



Metro News **BULLETIN**



Meeting Mobility Demands

*RTD Deploys More Buses
To Relieve Overcrowding*

In an effort to reduce overcrowding at rush hours, RTD has begun deploying additional buses on heavily traveled service lines. A total of 35 buses are being phased into service, bringing to 235 the number of additional buses RTD has deployed systemwide over the past 20 months to handle increasing ridership since the implementation of the reduced fare program in July 1982.

"The additional buses are being added on the most heavily used routes," said RTD Board President Nick Patsaouras. "And although the added equipment will not eliminate all incidences of overcrowding, it will enable us to provide a better ride for thousands of patrons."

The additional buses serve routes along Vermont and

Western Aves., Sunset, Santa Monica and Beverly Blvds. and other busy thoroughfares.

RTD ridership has soared in the past 23 months with the implementation of the 50-cent base fare program. Ridership in July 1982 averaged 1.1 million daily boardings. Today, RTD's 2,600-bus fleet is logging new all-time ridership records, with average daily ridership approaching 1.6 million daily boardings.

The additional service was made possible when the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) voted March 28 to subsidize additional RTD service hours. LACTC administers the local Proposition A half-cent sales tax program, which subsidizes RTD fares.

State Approves Metro Rail Construction Funding

Full funding for the Metro Rail Project came a step closer to reality recently when the California Transportation Commission obligated \$30 million for construction work on the 18-mile starter line. This funding obligation is part of the local match for the federal dollars appropriated in the current fiscal year.

In a separate action, the CTC approved the appropriation of \$361.2 million in state matching funds through 1991 for Metro Rail. Included in the appropriation is \$72.7 million for Metro Rail construction funds during FY '85.

"The CTC's endorsement reaffirms its position that Metro Rail is a viable project that will greatly improve public transportation in Los Angeles County,"

said RTD Board President Nick Patsaouras.

On the federal level, transit officials are still working out a financial plan to construct Metro Rail. The District anticipates that plan to be revealed by late spring, and expects it to be responsive to a recent RTD Board resolution, calling for a full-funding federal commitment for the entire 18-mile alignment. (See story on page 8.)

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

On March 22, the RTD Board of Directors tentatively approved a site plan for the Wilshire/Crenshaw Metro Rail station, thus paving the way for its design. RTD General Man-

ager John A. Dyer said the plan for the "residential-type" station provides for a station entrance at the southwest corner of Wilshire and Crenshaw Blvds. A future subway station entrance could be placed at the southeast corner.

The station site plan conforms to the Los Angeles City Specific Plan and the Park Mile Plan for land use in the area.

"We think this station site plan addresses the major concerns of the local community," Dyer said. "Once in place, Metro Rail will lead to an overall enhancement of property values and environmental quality in the station area."

Meanwhile, state Sen. Diane E. Watson testified before the RTD Board March 22 to advocate a study for rail

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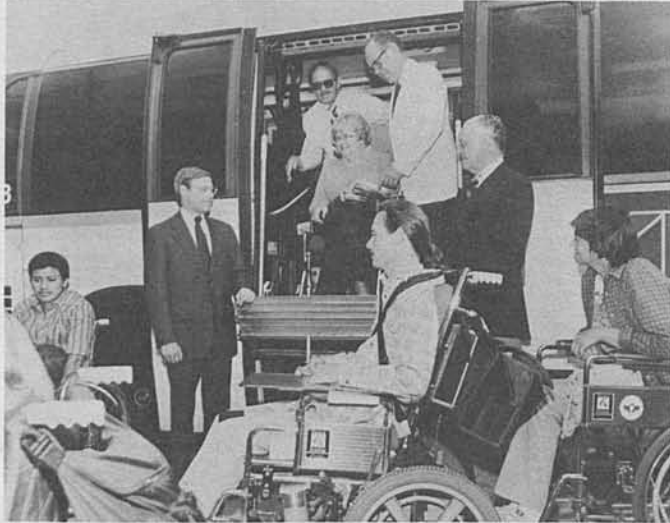
A summary of developments and progress of RTD programs and services.

what's ha

NORTH CENTRAL/EAST L.A. SECTOR

CAROL TAYLOR

Sector Representative (213) 972-6644



UPLIFTING—Members of the Pasadena Board of Directors Subcommittee on Transit have an uplifting experience as they participate in a recent wheelchair lift bus demonstration at Pasadena City College. Joining PCC handicapped students at doorway (l-r) are Directors William E. Thompson, John C. Crowley (on lift) and Jess H. Hughston. In foreground is Charles Havard, Guidance Specialist for PCC Physically Disabled Students.

