART/LAFAYETTE-MT. DIABLO BLVD, 28-AMTRAK-VETERAN'S CLINIC-BART/NORTH CONCORD, 35-SAN RAMON-BOLLINGER CANYON RD, 36-SAN RAMON-DUBLIN and 250-GAEL RAIL SHUTTLE-BART/LAFAYETTE-ST. MARY'S.

The Express network will include 91X-BART/ CONCORD-GALAXY OFFICE PARK-CHEVRON, 92X-ACE EXPRESS-PLEASANTON-SAN RAMON, 93X KIRKER PASS EXPRESS, 95X-SAN RAMON-WALNUT CREEK EXPRESS, 96X-BISHOP RANCH NORTH, 97X -BISHOP RANCH SOUTH and 98X-MARTINEZ-WALNUT CREEK EXPRESS.

Weekend buses will include weekday Lines 4, 6 and 250 plus 301-BART/WALNUT CREEK-TRINITY BLVD, 311-BART/CONCORD-WALNUT CREEK, 314-DVC-CLAYTON ROAD, 315-WILLOW PASS-TREAT BLVD, 316-AMTRAK-DVC-BART/PLEASANT HILL, 320-DVC-CLAYTON-BART/CONCORD and 321-SAN RAMON-WALNUT CREEK.

As another cost cutting measure, on January 30th the **CCCTA** Transportation Center at BART/Walnut Creek was closed. Opened in 1997, the center served as a one stop facility for transit patrons to buy passes, obtain transit ID cards, retrieve lost and found items and get assistance with trip planning.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WASHOE COUNTY/RTC RIDE

RENO, NV: Following the rejection of a ballot measure in November to increase the county sales tax by one-eighth of a cent to fund bus service and other transit projects *(WT 11/08),* **RTC** officials have developed plans to reduce service.

These include elimination of the downtown *SIERRA SPIRIT* shuttle, reduction in the number of Reno-Carson City trips on ***RTC INTERCITY*** and widening headways throughout the local lines of the ***RTC RIDE.*** Substantial fare increases for the ***RTC ACCESS*** paratransit van system are also under consideration.

The route of the *SIERRA SPIRIT* was shortened with service on the south end now to end about 2nd Street and buses reduced from 3 to 2 by lengthening headways.

RTC INTERCITY was reduced to five round trips on weekdays. Buses now depart from 4th and Center at 547AM, 647AM, 305PM, 405PM and 527PM with return trips departing Carson City (at the Nevada Department of Transportation) approximately 1 hour, 5 minutes later.

The NDOT Building is in downtown Carson City and *RI* buses used to operate to the south end of town to and from the Wal Mart.

Following nearly ten months of negotiations, members of Teamsters Union Local 533 and Transit Management of Washoe, a *FIRST TRANSIT* subsidiary, announced agreement on a new three-year contract. Teamsters represent bus operators and dispatchers.

Union members approved the pact 115 to 15 ending a process that included threats of a strike. The contract includes a 3 percent increase retroactive to last June and a 2.5 percent raise in each of the next two years.

RTC RIDE bus operators presently earn between $14.03 and $18.59 per hour.

Long standing work rules for absenteeism, safety and employee conduct remain in place, union officials said. Management's proposed removal of these from the contract was a major sticking point in negotiations *(WT 7/08)* and led the union to file a complaint of unfair labor practices. The complaint was dropped in September when it appeared that it would be rejected.

TMW officials said the rules are intact but are not part of the contract. The company must now notify the union ten days in advance of any proposed changes or creation of new ones.

RTC conducted open houses in late January to receive public comment on reductions in service and increases in fares for ***RTC ACCESS*** passengers.

Among the proposals is increasing the one-way fare to $4 within the ADA Zone and to $8 per ride in the non-ADA zone. Another proposal would be to provide service only within the ADA zone and increase the fare to $2 per ticket, the same as the ***RTC RIDE*** fare.

Also under consideration are reductions to the *WASHOE SENIOR RIDE* program, either reducing the number of discounted taxi fare ticket books available or to drop the program completely.

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Santa Cruz, CA

FLEET #	BUILDER	MODEL	SERIAL #	YEAR	NOTES
10	Chance	AH-28	2W535135	2002	
8100-8103	New Flyer	D40	KU013468-471	1989	
8105-8107	New Flyer	D40	KU013473-475	1989	
9801-9818	New Flyer	D35LF	WU018344-361	1998	
9819-9830	New Flyer	D40LF	WU018362-373	1998	
9831-9832	Gillig	40TB966V92	E1080814,787	1984	Ex SamTrans 880, 853
9833-9834	Gillig	40TB966V92	E1080790,792	1984	Ex SamTrans 856, 858
9835-9836	Gillig	40TB966V92	E1080800,803	1984	Ex SamTrans 866, 869
9837-9838	Gillig	40TB966V92	E1080805,807	1984	Ex SamTrans 871, 873
9839-9840	Gillig	40TB966V92	E1080811,812	1984	Ex SamTrans 877, 878
2201-2208	New Flyer	C40LF	2U024047-054	2002	
2210-2224	New Flyer	D35LF	2U024705-719	2003	Converted to CNG
2225-2238	New Flyer	D40LF	2U024640-653	2003	Converted to CNG
2301	Orion	05.501	36502006	2003	
2302-2311	Orion	05.501	36502141-150	2003	
2405-2406	Ford/Goshen	GC II	3HB85231, 227	2003	
2601-2602	New Flyer	C40LF	6C030758-759	2006	
2801-2813	New Flyer	C40LF	8C0—	2008	Single door and suburban interiors

NEVADA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (NTA)

LAS VEGAS, NV: At its February 19th meeting, the **NTA** had several transportation matters to consider including the application of *S.W. EXCURSION & EDUCATIONAL TOURS, INC.* for a certificate to provide statewide charter bus service within Nevada and for a six month (February 1, 2009 - July 31, 2009) temporary discontinuation of services provided by *VEGAS PHIL ENTERTAINMENT AND TRANSPORTATION, INC.* under PSC (CPCN) 2102.

