

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

City of Diamond Bar Monthly Book Discussions

Tuesday, December 22
7:00-8:30pm
Basically BOOKS
3211 Brea Canyon Blvd.
Diamond Bar, California 91765
New members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Book discussions are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Basically BOOKS. Great books at very low prices and all proceeds benefit the Diamond Bar Library. For more information call Mary at 909 594-9954. Take Foothill Transit Line 291

Regional Chamber of Commerce Job Expo

Friday, January 15
9:00-5:00pm
Pacific Palms Resort
One Industry Hills Parkway
City of Industry, CA 91744
Job seekers must register online at JoeJobsExpo.com and pay a \$5 registration fee via credit card to attend the Joe Jobs Expo. No walk-in admission payments will be accepted the day of the event. For more information visit <http://www.regionalchambersgv.org/>
Take Foothill Transit Line 280

Our new Ecoliner electric bus is an amazing piece of technology, no? Heck, we can't get our cell phones to fully charge in 10 minutes. But that's all it takes for the Ecoliner. Mark Sotelo, who rides the Silver Streak, got it right, so he will be receiving his free Foothill Transit Pass! This month's trivia subject? We'll do a fun one this month...FUNding. Hah. Yes, it's in this issue.

Please, only ONE entry per customer. We pick one winner at random from all the correct answers we receive. Duplicate entries could get you disqualified, so no monkey business. OK?

In this issue, we talked about operating funding and how it pays for the service we put out on the street. What kind of funding pays for new buses and construction?

- A: Magical funding**
- B: Mythical funding**
- C: Capital funding**
- D: State funding**

As always, employees of Foothill Transit contractors and their families are not eligible to win.

Send your answers to Footnotes, c/o Foothill Transit, 100 S.Vincent Ave., Suite 200, West Covina, CA 91790. Please include your personal information, so we can let you know if you've won.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

I ride Line # _____

Daytime phone _____

Evening phone _____



Foothill Transit

WE DRIVE

Footnotes

Volume 19 No. 11

DECEMBER 2009

Who pays for your ride?

Each month in *Footnotes*, we'll be doing a little *Transit Funding 101* to shed some light on a pretty confusing subject.

Given the complexity of all public service funding, from streets and highways to public transportation, and all the accompanying formulas used to calculate which agencies get what amounts, it's no wonder folks are entirely confused about how these services are funded. Foothill Transit is just one of hundreds of public transportation agencies in the state that depends on public funding to provide the services you rely on every day. In order to clarify things, Footnotes will feature a new article each month highlighting and explaining different aspects of the money maze, starting this month with the basics – how much, where it comes from, and where did it go?

Are you on the bus right now? Maybe Line 187 or the Silver Streak or one of our commuter lines? Your fare, whether on local (\$1) or express service (\$4.40), only covers a quarter of the actual cost of getting you from point A to point B.

My gosh, you say. That's some serious subsidy! And it is. But there are so many reasons why the government invests so much in public transportation, especially in a traffic-choked place like Los Angeles.

Every single person on this bus with you equals one less car on the road. And you've seen how many cars are out there. Do you think the streets could handle more? Or the environment? 15 million more a year? Because that's how many people we carry. People have to get around. Cars aren't always the best option. And happily the government funding Foothill Transit receives makes it possible for you to have a choice. A nice, inexpensive, clean, and safe way to get around the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.

Most of that government subsidy comes from a variety of sources, of which about 80% are based on sales tax revenues from the state. So when the economy is good? So is transit funding. Every time someone makes a purchase, a por-

tion of those sales taxes go into public transportation. Lots of purchases equal better funding and more flexibility to add service when demand goes up.

So guess what's happened to transit funding the past couple of years?

Like all transit agencies in the State, Foothill Transit has lost a significant part of its funding due to the failing economy and the budget cuts that have followed. But unlike some agencies, Foothill Transit will be able to make ends meet for the current fiscal year, which runs through June of 2010. The agency did this by cutting administrative costs, streamlining some underperforming service, and rerouting some service away from areas where there was very low ridership. The future is a bit uncertain and will depend on actions at both the state and federal levels.

Foothill Transit used to try to project funding 15 years out so that service growth could be planned and coordinated with local communities to help them improve the quality of life within their neighborhoods. Changes in funding happen so quickly now that planners are barely able to project the financial picture two years out. Between massive state budget cuts, a rollercoaster economy, and uncertain operating costs, everyone is getting a crash-course in fiscal flexibility while still trying to meet communities' needs.

All of this funding, the money that puts service on the street and buses at your stops, is called Operating Funding and comes almost entirely from your state and local governments. Next month we'll talk about the difference between Operating Funding and Capital Funding, which mostly comes from federal sources. Capital Funding subsidizes the infrastructure and is why, when we build a park and ride or buy new buses or retrofit one of our maintenance facilities, it doesn't impact the money available for the actual bus service.



Published for the customers, board members, friends, and staff of Foothill Transit. Articles may be submitted to Felicia Friesema, editor.

Foothill Transit Executive Board

- Michael De La Torre, Chair
- Roger Chandler, Vice Chair
- Peggy Delach, Treasurer
- Paula Lantz
- Carol Herrera

Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director

Foothill Transit contracts with Veolia Transportation for management and administrative services, and with First Transit and MV Transportation for operations.