□ The Pasadena Board of Directors has passed a resolution supporting maximum federal participation in the RTD Metro Rail Project. In its action, the Board cited Metro Rail as the essential start to developing a regional rail transit network for the entire county. The resolution will be sent to transportation officials in Washington, D.C.

□ RTD's first East Los Angeles Customer Service Center recently opened at 4501-B Whittier Blvd. Both Spanish and English-speaking RTD clerks will assist customers from 8 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday and 10 AM to 6 PM Saturdays. Customers will be able to purchase regular monthly and special bus passes and obtain bus route information.

WILSHIRE SECTOR

CHERYL REDMAN

Sector Representative (213) 972-3413

□ RTD recently met with property owners in the vicinity of the Wilshire/Alvarado Metro Rail station location. They were briefed on the design progress and the property acquisition/relocation process and activity schedule. RTD will continue communicating with these and other property owners as the project gears up for construction.

(Best wishes to Sector Representative Cheryl Browne on her recent marriage to Lawrence Redman.)

SOUTH CENTRAL/HARBOR SECTOR

MAGGIE WILKINSON

Sector Representative (213) 972-6099



A WINNING TEAM—Sector Representative Maggie Wilkinson presents Operation Teamwork button and brochure to Inglewood City Manager Paul Eckles after recent City Council meeting. Eckles notes that Inglewood has the "O Team" spirit, referring to local participation in the RTD Operation Teamwork Poster and Essay Contest.

□ RTD will co-sponsor a Public Safety Seminar with the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce and other local groups June 8 from 7:30 to 9:30 AM in the Inglewood Library Conference Room. Neighborhood, transportation and business safety during the Olympic Games will be the theme for this public crime prevention conference.

□ About a dozen junior and senior high schools are participating in RTD's third annual Operation Teamwork Poster and Essay Contest. Contestants are students from East Los Angeles and Inglewood, and they are basing their creative entries on the theme: "Crime Prevention Is Everybody's Business." Contest winners will be recognized at a reception June 2 at the USC Faculty Center. The project is designed to instill community pride and good citizenship among the local student population.

□ Plans are in the works for a Crime Prevention Workshop in the Inglewood area. Agencies, schools and community groups are expected to participate in this exposition. Stay tuned for details.

FAIRFAX SECTOR

JEFF ALPERT

Sector Representative (213) 972-3520

□ Westside residents will be able to avoid Olympic traffic headaches by using an RTD Olympics service park-and-ride facility located in Century City. Plans call for the lot (one of six countywide) to be located in the new parking structure behind

Opening?



For further information, contact the RTD representative listed under the appropriate community sector.

SOUTH BAY/WEST L.A. SECTOR

SANDRA LEARMAN

Sector Representative (213) 972-6654

□ Three South Bay cities are operating intracommunity transit systems, utilizing Proposition A sales tax revenues. Rancho Palos Verdes Transit reported 3,500 boardings for the month of February. Trips are scheduled on a demand/ response or subscription basis. Hermosa Beach Transit is providing a dial-a-ride service to designated shopping centers, hospitals and medical offices. Meanwhile, Carson Circuit is gearing up for a fixed-route system with six routes serving Carson Mall. All of these systems feed into RTD lines that serve the major South Bay arteries.

