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The

RTAReader

November 2009

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

RTA Celebrates Groundbreaking of Corona Transit Center

Nearly 70 people attended a groundbreaking ceremony on November 20 for the Corona Transit Center. The \$6.5 million project, which will be built on more than two acres at 31 E. Grand Blvd., includes eight bus bays, a pedestrian plaza, parking lot and a stairway, elevator, and bridge connecting to the Corona North Main Metrolink station. The center will greatly assist travelers by rail to Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. It will also serve as a hub for existing RTA CommuterLink express bus service, a transfer hub for inter-county and intra-county bus connections, and service future Bus Rapid Transit. Speaking at the event were RTA Chairman of the Board and Corona Mayor Pro-Tem Karen Spiegel, and Assemblyman Jeff Miller (R-Corona). Others in attendance included representatives from the RTA Board of Directors, City of Corona, Metrolink, Western Riverside Council of Governments, Congressman Ken Calvert, Corona Chamber of Commerce and Omnitrans. The project is expected to be completed in mid-2010.

Vehicles Donated to RCC for Student Training

Riverside Community College will inherit four RTA buses to aid in students' research of alternative fuels. The four, 40-foot vehicles, powered by Compressed Natural Gas, have exceeded their useful life and are no longer operated by the Agency. However, the vehicles will get a second life at the college as a tool for students studying the alternative fuels, and helping the automotive department develop a certificate program in alternative fuels.

Financial Audit Yields Positive Results

An independent accounting firm that audited RTA's financial activities for Fiscal Year 2009 has concluded that the Agency is making efficient use of its funds and following proper accounting procedures. It also determined that RTA's farebox ratio of 22.3 percent not only met but exceeded the state's minimum farebox ratio by nearly 5 percent.

RTA Offices to Close Nov. 25, 26, 27

On Nov. 25 and 27, RTA's administrative offices will be closed, buses will operate on a regular schedule and the Customer Information Center will have regular hours from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, RTA offices will be closed and buses will not operate.

Service Changes Approved

RTA will make adjustments to routes 29 and 49, and turn Route 149 into a CommuterLink express route. Beginning Jan. 10, Route 29 and Route 49 will be interlined to improve operating efficiencies and connections for customers. In the summer of 2010, Route 149 will become CommuterLink Route 216, using express vehicles with enhanced amenities. The base fare will be \$3 regardless of the trip origin or destination. Currently, the route provides basic fixed route service at a base fare rate of \$2.90 for trips to and from Orange County and \$1.50 base fare charge for trips within Riverside County.