

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Pomona Farmer's Market on Second and Garey Every Wednesday 4:00-8:00pm

Second Street and Garey Ave., Pomona
Free and open to the public. Shop in a relaxed atmosphere for fresh produce and premium nuts and desserts grown locally. For more information visit www.pomonachamber.org or call 909-622-8484. Take Foothill Transit Lines 195, 291, 480 and 482

Spirit of Diamond Bar 21st Birthday Celebration and Business Expo Saturday, April 17 11:00am-5:00pm

Pantara Park, 738 Pantara, Diamond Bar
Free family event complete with carnival rides, games, food for purchase, entertainment and business expo. Bring your lawn chair and expect a full day of fun for the whole family. For more information call the Regional Chamber of Commerce office at (909) 869-0701 or email garry@regionalchambersgy.com

It's not every day that the trivia quiz makes us sad. But darn it, this one does. We really tried to get that park and ride built in West Covina. But in the end, it was a no go. Despite this, Stephanie Ngo of El Monte won this month's drawing. She'll be getting a free 31-Day Pass. This month's theme is WHEN IT RAINS I T POURS Good luck!

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?

The deadline to comment on proposed service reductions is:

- A. Friday, April 2, 2010.
 - B. Friday, April 2, 2010.
 - C. Friday, April 2, 2010.
 - D. Yeah. All of the above.
- Get in touch with us at input@foothilltransit.org.

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 _____



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

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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



Foothill Transit

WE DRIVE

Footnotes

Volume 20 No. 2

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Proposed Service Reductions and Public Meetings

A \$12.5 million budget deficit is forcing some difficult decisions. Read on for details.

News, good or bad, never has much trouble getting around these days. So rather than beat around the bush, take a seat - we have a lot of important information to share with you.

In the past few issues of Footnotes, we've outlined how some of our funding is allocated to us. A big chunk of that funding comes from revenue collected from sales tax. But you only collect revenue from sales tax when there are things being sold. It's no secret that the economy has taken a nasty beating and that people haven't been buying much. The flip side of that is that if they aren't buying, there's no sales tax.

But wait it gets better - the state government is diverting more money away from transportation, eliminating what could have been around \$6 million in funding for Foothill Transit. That combined with the sales tax issues take a huge chunk out of Foothill Transit's bottom line.

That bottom line chunk that just disappeared works out to about 25% of our operating budget, or a total of \$12.5 million dollars. Ouch.

We run a pretty lean ship here at Foothill Transit - barely 8% of our total operating budget goes to paying administrative salaries. So even if you laid off every last worker bee (the planners, the phone folk, your Footnotes editor - heaven forbid), you'd still have a massive budget deficit to contend

with. That said? We are making some cuts to administrative positions. It's a very painful thing to do - no one here is twiddling their thumbs. But we had to in order to minimize cuts that we knew we'd have to make to service. Those proposed reductions can be reviewed at foothilltransit.org.

The reductions we're proposing amount to about 20% of our total service. The criteria for making these reductions were based on how well a bus line performed and if it was meeting ridership standards, if there were any other transit options in the community (we don't want to cut service and then leave people without any options), and how many customers it would ultimately affect. Every recommendation, and believe us there were no easy ones, was made with the intent to impact as few people as possible.

We think it's important for everyone to understand that providing transit options is what we're here for. Cutting transit options? Not what we want to do. At all. But we really don't have any other options. The money just isn't there.

Before we can do anything though, we need your input. We'll be holding four public hearings to present the details of these proposed reductions. You'll also be able to detail your comments and suggestions to us via e-mail at input@foothilltransit.org, via FAX at 626-967-4608, or in a letter sent to us at 100 South Vincent Avenue, Suite 200, West Covina, CA 91790.

Public Hearing Schedule

The deadline for all public comment is Friday, April 2, 2010.

Wednesday, March 24th

6:30pm

El Monte Station
Metro - San Gabriel Valley Office
Council Chambers Room
3449 Santa Anita Ave., El Monte
See foothilltransit.org for schedules.

Thursday, March 25th

6:30pm

Duarte Community Center
1600 Huntington Dr., Duarte
Take Line 187

Wednesday, March 31st

6:30pm

Industry Manufacturers Council
Council Chambers
15651 Stafford St., City of Industry
Take Line 185

Thursday, April 1st

6:30pm

Ganesha Community Center
(corner of White and McKinley)
1575 N. White Ave., Pomona
Take Line 197

Are you a chatterbox?

Yes. They call it a *mobile phone*. But *really*. Do you have to have that conversation now?

Oh we *know* the allure of the cell phone. We're often seen checking it for the latest tweets about pie (*mmmm pie*). But when it comes right down to it, none of us really need to call our significant other from our bus seat to tell them that they need to pick up asparagus at the market tonight before they get home. Really, the asparagus can wait.

But *why* would you want to?

For one thing, the bus is a semi-loud (ok very loud), large moving vehicle. To have a conversation on your phone while the bus is in motion means you'll likely have to raise your voice, or even yell. *Yikes*. Is the conversation really that important that everyone has to hear?

For another thing, adding the distraction of someone yakking into their phone with a raised voice does not a happy bus operator make. There are reasons why we have signs posted about other distracting devices (radios, etc.) – it can cause a safety issue.