□ RTD recently canceled one of three special weekday commuter bus lines serving the El Segundo Employment Center from the South Bay as part of RTD's Bus Express Employee Program (BEEP). Due to low ridership, RTD canceled Line 687 (Wilmington-Torrance-Lawndale-El Segundo). Between 15 and 20 weekday passengers will be affected, but alternate transportation is available on other District, Torrance and Gardena Transit Lines along with extensive car and van pools and private bus services.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

□ Continuing its tradition of carrying only the finest designs, Saks is now sporting Metro Rail. That's right! The public is invited to view an exciting display on future rail transit development for the San Fernando Valley and all of Los Angeles County at Saks Fifth Avenue (1st Level) in the Woodland Hills Promenade Mall. The display depicts RTD's and the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission's plans to develop the 150-mile countywide rail transit network, mandated by Valley and other county voters in 1980.



The display includes a continuous presentation of *Starting Under* (the award-winning film on Metro Rail), models of stations and rail cars, a large selection of informative literature, and a montage of color photographs of transit stations, tunnels, operating equipment and construction techniques. The walk-through display can be viewed during normal store hours through the end of May.

the Century Plaza Hotel. More than 1,000 spaces will be available for Olympic goers holding tickets for any of the events to be held in the Exposition Park area, which includes USC, the Coliseum and the Sports Arena. An advance reservation system, scheduled to begin in June, will ensure patrons of round-trip transportation. Watch for announcements and detailed information in your local newspaper and on RTD buses. (See related story on page 5.)

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

WANDA FLAGG

Sector Representative (213) 972-3473



LIFT DEMONSTRATION—RTD Board Member and La Puente Councilman Charles Storing demonstrates wheelchair lift operation on RTS-II bus, as local Bassett High School students observe. Lift provides easy access for RTD's wheelchair patrons.

□ Robin McCarthy of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission spoke at the recent meeting of the RTD Mid-Valley Community Transportation Forum in Baldwin Park. She updated the group on the status of rail transit planning in the county, with special emphasis on the 18-mile Metro Rail line and the 22-mile Long Beach-Los Angeles light rail line. McCarthy also noted that by the turn of the decade, some 40 miles of rail transit are scheduled to serve the Los Angeles metropolitan area, linking the San Fernando Valley, the Wilshire Corridor, downtown Los Angeles, the Willowbrook Corridor and the Long Beach area.

□ Kenneth A. Johnson, Ph.D., an associate professor of urban and regional planning at Cal Poly Pomona, has been selected chairman of the newly formed RTD Pomona Valley Community Transportation Forum. Johnson is a strong advocate of mass transit and encourages local residents and transit buffs to participate in Forum meetings and activities. For details on both the Pomona Valley and Mid-Valley Forums, contact Wanda Flagg at the number listed above.

MID-CITIES SECTOR

□ Beginning June 1, shoppers in Downey will receive free RTD 1984 Olympic Commemorative Tokens, good for a free RTD bus ride when they make a \$10 minimum purchase at selected retail stores in the City of Downey. The City and the Downey Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the program with a portion of the city's public transit improvement tax dollars (Proposition A).

□ The cities of Long Beach, Norwalk, Bellflower and Bell have adopted resolutions, calling for immediate federal participation in the financing of the Metro Rail starter line. Other mid-cities are expected to follow suit to ensure transit development throughout the county.

(Sector Representative Mary Lou Echternach has been promoted to another RTD position. Her replacement will be announced soon.)

(Continued on page 4)

more of . . .

what's happening?

continued from page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

New Board Officers Installed

Nick Patsaouras and **Gordana Swanson** were recently sworn in as President and Vice President respectively of the RTD Board of Directors. Patsaouras is a consulting electrical engineer and an appointee of County Supervisor **Michael D. Antonovich**. Swanson is a Rolling Hills Councilwoman and was elected to the Board by the League of California Cities' City Selection Committee, Corridor "B."



Patsaouras Swanson

Strosnider Heads Metro Rail Construction Management

James A. Strosnider has been named to the newly created position of RTD Director of Construction Management. He is responsible for the organization, staffing and administration of the construction management department overseeing Metro Rail's construction. Before joining RTD, Strosnider served in the same capacity at the New Jersey Transit Corporation in Newark, N.J.



