

## Metro Rail on Track

### President Approves Construction Funds

**Y**es, Los Angeles, there is a Santa Claus, and he may well arrive in the future by Metro Rail. That's due to President Reagan signing historic legislation that paves the way to start construction of the Metro Rail subway in 1986.

The President's signature on the "continuing budget resolution," which provides for federal spending through next September, includes federal gasoline tax funds for construction of the initial 4.4-mile Metro Rail subway segment between Union Station and Alvarado community in Los Angeles. The bill requires the federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) to negotiate a full-funding contract with RTD for these funds within 90 days.

The legislation specifically directs  
*(Continued on page 2)*



**Ho! Ho! Ho!**—RTD Director Jack (Santa Claus) Day brings holiday cheer to students at Lillian Street School.

### Bah, 'Humbus'?

## Nothing Like RTD Spirit!

**T**he District played Santa to several hundred children this season. Last month, Community Relations hosted a Christmas party for its "adopted" students at Lillian Street School in Southeast Los Angeles. Arriving by bus, Santa and Mrs. Claus (played by RTD Director Jack Day and Charlene Thee) entered the school yard to the applause and enchanting smiles of the children. Gifts were exchanged against a backdrop of Christmas carols and shouts of "¡Feliz Navidad!"

For the second consecutive year, RTD and the school are participating in the Adopt-a-School Program through which the District provides in-kind services to enhance students' educational experience. The Christmas event is just one of several activities conducted by the District throughout the school year. Others include an annual Halloween celebration, a career day and classroom presentations on RTD services.

Meanwhile . . . T'was the week before Christmas when all through Skid Row, District employees brightened spirits and hearts all aglow.

Under the direction of the Employee Activities Department, the District hosted a party on December 21 for homeless families at the Skid Row Mission in downtown Los Angeles. Along with goodies and groceries, toys and clothes, each recipient walked away happier and surprised that someone cared.



### Additional Buses Help Relieve Overcrowding

To relieve overcrowding on RTD's busiest lines, the District has received authorization from the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission to add 50 buses to active service.

This "supplemental fleet" was among the 160 buses pulled from active service last summer when the Proposition A Fare Reduction Program ended and when ridership was expected to drop sharply. Ridership remains high on several RTD lines, however. In December, the Commission approved \$2.8 million for RTD to return 50 of the buses to serve these high-demand lines.

## RTD Notes



## District Promotes 4 To Oversee Bus, Rail Operations



Four District employees have been promoted to the position of superintendent.

Ralph Wilson, an 18-year employee and former Division Manager, has been promoted to a Superintendent of Bus Operations, responsible for the overall administration of bus operators, including manpower, training, safety and labor relations at divisions located in downtown Los Angeles, Cypress Park, South Central Los Angeles, Venice, Chatsworth and Sun Valley.

Michael Leahy, a 12-year employee and former Manager of Equipment Engineering, has been named Maintenance Superintendent for Planning and Programs, with overall responsibility for development of RTD maintenance department policies, financial and operational programs and budget.

Maintenance Manager Richard Morton has been elevated to the position of Superintendent of Rail Equipment Maintenance, while Principal Planner Ed Vandeventer has become the new Rail Operations Superintendent.

Morton is now managing the equipment maintenance programs of both RTD's Metro Rail subway and light rail service that is scheduled to begin operation in Los Angeles/Long Beach, starting in 1989.

Vandeventer is now reviewing operation plans for both the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission's



**Supervisor Hahn Honored**—Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (c) is presented legislative honors at a recent RTD Board meeting. The California Senate and Assembly recently passed resolutions honoring Supervisor Hahn for his 37 years of public service and for spearheading the drive in 1980 to gain voter approval of Proposition A, the local half-cent sales tax for transit improvements in Los Angeles County. In his honor, the Legislature renamed Proposition A the "Kenneth Hahn Act." RTD directors last July passed a similar resolution calling for the measure's renaming. Presenting a framed copy of the resolution to the supervisor are (l-r) Assemblyman Mike Roos, Board President Nick Patsouras, Director Nate Holden, and General Manager John Dyer.

light rail projects, which RTD will operate, and Metro Rail. He also will oversee training of rail supervisors and operators and manage the daily operations of the two rail systems once they begin revenue service.