As well, several firms filed for tariff rate modifications. They included *LAS VEGAS VIP LIMOUSINES, LLC, BLS LIMOUSINE SERVICE OF LAS VEGAS, INC., LUCKY CAR COMPANY DBA LUCKY LIMOUSINE* and *AMBASSADOR LIMOUSINE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP dba AMBASSADOR LIMOUSINE.*

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT (RTD)

DENVER, CO: The Colorado Division of Labor recently ruled that the Amalgamated Transit Union has the right to bring in an arbitrator to settle a contract with **RTD,** removing the possibility of a second strike in three years

In arbitration, a neutral third party is brought in to listen to both sides and issue a binding decision on both sides. **RTD** has opposed a third party, saying it removes the incentive for labor to negotiate in good faith.

ATU is seeking what it calls a "modest wage increase" while **RTD** is asking for a three-year wage freeze. The agency has already frozen salaries of its non union staff and reduced service levels in response to a sales tax decline of 1.3% this year.

PROTESTS RELATED TO INCREASED FUEL PRICES

TIJUANA, BC, MEXICO: A nationwide protest took place on February 18th (including somewhere between 500 and 1000 buses in Tijuana) over recent diesel fuel price increases and bus driver demands that the federal government either reduce fuel prices or offer a subsidy.

In most of Mexico, bus operators rent their buses from companies and buy their own fuel. The price of fuel now costs 7.36 pesos per liter (about $1.90 per gallon) and the operators cannot break even based on the fares they collect. City governments must approve any fare changes.

In Tijuana, drivers drove their buses slowly over ten miles of the city's main streets between 1000AM and 130PM before the demonstrations ended.



Union leaders said that protests were held in at least 22 of Mexico's 31 states.

EQUIPMENT REPORT

(All properties are located in California unless otherwise noted)

PROPERTY	FLEET #'S	BUILDER	MODEL/SERIAL #'S	DATE	NOTES
-NEW-					
MTS - San Diego Transit	301-350	New Flyer	C40LF/8C032862-911	06-08/08	301 is 06/08, 314 & 320 08/08.
	1001-1026	NABI	BRT-60/8A140575-600	09/08	
SCRRA (Metrolink)	888	Motive Power Ind	MP36PH-3C/0806-01	03/08	
	890	Motive Power Ind	MP36PH-3C/0806-03	07/08	
	893	Motive Power Ind	MP36PH-3C/0806-06	09/08	
-USED-					
SCRRA (Metrolink)	503	GE	32-8WH/46839	00/91	Leased from Amtrak.
MTS-South Bay	2707-2734	New Flyer	C40LF/5C027944-971	00/05	Ex San Diego Transit 414-441.
The Bus	414	MCI	MC-9/CP036968	04/82	Ex Sundance, same number.
(former All City Lines)	4702	MCI	102A3/MP044071	07/91	Ex DART (TX) 8310.
	4259	Gillig	4096TBL10/K1082854	09/89	Ex OCTA, same number.
Tour Coach	T102	TMC	T8J206/JR825632	10/88	Ex LACMTA 2260.
	T103	TMC	T8O206/NR828982	01/93	Ex LACMTA 1393.
	T104	TMC	T8O206/JR825450	09/88	Ex LACMTA 2078.
	T105	TMC	T8O206/JR825432	09/88	Ex LACMTA 2060.
	T106	TMC	T8O206/NR828696	08/92	Ex LACMTA 1255.
	T107	TMC	T8O206/JR825399	08/88	Ex LACMTA 2027.
	T113	Gillig	40TB966V92/J1082500	10/88	Ex AVTA 203.
	T116	TMC	T8O206/JR825467	09/88	Ex LACMTA 2095.
	T118	Gillig	40/96TB/L10/K1082804	08/89	Ex OCTA 4209.
	T119	Gillig	40/96TB/L10/L1082862	04/90	Ex OCTA 4267.
	T121	TMC	T80206/NR828638	06/92	Ex LACMTA 1205.
	T123	GMC	T8H203/A1307	00/80	Ex OCTA 3112.
	T124	TMC	T8O206/NR828679	07/92	Ex LACMTA 1238.
	Unnumbered	Gillig	40TB966V92/J1082504	10/88	Ex AVTA 207.
-DISPOSITIONS-					
Downey Link	001-003	Blue Bird	CSRE/2F210300-302	00/02	For sale on eBay, January 2009.
	004-005	Blue Bird	CSRE/2F210304-305	00/02	For sale on eBay, January 2009.

February Photo



Metrolink 888 at the San Bernardino station on the afternoon of January 31, 2009.
Photo by Eric Gregory.