Foothill Transit

100 S. Vincent Ave., Ste. 200
West Covina, CA 91790



Take Foothill Transit to the Rose Bowl...

...because neither USC or UCLA are going to get you there this year...geesh

We're here to answer that big question that's on everyone's mind. No, we have no idea how the BCS rankings work. But what we do know is this - yes, Foothill Transit can get you to the Rose Bowl for free.

Well, the ride is free anyway. Nothing surrounding the Rose Bowl, except maybe the parade, and only if you camped out all night, is free. But we are!

We'll be running free* (there's always an *) Rose Bowl game shuttle service from Old Town Pasadena at the Parsons Park and Ride at Walnut and Fair Oaks down to the front gates of the Rose Bowl on January 1st.

The Foothill Transit Rose Bowl Shuttle will begin running buses down to the Rose Bowl at 10 a.m. and will continue running until approximately two hours after the end of the game.

*Parsons is charging \$30 for parking per car for the Rose Bowl at the Parsons Park and Ride so come prepared, but the bus ride down to the Rose Bowl is free.

Nearby residents and fans in the San Gabriel Valley are encouraged to take Foothill Transit Line 187 which runs along the 210 corridor to a stop adjacent to the park and ride at Fair Oaks and Walnut (seriously, it's so convenient!). Check foothilltransit.org or call us at 1-800-RIDE-INFO (800-743-3463) for the stop closest to you.

If you want more information about your transportation options on game days, please visit the Tournament of Roses Game Day website at tournamentofroses.com/rosebowlgame. Thanks for riding Foothill Transit!

Sleighs are SO 1895! Own your own bus!



You know if Santa had a choice, he'd ride Foothill Transit. Plush seats. No reindeer mess. Big bright headlights instead of that little red nose. A militant anti-graffiti policy (elves love to tag). There are just so many advantages. And up until now, the latest and greatest of Foothill Transit's buses was only obtainable by a select few. No longer.

The new toy Foothill Transit buses are in town. For a mere \$10, you can get this year's hottest holiday gift - the new 1700 series, scaled down to about eight inches long. Where do you obtain your very own Foothill Transit bus?

Visit any one of our five Foothill Transit Stores, located conveniently throughout our service area. Locations are available at

foothilltransit.org/transitstores or by calling us at 1-800-RIDE-INFO. Happy holidays!



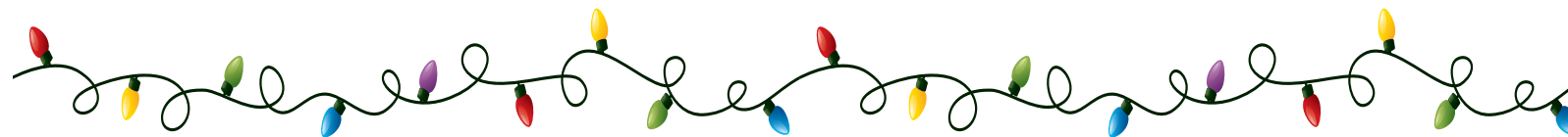
We love to hear what you have to say...

Your voice matters. To everyone who gave us their two cents about the recently proposed service changes for 2010 - Thank you. We had a great turn out at our public information meetings and got some great responses via e-mail, phone, and fax.

Here's what happens now - all of your comments were compiled and are in the process of being reviewed and incorporated into a new proposal. That proposal will go to the Foothill Transit Executive Board this month and they will discuss it, make suggestions for it, and vote on it.

If approved, the new proposed service changes will go into effect in March of next year. But we'll give you plenty of heads up beforehand, both here and at foothilltransit.org.

So again, thanks for taking the time and making the effort to tell us how what we do impacts you. You're a vital part of how we plan our service.



Holiday Bus Schedules and Transit Store Hours

Jingle bells, bus pass sells, Foothill Transit's rad! Oh what fun it is to ride, let's go tell your dad, hey!

Those stunningly bad lyrics can only mean one thing - it's time for the Annual Holiday Notice. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, but if he rides Foothill Transit on December 25th or January 1st, he best take heed. Holiday schedules are a tad different.

For those of you working on the Eves, but who intend to slip out a little earlier than normal (we won't tell), we humbly suggest you consider using the Silver Streak service to head home, assuming it fits your needs. It runs all day long and can get you out of LA faster than Blitzen after a Starbucks stop. If that doesn't work for you, please call us at 1-800-RIDE-INFO and have one of our customer service reps help you find an earlier way out.

And now, on to **The Annual Holiday Notice**. Happy Holidays and see you next year!

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day the following Foothill Transit Lines will provide service according to their weekend schedules: 178, 185, 187, 195, 197, 269, 272, 274, 280, 281, 284, 285, 286, 289, 291, 292, 480, 482, 486, 488, 492, and the Silver Streak.

No other lines will be running.

All Foothill Transit Stores will be closed on Christmas Day and will close at 6PM on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The West Covina, Claremont, Pomona, and El Monte Transit Stores will also be closed on New Year's Day. The Puente Hills Mall Store will be open on New Year's Day 10AM to 6PM.




Foothill Transit

Happy Holidays from all of us here
at Foothill Transit. Please be safe.

