

COMMUNITY EVENTS

West Covina Library Kid's Book Club

First Saturday of every month
11:00am

West Covina Library
1601 West Covina Parkway

Kids in grades 4 to 6 are invited to join the Kids' Book Club to talk about books & enjoy tasty treats. Each month, we will discuss a different book. Copies of the books are available for check-out in the Children's Department.

March 7: Can of Worms by Kathy Mackel

April 4: Clockwork: or All Wound Up by Philip Pullman

For more information, please contact Kristi D'Arco, Children's Librarian, at (626) 962-3541. Take Foothill Transit Lines 178, 185, or the Silver Streak.

CERT Training - Diamond Bar

Pantara Park
738 Pantara

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a 20 hour program that educates community members on disaster preparedness. Participants learn to prepare for hazards that may affect their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. For information or to enroll in the CERT program, please contact (888) CERT939 or email: CERT@fire.lacounty.gov

Last month's was another easy trivia question - the answer was in Footnotes and we told you where. So LOTS of responses from you. But only one person can win and this time it was James Rochford of Glendora. He wins a free 31-Day Pass this month. The new topic this month is, well, not TAP. 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?

We're looking into building a new park and ride. What city are we proposing to build it in?

A: La Puente

B: Glendora

C: West Covina

D: Pasadena

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: _____

Ride Line #: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Evening phone: _____



Foothill Transit

WE DRIVE

Footnotes

Volume 19 No. 2

March 2009

The Spring 2009 Bus Book is nearly here!

Changes are coming April 5th - and we don't mean flowers and showers. Read on!

Ah springtime! Flowers are blooming. Bees are buzzing. Change is in the air! Which means a new Bus Book is almost here!

Yes, intrepid commuters, the Spring 2009 Foothill Transit Bus Book is hitting a bus near you. We have a few changes in store - nothing TOO dramatic - but you may want to review the schedules and routes if a line you use is in this list.

Lines 178, 184, 187, 269, 284, 289, 482, 486, and 488 have all received some much needed touch ups to their schedules to help them run more efficiently.

Line 281 will be rerouted along Nelson between California and Sunset in the City of Industry as ACE construction continues along its regular route. This change will stay in effect for the duration of construction. The bus stop at Sunset and Nelson will be re-installed and the southbound bus stop at Temple and Sunset will be relocated to the northwest corner of Sunset and Temple.

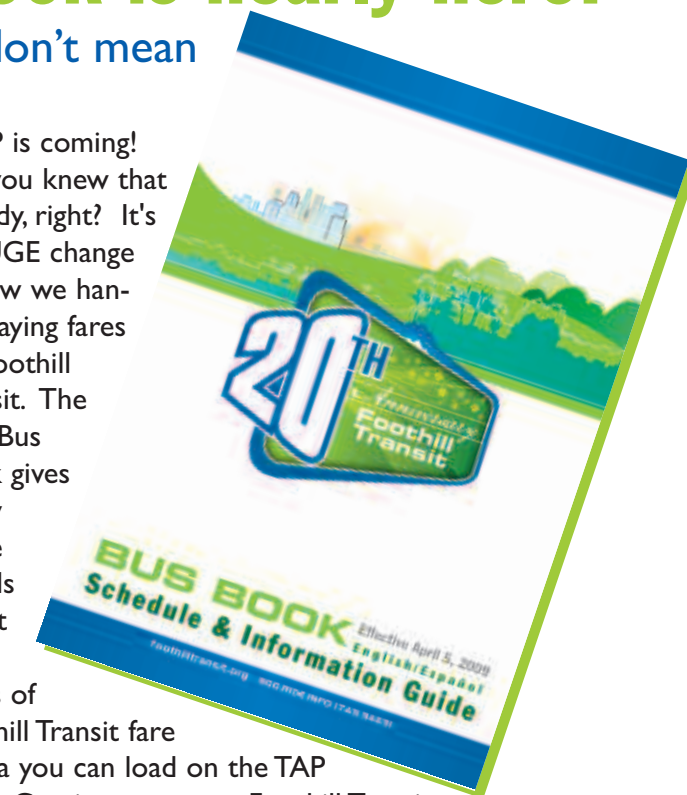
Line 272 will be rerouted to its original route in Duarte along Huntington between Highland and Buena Vista and along Buena Vista between Huntington and Duarte Rd.

Line 852 will now have a new timepoint at Fairplex and Elwood in the City of Pomona. Shouldn't affect the schedules at all. Just something new on the timetable that we wanted to point out.

Remember - ALL schedule and route changes take effect on April 5th. And in addition to the above, you'll also find another big change announcement within

- TAP is coming! But you knew that already, right? It's a HUGE change in how we handle paying fares on Foothill Transit. The new Bus Book gives a few more details about the types of Foothill Transit fare media you can load on the TAP card. Coming soon to a Foothill Transit Store near you! We have five of them - Claremont, El Monte, Industry, Pomona, and West Covina. And of course - more TAP info is in this issue of Footnotes.

