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The

RTAReader

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A newsletter of developments, events and announcements from the Riverside Transit Agency.

Board Authorizes Public Hearings for Service Change

Board members authorized a public hearing period between Feb. 12 and 26 to solicit community feedback on proposed service changes. The proposals are the result of data analysis from new on-board technology that identifies customer travel trends and route-by-route service productivity. The proposals will be presented to the public at meetings between Feb. 12 and 20 in the cities of Calimesa, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Norco, Perris, Riverside and Sun City. In addition to the meetings, the public may also comment by calling (800) 800-7821, e-mailing comments@riversidetransit.com, or writing the Riverside Transit Agency at 1825 Third Street, Riverside, CA 92507. Details will be available in brochures aboard buses and at www.RiversideTransit.com. Pending the Board's approval in March, the changes would take effect June 28.

New Riverside Transit Terminal to Be Built at Existing Location

After examining the feasibility of relocating its Riverside transit center to Vine Street, RTA will proceed with plans to expand its current facility in downtown Riverside. RTA will remain at its current location off Fairmont Blvd. between University and Mission Inn avenues, and plans to work with the City of Riverside to enhance and expand the transit center. Plans call for the terminal expansion to include an adjacent parking lot and for RTA to occupy a portion of a building used by Greyhound. RTA is also working with the Federal Transit Administration to transfer funding programmed for the Vine Street location to the existing location. RTA's plan to re-develop the downtown transit center is pending approval by the Riverside City Council.

Coach Operator Recognized for Service

Board members presented Coach Operator Lourdes Hendra with a certificate of appreciation for her service on Dec. 5. While driving Route 202 during an evening trip on Highway 76 to Oceanside, Lourdes spotted something in the roadway that forced her to slow down and finally stop. In the middle of the road was a child, no more than 10 years old. She was shoeless and shivering in her pajamas. Lourdes opened the door and let the child board her bus. Then she pulled safely to the side of the road and called dispatch to notify them of the situation. As she waited for the police to arrive, Lourdes kept the child calm and safe. When the police arrived, they told Lourdes that they had been searching for the child, who was developmentally disabled and had been separated from her caregiver. Thanks to Lourdes, the child was successfully reunited with her caregiver and was able to return safely to her home.

Community Meetings Planned for Proposed Fare Changes

The Riverside Transit Agency is seeking community input on a fare change expected to take effect in June. Between Feb. 3 and 6, RTA staff will hold community meetings in Beaumont, Corona, Moreno Valley and Temecula to receive comments and answer questions about the change. On Feb. 3, the meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Corona Public Library. On Feb. 4, the meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at Beaumont City Hall. On Feb. 5, the meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Moreno Valley Council Chamber Offices. The Feb. 6, meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at the Temecula Public Library. See onboard brochure or visit riversidetransit.com for details.

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New Meeting Location for Board of Directors

On February 26 at 2 p.m., the RTA Board of Directors will hold its first meeting at the County Administrative Bldg. 4080 Lemon St. First Floor in Riverside. The new location provides additional space for the expanding group, which recently gained two new members from the newly incorporated cities of Menifee and Wildomar. The Governing Board is now comprised of 20 elected officials from 16 cities and four members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.