## Congress, Reagan Approve Metro Rail Funding

(Continued from page 1)

UMTA to provide the District \$101 million in FY '86 funding, as well as \$129 million, which Congress appropriated for Metro Rail's construction in FY '84 and FY '85. The District already has received \$176 million from UMTA since 1980 for engineering, advanced design and property acquisition.

The District will seek the balance of the federal share, or \$199 million, as additional funds are authorized by Congress to the Mass Transit Fund, which is supported by federal gasoline tax revenues.

"After more than five years of study, Metro Rail will finally become a reality," said RTD Board President Nick Patsouras. "We're ready to advertise our construction contracts, and we hope soon to start relocating utilities around the planned First and Hill streets Metro

Rail station, one of five stations that will be built in the first phase."

Patsouras said that RTD officials will begin as soon as possible negotiating a full-funding contract with UMTA, as mandated by the legislation.

The landmark bill locks into place the only remaining, unresolved funding element for the first phase of the Los Angeles Metro Rail Project. The District already has garnered more than \$500 million in funding commitments from local and state governments and the private sector to round out the \$1.25-billion funding package for Phase 1.

The financial plan includes an unprecedented pledge of \$130.3 million from the private sector, which will be generated through benefit assessment districts encompassing subway sta-

tions in downtown and at Wilshire and Alvarado.

RTD General Manager John A. Dyer said that the District soon will undertake additional environmental studies which will include geological analyses to determine the safest route to link downtown Los Angeles and North Hollywood beyond Phase 1 and the Wilshire and Alvarado station.

Dyer noted that "none of this would be possible without the untiring support of the legislative community, the private sector, local agencies and most of all, the loyal taxpayers of our region who have faith in the project and realize its critical place as the backbone of our regional rail transit system. We thank them and hope they feel as optimistic and gratified as we do that we're on the brink of actual construction."

---

**By Rissa Bernstein**  
*Community Relations Representative*

---

**N**ow, we have all lost our temper once or twice, lost our way around town, and even lost our heads now and then. But honestly, have you ever lost someone else's head?

Believe it or not, here in RTD's very own "twilight zone" (the Lost and Found Department), sit a skull and a bizarre array of articles left behind by passengers hastily exiting buses.

No, the skull was not that of someone waiting in an express checkout line. It was left behind by a science student, who inadvertently left it behind on the bus on his way home from school.

He never claimed it.

The skull, which by the way is being returned to the Los Angeles Unified School District, is one of the more memorable items that the Lost and Found staff have chuckled over as they display them on the shelves, drawers and along the aisles of the Lost and Found center at 5315 Wilshire Blvd.

"We get things in here you wouldn't believe," says Johnnie Amos, ticket clerk at the pass sales outlet that houses the lost articles. "I can't understand how people could get off the bus without them."

Can we talk here? This is serious stuff: wheelchairs, red-tipped canes, even an artificial leg.

"Someone got on the bus with a very large leather suitcase and two huge plastic bags filled with clothes, books and other items," Amos continued. "Now how could he get off the bus not realizing he had left all that behind?"

Lost items are either turned in by passengers or by the operating division from which the bus is deployed. Attempts are made to contact the owner when some type of identification is apparent. Otherwise, the articles sit on display at the center for 30 days, awaiting pickup from the owner. After 30 days, the finder is entitled to take the unclaimed article.

Only 30% of items turned in are ever claimed, Amos notes.



## Lost Anything Lately?

*From dentures to wheelchairs, RTD's Lost & Found Department attempts to match items with owners*



**Lost Possessions**—You name it, and Johnnie Amos (above) can probably find it among bizarre inventory at RTD Lost & Found.

