



1825 Third St.  
 Riverside CA 92507  
 Phone: 951.565.5000  
 Web: www.RiversideTransit.com

The

# RTAReader

December 2009

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Comerchero  
 Chairman  
 City of Temecula

Robert Buster  
 First Vice Chair  
 County of Riverside  
 District 1

Doug McAllister  
 Second Vice Chair  
 City of Murrieta

John F. Tavaglione  
 County of Riverside  
 District 2

Jeff Stone  
 County of Riverside  
 District 3

Marion Ashley  
 County of Riverside  
 District 5

Deborah Franklin  
 City of Banning

Jeff Fox  
 City of Beaumont

Ella Zanowic  
 City of Calimesa

Barry Talbot  
 City of Canyon Lake

Karen Spiegel  
 City of Corona

Eric McBride  
 City of Hemet

Daryl Hickman  
 City of Lake Elsinore

Wallace Edgerton  
 City of Menifee

Bonnie Flickinger  
 City of Moreno Valley

Harvey Sullivan  
 City of Norco

Joanne Evans  
 City of Perris

Andy Melendrez  
 City of Riverside

Jim Ayres  
 City of San Jacinto

Sheryl Ade  
 City of Wildomar

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

## Temecula's Comerchero Elected as New Board Chairman

Board members have unanimously elected Temecula City Councilman Jeff Comerchero as chairman of the governing board. As chairman, Comerchero will be responsible for leading the Board in setting policy, guiding Agency priorities, conducting the Agency's monthly Board meetings and representing RTA during public events. Comerchero fills the position most recently held by Corona Mayor Karen Spiegel. Board members also voted District 1 County Supervisor Bob Buster as first vice chairman and Murrieta City Councilman Doug McAllister as second vice chairman.

## Board member Hall Honored for Service

During their December 17 meeting, Board members recognized departing member Frank Hall for his service. Hall joined the group in 1998, and his support for clean air helped pave the way for RTA's monumental switch from diesel fueled buses to clean-burning Compressed Natural Gas. During his tenure as Chairman in 2007, Hall helped launch the hugely successful "Beach Bus," contributed to the creation of the popular U-Pass program and steered RTA through its Comprehensive Operational Analysis, which will be a guiding document for service upgrades for years to come. Hall will be replaced by Norco City Councilman Harvey Sullivan.

## Report Illustrates Go-Pass Program Success

Board members were briefed on the success of the Go-Pass program, which allows Riverside Community College students to ride RTA buses for no charge. A new report concludes that more than 3,800 students (or 10 percent of the student body) are riding the bus each month. That's a significant amount considering that just two percent were riding when the program began in 2008. Between 2007 and 2009, school enrollment increased 18 percent, while the percentage of students buying parking permits dropped 10 percent. During the past two years, the program was financed with state air quality mitigation funds. With that funding expected to expire next year, the future of the program will be decided by the students themselves. Due to the recent passage of AB 774, sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Cook (R-Yucca Valley) who was recognized by Board members during their December 17 meeting, California community colleges can charge all students an equal fee to support a Go-Pass-type program if the majority of students and the board of trustees support it. A ballot measure on the issue is expected to be presented to RCCD students next spring.

## Cost-Saving Measures Approved

For the second year in a row, due to current economic conditions, the Board of Directors has approved various cost-savings measures designed to maintain the Agency's fiscal integrity. Effective January 2010, RTA will continue a temporary wage freeze on all administrative employees and a furlough program that requires administrative employees to take off 12 unpaid days off during the year. RTA will also continue to require employees to pay state disability tax, which historically had been paid for by the Agency.

--- MORE ---

## **Update Shows TUMF Funding Future Transit Centers**

Board members received an update for RTA's list of ongoing projects eligible for Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee, or TUMF, funding between fiscal years 2010 and 2014. The projects include transit centers in the cities of Corona, Hemet, Moreno Valley, Perris, Riverside and Temecula, as well as information technology and bus-stop enhancements. The total cost of those projects over the five-year period is expected to be \$34.8 million, of which \$21.1 million would be paid for through TUMF, which is collected from developers to pay for transportation projects. The updated list reflects a conservative approach to TUMF funding based on current economic conditions.

## **RTA Holiday Hours**

On December 24, RTA's administrative offices will be closed, buses will operate regular hours and the Customer Information Center will be open from 6 a.m. till 6 p.m. On December 25, administrative offices will be closed, buses will not operate and the Customer Information Center will be closed in observation of the Christmas holiday. On December 31, administrative offices will be closed, buses will operate regular service and the Customer Information Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. On January 1, administrative offices will be closed, buses will run on a Sunday schedule and the Customer Information Center will operate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.