Strosnider

Deck Named Operator of the Year

Gibson Lee Deck of Covina has been named RTD's 1983 Operator of the Year, an honor highlighting his 24 years of service in Los Angeles public transportation. Selected from the District's rank of 5,000 bus drivers, Deck has "performed consistently over the past quarter century and has set a high standard of excellence for all our operators to follow," notes **Sam Black**, RTD Assistant General Manager for Operations.



Deck

HOLLYWOOD SECTOR

WILBUR C. MILLER, JR.

Sector Representative (213) 972-3524

□ As a timely and valuable community service, Mann Theatres will run a 30-second film clip (trailer) on Metro Rail over the next several weeks. The trailer will air at the Chinese Theatre in conjunction with the local premieres of *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (May 23) and *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* (June 1). The informative trailer also will be shown in Mann's extensive theater chain in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Riverside, San Bernardino and western Orange counties. This arrangement—donated at a value of about a quarter-million dollars—is a joint public service effort of the RTD Community Relations Department and Bill Hertz of Mann Theatres. So stop by a theater near you for a glimpse of your future transit system. It's rated "X" for "Xceptional!"

DOWNTOWN SECTOR



METRO VISITORS—Council members joining Community Relations Coordinator **Albert Reyes** at Metro Rail display include (clockwise) **Robert Farrell** (South Central Sector), **Joy Picus** (San Fernando Valley) and **Peggy Stevenson** (Hollywood Sector).

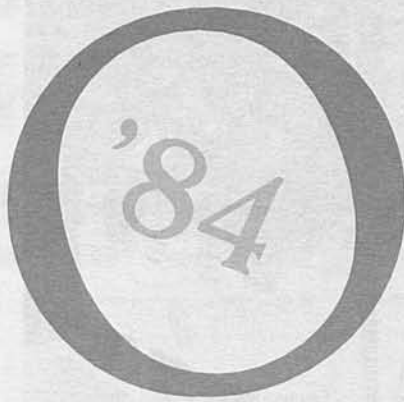
□ All tracks led to City Hall during the week of April 9, when hundreds of officials, city employees and visitors observed a Metro Rail exhibit in the City Hall Rotunda. The display was part of Building and Safety Week and reflected the theme, "Metro Rail Means Growth." Council members **Peggy Stevenson**, **Joy Picus**, **Robert Farrell** and **Marvin Braude** were among officials paying a special visit to the display. The exhibit included train and station models, an assortment of brochures and color renderings of joint development possibilities at particular station sites.

Funding (Continued from page 1)

service in the Southwest Corridor with a connection to the Los Angeles International Airport. Sen. **Watson** also introduced members of the Southwest Transportation Coalition, representing community leaders, business organizations and other elected officials. The coalition supported service to LAX in addition to voicing support for the Metro Rail alignment.

PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITIES

In order to dramatize the extent of public support for Metro Rail, the Greater Los Angeles Transportation Coalition (a private sector group of business and community leaders) has launched a regionwide postcard campaign. The Coalition is encouraging major employers and businesses in the county to ask their employees to sign postcards calling for an immediate federal funding commitment to build Metro Rail. These cards will be delivered to President **Reagan** within the next few weeks, as his administration continues to work out a construction financing plan for Metro Rail.



RTD
reveals

LYMPHIC

service
plan



RTD will provide special direct service to the major sporting events during the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, July 28 to August 12. Some 550 buses will be assigned to the RTD Olympic fleet, the equivalent of the fourth largest public transit district in California. Between 84,000 and 330,000 daily spectators are expected to ride RTD Olympic buses, depending on the number of events scheduled each day.

A major element of RTD's Olympic service includes advance reservations for Olympic goers who will utilize up to six park-and-ride lots in outlying areas of metropolitan Los Angeles. The agency also will operate an extensive shuttle bus program to serve the major sites (venues).

In addition, RTD will operate a network of special shuttle, express and park/ride buses directly to the major competition sites. Service will focus on Exposition Park, where the Coliseum, Sports Arena and McDonald's Swim Stadium are

located, and where the most severe traffic congestion and parking shortages are forecast.

