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The

# RTAReader

July 2010

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

### Federal Audit Yields Positive Results

RTA got a thumbs-up from a federal audit that inspected two dozen areas of operation. Board members received the findings of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) audit, which found the Agency in compliance with all 24 areas of inspection, including legal, procurement, employment practices, financial, maintenance, and safety and security. The audit is required every three years for agencies such as RTA that apply for and receive federal grants. During the month-long review, FTA officials met with RTA staff to discuss administrative and statutory requirements, review documents and inspect the Agency's facilities. No deficiencies were found in any of the reviewed areas. This was the second consecutive perfect triennial audit for the Agency.

### September Service Changes Approved

Following a public hearing period, Board members approved RTA's September 12 service changes, which will include adjustments to routes 12, 14, 15 and 25. RTA will boost Route 12's service frequency by using Hole Avenue and Pierce Street instead of Indiana Avenue between the Galleria at Tyler and Pierce & Sterling. Route 14 will terminate at the Galleria at Tyler for improved frequency and be combined with the current Route 25 at the Riverside downtown terminal. Route 15's service will be extended to serve more portions of Magnolia and Indiana avenues. Other route and schedule changes are planned to maintain on-time performance, transfers and connections and to provide service to the new Corona Transit Center. Details of those changes are available at RiversideTransit.com, and will be detailed in onboard brochures and the new Ride Guide debuting next month.

### RTA Supports AB 2098 to Relieve Hwy. 91 Congestion

Board members unanimously supported the passage of Assembly Bill 2098, introduced by Assemblyman Jeff Miller, R-Corona, which would allow local officials to jump-start the improvement and expansion of Highway 91, one of the most heavily traveled roads in our region. The Highway 91 Capital Improvement Project would be the largest transportation construction project in California since the construction of the new east span of the San Francisco Bay Bridge. The improvements include a new lane in each direction, on- and off-ramp improvements, and the extension of the toll lanes from Orange County line to Interstate 15. AB 2098 is projected to save the Riverside County Transportation Commission three years on the project and would establish cost and schedule certainty that is necessary for financial markets to finance the project. If the bill passes, construction of the \$1.3 billion project would be slated to start in mid-2012 and completed in mid-2016 and generate 18,000 jobs.

### MSJC Students to Ride for Free

If you're a Mt. San Jacinto College student, you will be able to ride RTA buses for free by using your student ID card. The program, which begins Aug. 16, is valid on any RTA fixed-route bus including CommuterLink express buses. MSJC joins a growing list of colleges that offer free ride programs to students, including Riverside City College, Moreno Valley College, UC Riverside, and California

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Baptist and La Sierra universities. The Go Pass one-year demonstration program is funded by air-quality improvement funds from the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Canyon Lake, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula and Wildomar and the County of Riverside.

### **Public Invited to the Corona Transit Center Ribbon-cutting**

The Corona Transit Center will move one step closer to completion next month when RTA hosts a public ribbon-cutting for the project on September 7 at 10 a.m. The event will be held near the North Main Metrolink Station off East Grand Blvd. in Corona. For more information or to RSVP call 565-5044.