"I think that's because most people believe that no one will turn in lost items, especially if they are things of value," she explains. "But it's nice to know there are still a lot of honest people out there."

On the Lost and Found shelves sit testaments to the honesty of many RTD riders—television sets, radios, stereos, cassette players, purses and wallets, many with cash inside.

"Someone found a paper bag with quite a bit of cash in it—\$2,418 to be exact," Amos relates. "It belonged to an elderly woman who had the full care of a disabled brother who didn't trust putting money in the bank. I can't tell you how happy I was to turn over the paper sack to her. It was one of my better days."

Many other items, however, don't have as happy a fate, and here they sit waiting to be reunited with their owners.

So if after a long day you get off the bus and realize you no longer have your baby stroller, flashlight, deodorant, drapes, girdle, rug, beach chair, Bible, handcuffs—handcuffs?—umbrella or your *What Do You Want to Know About Guppies?* book, just give a call to RTD's Lost and Found Department at (213) 937-8920. It just might be there.

We regret, however, to inform the woman looking for the sister she left behind on the bus that she has not been turned in yet. But if you lost your lower denture, chances are it's the one sitting on the third shelf.

## Added Buses Ease Overcrowding, Improve Service In Mid-Cities

Service on Line 60-61, which is served by the second highest number of RTD buses, has been improved significantly.

Seven buses have been added during midday, off-peak hours on the line, which presently records 34,000 weekday boardings and runs a distance of 23 miles through Huntington Park, South Gate, Compton, Lynwood, Vernon, Downey, Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles.

RTD has attempted to relieve overcrowding on the line by adding two buses during weekday morning peak hours and four buses during afternoon peak hours, running every two to three minutes. Weekend service is being increased also to meet patron demand.

"This added equipment will allow our buses to carry up to an additional 3,000 passengers, in an area of Los Angeles County where many people depend on the RTD as their only means of transportation," said Jay B. Price, RTD Board member representing the cities served by Line 60-61.

The frequency of midday service on Line 60 and 61 from Long Beach and Firestone Blvds. to downtown Los Angeles will increase from every 10 minutes to every 7 to 8 minutes. Frequency of Line 60 buses from Long Beach to Firestone and Long Beach Blvds. will increase from 20 to 15 minutes on weekdays.

Line 61 service from Tweedy and Atlantic Blvds. to Long Beach and Firestone Blvds. will increase from 20 to 15 minutes. Service from Tweedy and Atlantic to Rancho Los Amigos Hospital will decrease from every 20 minutes to 30 minutes, due to less demand on that portion of the line.

"In addition to improving weekday service, the District also will increase service on the weekends to meet patron demand," said Price.

Line 60 operates between Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles via Long Beach Blvd. and Santa Fe Ave. Line 61 operates between Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey and downtown Los Angeles via Tweedy and Santa Fe.

"A total of 52 buses are being used on this line during rush hours, making it the second heaviest rush-hour-line next to service along Wilshire Blvd., which currently uses 79 peak hour buses," notes Price.

## Downey Residents Enjoy New Park/Ride Facility

Downey and Pico Rivera commuters now can take advantage of RTD's Line 466 Downey Park 'n' Ride, as a result of a new stop at the Caltrans parking lot on Lakewood Blvd. off the Santa Ana Freeway.

Line 466 (La Mirada-Los Angeles Park 'n' Ride) buses operate along the freeway, stopping at the Lakewood Blvd. on-ramp to serve the new Park 'n' Ride lot.

Shoppers and RTD patrons who wish to return to the Downey Park 'n' Ride facility during the day can use Line



**Hollywood Comeback**—RTD Board President Nick Patsouras (l) and Hollywood Chamber of Commerce President Bill Welsh announce the reopening of the District's Hollywood Customer Service Center at 6249 Hollywood Blvd. on November 18. RTD patrons are finding a new look at the old office in the Pantages Building. Monthly passes, tickets, informational pamphlets, schedule maps and timetables are available. The modernized facility is open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM.