"Although this is a formidable challenge, RTD has a proven track record for transporting large numbers of passengers to special events such as the Super Bowl, when it was held in Pasadena two years ago, and to Hollywood Bowl concerts and the Tournament of Roses," noted RTD Board President Nick Patsouras.

Since no public tax funds will be used to subsidize the Olympic bus service, RTD must charge premium fares on its Olympic buses to recoup the costs of the special services estimated at \$13.3 million. RTD will charge \$2 one-way fares on Olympic shuttle buses; \$4 on express buses (except for service to Long Beach and Anaheim, where \$6 will be charged); and \$6 one-way fares on park/ride routes. A \$10 daily Gold Pass, good for unlimited service on both RTD Olympic and regular routes, will also be available.

Shuttle Service

RTD shuttle buses will provide frequent service to and from competition sites at a distance of less than five miles. RTD will operate seven shuttle routes serving the following Olympic venues:

Shuttle Terminal	Venue(s) Served
Downtown Los Angeles	Exposition Park Dodger Stadium
Eastside (Grand Ave)	Exposition Park
Crenshaw Shop. Ctr.	Exposition Park
Hollywood Park	Loyola-Marymount via LAX
Pasadena	Rose Bowl
Westwood	UCLA

Express Service

Olympic spectators can board RTD express buses at First and Spring Streets in downtown Los Angeles and enjoy nonstop service to these six Olympic venues:

- Rose Bowl
- Long Beach
- UCLA
- The Forum
- Anaheim
- Santa Anita



Park/Ride Service

Olympic fans will be able to park their cars at the following locations and take nonstop buses directly to the following venues:

Park/Ride Terminal	Venue(s) Served
L.A. Valley College	Exposition Park Westwood/UCLA
Century City	Exposition Park
Hollywood Park	Exposition Park Westwood/UCLA Long Beach
Cerritos College	Exposition Park Long Beach Anaheim
Pasadena City College	Exposition Park
Alpine Village	Exposition Park
Van Nuys	Exposition Park



IMPROVING MOBILITY — RTD Board Director John Day demonstrates front-door wheelchair lift on one of RTD's new Neoplan USA buses, as (l-r) Board Vice President Gordana Swanson, Director Marvin Holen, General Manager John Dyer and Director Jan Hall observe.

RTD Continues Efforts to Make Transit More Accessible

For the past several years, RTD has been implementing a long-term program designed to make the transit system totally accessible for all patrons.

In recent months, an RTD task force and the District's Citizen's Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (CACAT) have been working toward refining the District's accessible service program. Together, they have prepared a detailed report which contains a comprehensive set of goals and objectives for the accessible program. This report was recently approved by the RTD Board's Ad Hoc Committee on Accessible Transportation, and was adopted by the full Board on May 10.

Already some measures have been implemented to make riding the bus easier for disabled patrons. The most recent of these is the establishment of a new toll-free emergency phone line for disabled patrons needing assistance to complete travel on District buses.

By simply dialing **(1-800) 621-7828**, the patron gets an immediate response to service-related problems, such as technical difficulties in the

wheelchair lift operation and pass ups. RTD officials are closely monitoring these reports to improve service for the handicapped.

Since the hotline went into effect in March, it has met widespread acceptance and commendation. To further publicize the service, RTD has launched a full-scale marketing program.

Emergency calls receive priority attention between 6 AM and midnight seven days a week. Calls coming in between midnight and 6 AM are recorded and followed-up by RTD personnel. Routine calls about RTD's accessible service program for the disabled should be directed to RTD Customer

Relations. Hearing-impaired bus riders should call **TTY (800) 252-9040**.

In addition, RTD has ordered 415 standard-size Neoplan USA buses, which seat 43 passengers and can accommodate two wheelchair patrons.

"The front-door lifts on these new buses have proven to be very convenient," said one satisfied wheelchair patron. "RTD is to be commended for this vital service improvement."