Save the unimportant cell phone calls for when you get off the bus. It's the considerate thing to do and it's safer for everyone.

Thanks!



How big is \$12.5M?

When you're talking transit? It's pretty big. It means change is afoot. Funding 101 continues...



If you've been reading up the last couple of issues, you know some of the issues revolving around transportation funding. In fact, if you read those articles, you probably know more about transit funding than most of the State of California. If you haven't read them, don't fret – they're online at foothilltransit.org/footnotes. Go catch up. We'll wait.

So. Yes. Things are kind of bleak. No way around it really. Like we said on page one, a lot of the funding needed to run Foothill Transit comes from sales taxes. And to say that sales have been a bit low is a massive understatement. No sales. No taxes. No taxes. No funding. You get where this is going.

Then tack onto this a rather persistent state government effort to essentially wipe out transit funding from the state budget. No, we're not exaggerating. That's pretty much what the state is proposing to do.

Foothill Transit is looking at a pretty major deficit this coming year. The funds just aren't there. How much of a deficit? \$12.5 million - or about 25% of our operating budget. Compared to the deficits at some agencies, it's not that bad. But a deficit is a deficit, and we still have to make ends meet. We can't spend money we don't have.

It means a lot of things are going to change. Actually a lot of these changes were already in the works - electronic versions of both *Footnotes* and the Bus Book on the website, some greener ways of doing business that will reduce waste here at the offices and on the road.

And yes, as these changes begin to manifest, there will be notices, meetings (see page one), and a whole lot of customer interaction. Because budget or no budget, you are the crux of our mission.

More to come. Check foothilltransit.org for details.

Ever wonder how everyone else on the bus knows?

It's not a big secret - They're signed up for E-Notices at foothilltransit.org! Service changes, detours, meetings - be the first to know!



Step 1: Go to foothilltransit.org and click into the homepage.

Step 2: Scroll down to the bottom and click "E-Notice Sign Up"

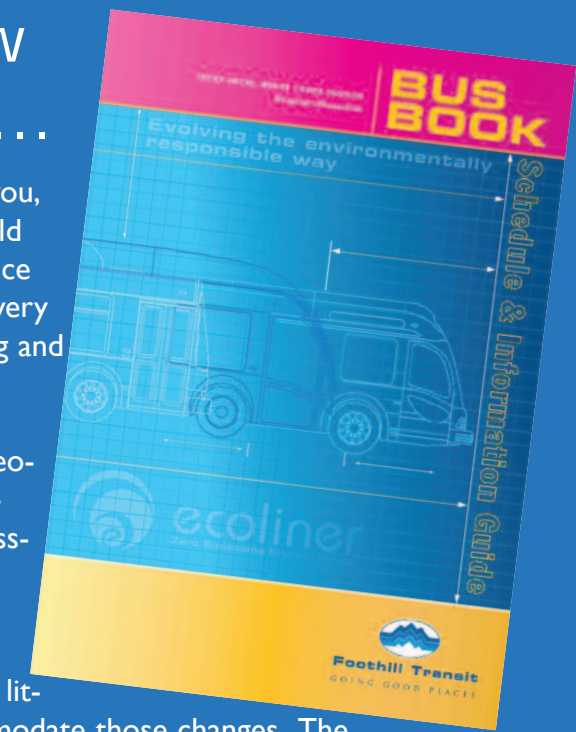
Step 3: Sign up.

It is *seriously* that easy. No joke. And why wouldn't you? Spam fears? Info overload? Pushaw, we say! Get the info YOU want about your favorite lines, park and rides, transit centers, or general info. You pick the info you want, by line or by location. And if you want it all? You can have it all, too. You can even have notices delivered to you in compact little text messages on your cell phone.

If you've already signed up, you know how awesome it is to be the first to know. And to you, the early adapter, we apologize. We're technically making everyone the first to know. But maybe you'll share the love and tell your commuting companions about the magic of Foothill Transit E-Notices. In today's world, the most successful people are the one's who have the latest news at their fingertips. Sign up today.

The new Spring 2010 Bus Book is coming - and there are a few changes...

For a lot of you, this is, as they say "old hat". We make service adjustments twice every year – once in Spring and once in Fall. Things change a lot in Los Angeles County – people's commuting patterns change, businesses open or close, developments get improved – and we shift things around a little to better accommodate those changes. The following changes take effect on April 11, 2010:



Line 499 will be rerouted to provide a more efficient commute. Line 499 won't use the 57 freeway to get between the San Dimas Park and Ride and the Via Verde Park and Ride. The new route on San Dimas Ave. to Via Verde will shave off some time.

Lines 185, 291 and 480 are getting a non-peak trim in their schedules. Lines 185 and 480 will continue to operate every 30 minutes during the early mornings and late afternoons, and every 60 minutes throughout the midday (10:00AM - 1:00PM). Line 291 will run every 20 minutes during the early mornings and late afternoons and every 30 minutes during the midday (10:00AM - 1:00PM).

Line 187 is losing four trips during early mornings on Saturday and Sunday. Due to scarce ridership during the very early mornings on the weekends, four trips on Line 187 have been removed from the schedule. Line 187 service will be every 60 minutes between 4:40AM – 6:00AM on the weekends.