## RTD Offers Patrons Free System Map

Just in time for the new year! RTD has released its new system map that shows the route of all its 245 service lines.

The full-color map includes insets of RTD's downtown routes, fare information, a listing of RTD Customer Centers, and tips on how to use timetables and wheelchair accessible service.

The map is available at RTD's 10 Customer Centers, at participating Boys Markets, Ralph's grocery stores and public libraries, or by writing RTD, Los Angeles 90001. Due to limited supply, RTD is offering one new system map per patron.

The map is being produced with Beatrice Grocery Group as the sponsor. Shopper discounts on Beatrice food items are included.

Other map features include a guide to hospitals, major shopping centers, sightseeing and recreation points, travel connections to train and interurban bus lines, and colleges and universities.



462 (Los Angeles-Norwalk via Santa Fe Springs Express), which stops two blocks south of the Downey facility on Telegraph Rd. Line 462 operates along 6th St. in downtown Los Angeles and shares many of the same bus stops as Line 466.

Patrons requiring new schedules or additional information should contact RTD information at (213) 626-4455 or write RTD, Los Angeles, CA 90001.

## RTD On The Move



## RTD Extends Current Student I.D. Cards Through March 31

RTD will honor through March 31, 1986, its student identification card, which expired Sept. 30, 1985. Delays many students are experiencing in receiving new I.D. cards led to the extension.

RTD General Manager John Dyer noted, "This will allow students who currently have the expired I.D. card to go to any RTD Customer Center and purchase a stamp good for the current month until they receive their new I.D. card."

The student identification card presently used affects students through grade 12, age 18 and under, and college/vocational students.

The delay in issuance of new cards is largely the result of problems the District has experienced with the data processing system.

With this extension, the District will be able to process the students' applications and have the new I.D. cards while assuring students access to the bus in the interim.

High school and college/vocational students must obtain an application from their school and return it to an RTD Customer Center. RTD will then process the application and mail the new I.D. card to applicants.

Elementary and junior high school students should obtain an application from their school and return it to either an RTD Customer Center or to any of the District's nearly 400 pass sales outlets in their area where they will be given an I.D. card.



**Good Neighbor Effort**—Local residents join RTD Director Nate Holden (3rd, l) and contractor Bill Kent (r) at RTD's South Central Los Angeles Division 5, on the site where a block screen wall is being built to shield the outer area from bus activity within the facility. Along with Holden are (l-r) Curtis Lyons, Adele Hollis, Ms. Scott, Anne McPherson and Estelle Mosley. At rear are RTD's Reginald Emery and engineer Vasan Srinivasan.

Students who have already applied but have not received their new I.D. card should contact their nearest RTD Customer Center.

## Subsidized Fares: Cities prove it a fair investment

**W**hen the Proposition A transit sales tax went into effect in 1982 in Los Angeles County, more than 1 million RTD bus riders benefited from lowered bus fares. Today, three years later, the funds are apportioned under a new formula, one that provides fewer direct subsidies to the RTD, the major transit system for Southern California.

But local bus riders continue to reap rewards from the transit tax. That is because nearly 30 cities and four county supervisorial districts have elected to invest a portion of their half-cent sales tax funds to subsidize RTD bus passes. The cities use their Proposition A funds to buy the passes and resell them at reduced rates to residents, usually the elderly, handicapped and students.

Five cities have gone a step further. They encourage ridership by selling discounted passes to *anyone* living in their communities.

"It is heartening when cities create programs that benefit the greatest number of riders," said Board President Nick Patsouras. "When the fare subsidy program ended after three years last July, several communities chose to subsidize bus passes at lowered rates so that those who depend on mass transit would not be inconvenienced."

More than 285,000 bus patrons purchase monthly RTD

bus passes. More than 1.6 million boarding passengers use the bus system each weekday.

Proposition A is what cushions their bus ride. The measure was approved by Los Angeles County voters in 1980 with collection of the levy starting in 1982.