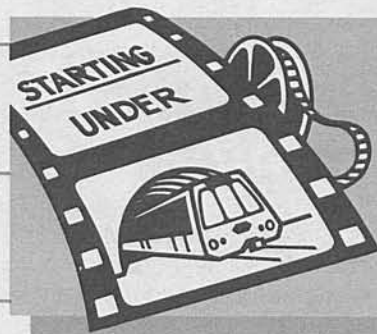
The Perfect Keynote Speakers

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For details, contact:

Mr. Albert Reyes
RTD Speaker's Bureau
Community Relations Department
425 S. Main St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Phone: (213) 972-6622



Starting Under is our award-winning 16mm film on the Metro Rail Project. (For all size audiences.)



Metro Rail is Coming is our popular slide-audio presentation highlighting actual designs and benefits of Metro Rail. (For all size audiences.)



20 Years of Progress is our newest slide-audio presentation highlighting RTD's major accomplishments and the services it has been providing its customers over the past two decades. (For all size audiences.)



The RTD Video Library contains video cassettes on all RTD programs and services. (For small audiences.)



Metro News Bulletin, **Metro Rail News**, and **RTD Transit Reader** are among our popular publications distributed at each RTD public presentation.



Southern California Rapid Transit District

Place that call today!
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RTD Board Resolution Calls for UMTA Funding Commitment to Metro Rail

The RTD Board of Directors passed a resolution March 1 calling for the federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) to make a full-funding commitment to the entire 18.6-mile Metro Rail Project.

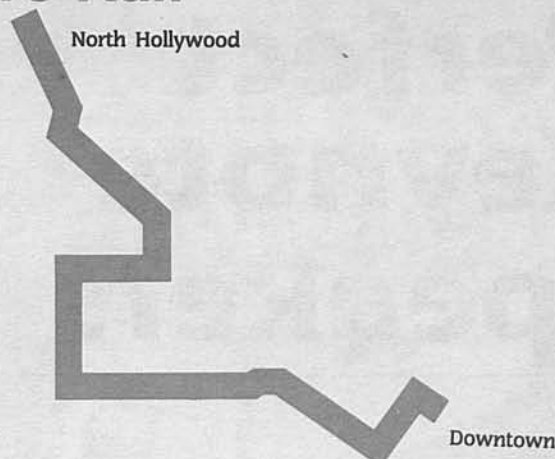
The District is requesting a "Letter of Intent" from UMTA to cover construction of the project through the congressional authorization of funds, which currently ends in 1986, and have a "Letter of No Prejudice" from the federal agency for the balance of the project's construction schedule.

"We have approached the critical decision period for funding of the Metro Rail Project," notes RTD Director Michael Lewis, who initiated the resolution. "We believe that now is the time for Congress to act to increase and extend the authorizations to 1987 which will allow the federal government to increase the monies available for the new start construction projects nationwide from \$800 million to \$1.8 billion.

"Should these actions be taken, insufficient funds would be available to make a significant start on the Metro Rail Project."

The resolution noted that UMTA has acknowledged Metro Rail as the most cost-effective new rail start in the nation and that Los Angeles is the country's second most densely populated urbanized area. It also notes that in 1980 the voters of Los Angeles County approved a half-cent sales tax to build a 150-mile rail transit system to serve the major corridors of the county. Furthermore, Metro Rail has gone through more public scrutiny than any other transit project built in the past decade.

On the issue of equity alone, Metro Rail has proven well justified, the resolution underscores. During the period 1971 to 1981, the federal government allocated \$8 billion among



six urban areas across the country for construction of new rail rapid transit projects. These areas also received more than \$400 million to purchase buses. During the same period, Los Angeles received \$322 million for bus operations and \$12 million to begin engineering work on Metro Rail. Yet the combined size and population of these urban areas are almost equal to that of the Los Angeles urban area.

The Board has sent this resolution to UMTA officials and has encouraged other public agencies, officials, community and professional groups to adopt similar resolutions and forward them to President Reagan, Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole and to UMTA. To date, the cities of Pasadena, Long Beach, Norwalk, Bellflower and Bell have followed suit, and others are forthcoming.



Metro News BULLETIN

METRO NEWS BULLETIN is published by the Southern California Rapid Transit District to inform the greater Los Angeles community of progress and developments of the RTD Metro Rail Project and other District operations.

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