

SEASONS GREETINGS

WINTER HOLIDAY BUS SCHEDULE

On the following dates:

Thursday, November 22, 2007
 Monday, December 24, 2007
 Tuesday, December 25, 2007
 Monday, December 31, 2007
 Tuesday, January 1, 2008

the following lines will be running on their weekend schedule:

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.

WINTER HOLIDAY STORE SCHEDULE

All stores will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, November 22, 2007
 Tuesday, December 25, 2007

In addition, the Claremont, Duarte, Pomona, and West Covina Stores will be closed on the following days:

Friday, November 23, 2007
 Monday, December 24, 2007
 Monday, December 31, 2007
 Tuesday, January 1, 2008

El Monte Station will be open from 7AM to 12PM on 11/23/07 and closed on 12/24/07, 12/31/07, and 01/01/08.

Puente Hills Mall will be open from 10AM to 9PM on 11/23/07 and from 10AM to 6PM on 12/24/07, 12/31/07, and 01/01/08

We actually tried carving a jack-o-lantern out of a turnip just to see if we could. They may have done it back in the old days, but we're sticking to pumpkins. Avelina Lim of Rowland Heights is our winner this month, so she gets a free 31-Day Pass. This month's topic is BIRTHDAYS. Good luck!

Please limit entries to ONE 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?

November is an auspicious month. Important (and not so important) folk enjoy celebrating their birthdays this time of year. In fact, Owen Wilson, Margaret Atwood, and Calvin and Hobbes all share the same day. What date is it?

- A. November 19th
- B. November 3rd
- C. November 30th
- D. November 18th

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 _____

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New fares

Thank you for taking the time to tell us your thoughts.

Before we get into the nitty gritty of what is coming down the pike, we want to send out the loudest thank you we can to our customers. It takes extra time and effort to participate in the public part of the fare change process. Often times, after a long day at the office, the last thing you want to do is hike up your boots and wade through another quagmire of budgets and policies.

But a lot of you did. It's vital for us to get lots of input from you before making any major change to our service. In this case, we're only required to hold one public hearing to meet our obligations as a public agency. We held three meetings because we firmly believe in the value of your input. For those who could not attend, there were email, fax, and letter options.

And not only did you show up, write, and petition - you listened. We know listening to someone go over the minutia of these changes isn't exactly a trip to Disneyland. But it's important to all of us.

And here's the great part - you made a difference. These Q&A sessions with our customers help us to focus in on the true impact to the public. We can plan and calculate and make predictions based on numbers. But numbers aren't people and it's generally not smart to treat people like they are. You wouldn't think that a fare increase meeting was a good place to make friends, but it is. We're all on the same side here. We all want better public transportation. How we get there is sometimes up for debate, but we genuinely want to work with you, not around you.

So to you, our customers, we

New fares go into effect on January 1, 2008. Turn the page for more details.



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

Foothill Transit Executive Board

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

All new fares and pass prices go into effect January 1, 2008.

As with the original fare proposal, Local cash fares are staying the same. Oddly enough, the result of us not raising this particular fare will actually secure more local funding for our service. It's a quirk of the funding allocation formula which we explained a little in the last issue of Footnotes. That and our Local service is used a great deal by our senior and disabled customers in order to get to the store, to doctor's appointment, and to see family and friends. Keeping costs down for you is part of how Foothill Transit works to improve the quality of life for our region.

All local cash fares are staying the same. All other fares and passes are increasing by approximately 20% with a few exceptions.

Discount fare and pass prices have been eliminated for Commuter Express service.

Commuter Express fares will be increased and discounts on this service will no longer be available. Even with the increase, the service is still very competitive with similar transportation services in the area and is still much less expensive than maintaining a car for your daily commute. If you're feeling a bit skeptical about that, we ask that you not take our word for it. We have a Trip Cost Calculator on our website (foothill-transit.org) that uses formulas on car maintenance and insurance costs from the Southern California Automobile Association to calculate exactly how much your daily commute will cost you if you drive. It's not just about the cost of gas (though looking at the price boards around town, it's definitely a growing concern).

Several of you mentioned connecting the price of the fare with the cushion of the seats. We're looking into those suggestions though our main obstacle in meeting that is a decline in funding for new bus purchases. Right now, the most important thing is to provide consistent, safe and quality service to all our customers, which means sometimes we have to substitute buses if a vehicle doesn't meet our standards on a given day. We hear you though. Loud and clear.

THE FARE INCREASE

Cash Fares	Current	NEW
Adult Local	1.00	1.00
Student Local	1.00	1.00
Senior/Disabled/Medicare Local*	0.50	0.50
Silver Streak	2.00	2.50
Discount Silver Streak*	1.00	1.25
Commuter Express	3.65	4.40
Discount Commuter Express	1.80	4.40
31-Day Pass Prices	Current	NEW
Adult Local	55.00	66.00
Student Local**	25.00	30.00
Senior/Disabled/Medicare Local**	18.00	20.00
Silver Streak	80.00	96.00
Discount Silver Streak**	40.00	48.00
Commuter Express	130.00	155.00
Discount Commuter Express	65.00	155.00

* Discounted cash fares are for eligible seniors, disabled, and Medicare card holders.

** Discount 31-Day passes are for eligible students, seniors, disabled, and Medicare card holders and require a Foothill Transit Photo ID.

Silver Streak discount fares and passes will only be applied during non-peak service hours. Peak hours are 4AM to 10AM and 2PM to 8PM and will require the full regular fare.

Peak hours are new to Foothill Transit and will apply to the Silver Streak fares only. Thank you for your patience while we all adjust to this new system.

One of the more common suggestions made in public comments was to keep the discount fares on the Silver Streak intact, but only during off-peak hours. That way our discount eligible customers can still use the Silver Streak during non-commute hours and keep their 50% off fare. The impact of eliminating this discount on our seniors and persons with disabilities who depend on this service was just too great, especially as the Silver Streak was designed to be a community connector, providing faster service to other local connections in our system.

The inclusion of a peak and non-peak schedule for fares is a new one for Foothill Transit. Peak and off-peak fares are pretty common in public transportation systems, and up until now we've avoided them as they tend to complicate things a little at the farebox when the clock changes. It will take a little time for us to shift gears on this one, so we thank you in advance for your patience and consideration. We've currently defined our peak periods as Monday through Friday, 4AM to 10AM and 2PM to 8PM.

Now with every fare change comes a few important dates to remember. Here are a few you may want to write down...

December 21, 2007 - New passes will be available for sale and use on this day. Visit your local Transit Store or pass outlet for details.

January 1, 2008 - Probably the most important date of all. New fares go into effect on this day. Happy New Year!

January 31, 2008 - This is the absolute last day you can activate an old pass and still get a full 31 days of use out of it. Also the last day you can exchange unactivated old passes for new ones at no charge.

March 3, 2008 - The day when the farebox will start rejecting old passes. Also the day we stop accepting unactivated old passes for face-value exchange at our Transit Stores.