A key provision in the measure reduced and held base bus fares at 50¢ for three years for all Los Angeles County operators. But last July, a new allocation formula took effect. Now 35% of the sales tax are being used to develop a much-needed regional rail rapid transit network.

The cities in Los Angeles County continue to share in 25% of the sales tax revenue returned to local communities for transit. The money is apportioned according to population.

Ways of investing tax proceeds include not only subsidizing RTD bus passes, but implementing local transit programs, such as dial-a-ride and shuttle services.

Efforts like these are a step in the right direction, said RTD General Manager John A. Dyer.

"Proposition A was created to bring greater transit services to the people of Los Angeles County," said Dyer. "Subsidizing bus passes allows those who need transit most greater access to this vital service."



**The Valley Connection**—Inaugurating the new transit service operated by the Pomona Valley Transportation Authority are (front, l-r) La Verne Councilman Craig Walters, San Dimas Councilman Nicholas Martocchio, RTD Community Relations Representative Nell Soto, Claremont Councilwoman Judy Wright, La Verne Mayor Jon Blickenstaff, (rear, l-r) San Dimas Mayor Donald Haefer, RTD Board Director Charles Storing, and Commuter Computer Representative Al Rangel. The Valley Connection consists of Dial-a-Ride services in Claremont, La Verne, Pomona and San Dimas. These services are linked by a single fixed-route bus line, running from the Claremont Village to Cal Poly Pomona.

## RTD Welcomes Montebello Mall

RTD welcomes Montebello Town Center, the newest shopping mall in its service area. RTD Lines 68, 170 and 264 are now serving the mall and have launched a new free-token Shop-By-Bus program.

Bus patrons making a \$10 minimum purchase at the new Mall shops can get a free 85¢ token, good for a local RTD ride.



## 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.

Community Relations Representatives

- Manny Hernandez**  
Senior Field Representative
- Jeff Alpert**  
Downtown Sector
- Rissa L. Bernstein**  
San Fernando Valley
- Tom Chung**  
Hollywood/East L.A. Sector
- Herbert Cranton**  
Mid-Cities Sector
- Wanda Flagg**  
South Central/Harbor Sector
- Ottis L. Hendricks**  
Wilshire Sector
- Sandra Learman**  
South Bay/West L.A. Sector
- Nell Soto**  
San Gabriel Valley
- Carol Taylor**  
North Central Sector

### RTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Nikolas Patsouras**  
President
- Gordana Swanson**  
Vice President
- John F. Day**
- Norman H. Emerson**
- Carmen A. Estrada**
- Jan Hall**
- Nate Holden**
- Marvin L. Holen**
- Leonard Panish**
- Jay B. Price**
- Charles H. Storing**

- John A. Dyer**  
General Manager
- Lou Collier**  
Community Relations Director
- Albert Reyes**  
Community Relations Coordinator

**Clarence Brown**  
Editor

Submit all inquiries to:  
RTD Community Relations  
425 S. Main St. • Los Angeles, CA 90013 • (213) 972-6456

## League Names Hendricks 'Volunteer of the Year'

RTD Community Relations Representative Ottis Hendricks was recently presented the Los Angeles Urban League Volunteer Award. The honor is bestowed annually to the most outstanding volunteer among hundreds of candidates.

League President John W. Mack said Hendricks was selected for "going beyond the normal standard."



Ottis Hendricks

For the past four years, Hendricks has offered disadvantaged minority youth a five-day job training program. He presents the program four times annually at the League's Job Training Center in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. The focus is on teaching the youths how to apply for and obtain gainful employment.

"The District supports my effort and supplies most of the materials I use," he said. "This is just my way of giving something back to my community."

Hendricks has served the District as a Community Relations Representative for more than four years. He is RTD's principal liaison with organizations, representatives, elected officials and businesses in the Wilshire Corridor, which includes the cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.



From all of us!  
RTD Community Relations Department