You know, we always thank you for riding Foothill Transit. But maybe we should change it to thank you for *being* Foothill Transit. It's all about our riders. And if we're doing something right? Let us know! Drop us a line at comment@foothilltransit.org. We'd love to hear from you.



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

Smart. Simple. Secure.



Coming Really Really Soon!

tap™

We've been beating you over the head with this TAP business - we know. But we figure we're probably missing a few of you out there and this is a BIG change. So thanks for bearing with us.

As we stated before, the TAP, or Transit Access Pass, is a hi-tech, micro-chipped plastic card that will hold all your Foothill Transit passes and fares on one, reusable card. You'll be able to call it in to 1-866-TAPTOGO or go online and refill your card at taptogo.net. In addition, the TAP card offers something we've never been able to provide before - Balance Protection. Register your card, online or on the phone, and if it ends up lost or stolen, a new card will be returned to you with all your previous passes and fares already loaded on it.

But wait, there's more! In addition to being reusable, refillable, and remarkable, the TAP card will make boarding Foothill Transit a breeze. You simply tap the card on the farebox. (There's a big TAP circle on the new fareboxes - aim for that.) Your correct fare is automatically deducted from the card, whether it's cash or a pass that you have loaded. And that's it! Just TAP and go!

Here's a basic summary of what will be accepted on board Foothill Transit when TAP goes live at the end of Spring.

Cash

Yes, our fareboxes will still accept good old fashioned cash. Exact change only, please. Insert the correct fare for your ride (see the chart on the previous page for correct fares) in the proper coin and bill slots.

The Cash Purse

Foothill Transit TAP cards can be loaded with a cash purse in any amount. Like the former Metrocard, **which we will stop selling completely on APRIL 15TH**, the cash purse is a stored-value on your TAP card that the farebox automatically deducts your fare from each time you tap the card on the farebox when you board. No more fumbling for exact change or bills when you board the bus. Just tap and go! You can also reload your cash purse online at taptogo.net or by phone at 866-TAPTOGO. You can also load it up at any of our five Transit Stores.

31-Day Pass

A TAP card loaded with Foothill Transit's 31-Day Pass allows you unlimited travel for a 31-Day period beginning on the day it is first tapped on the farebox. These passes are available for all Foothill Transit Local, Silver Streak, and Commuter Express lines. Customers are encouraged to sign up for Balance Protection at taptogo.net to protect their passes from being lost or stolen. TAP cards with Balance Protection can be fully restored to their proper owners. You may also purchase 31-Day passes at any one of our five Transit Stores, online at taptogo.net, or by phone at 866-TAPTOGO.

Discount passes are available for eligible seniors, persons with disabilities, Medicare Card holders, and students. Foothill Transit Photo Identification is required for the use AND purchase of ALL discounted passes. Foothill Transit Photo Identification can be purchased at all five Foothill Transit Store locations.

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EZ transit pass

By now you've already seen a difference in these. Back in March, the old EZ transit pass changed from the flashy paper pass to its new hi-tech, smart card TAP version. They're good for travel on 23 different transit agencies in L.A. County. You'll still need valid

stickers on your TAP version of the EZ transit pass to ride non-TAP transit systems. A TAP card loaded with the EZ transit pass is good for travel on 23 agencies throughout Los Angeles County, including Foothill Transit. On TAP enabled systems, like Metro, Culver City Bus, and Norwalk Transit, just tap your TAP card on the farebox and go. You'll still have to show your card to operators on systems that don't have the TAP program installed - just make sure you have the right sticker on it.

And there you have it. Now when is all this madness coming to town? Late spring. Think May/June. Updates will keep coming - inside the buses, at foothilltransit.org, here in Footnotes, sky-writing, smoke signals, carrier pigeons, etc. Coming soon! Thanks for your patience.

Metrocard Customers!

We will stop selling Metrocards completely on April 15th!

Although we will discontinue selling the cards, they will be accepted until the fareboxes are replaced. Stay tuned for additional updates about the transition in next month's newsletter.

WE DRIVE



Park and Ride Alert

Does a brand new, totally secure, really convenient park and ride in West Covina sound like something that would make your commute easier and more satisfying? **READ ON!**

We sent out a quickie test e-mail a couple of weeks ago to see how West Covina residents would respond to, oh, getting a park and ride facility of some size plunked in the middle of their city.

If happy e-mails were roses, we'd have a float for the Rose Parade.

There aren't a whole lot of details yet - the crazy illustration above is one of a few initially rejected designs for the park and ride facility. But West Covina Foothill Transit customers are thirsty for info. So this is what we do have.

The proposed park and ride facility would be located at the northeast corner of Vincent Avenue and Lakes Drive, across the street from the Westfield Shopping Plaza. It'd be rich with parking spots (about 500+) with a good portion of those set aside specifically for Foothill Transit commuters. There would be ample security - both digital and human - and stops would be located right outside. Express lines that stop nearby would be rerouted to serve the lot - including the Silver Streak - so that transfers and connections would be easier for you to make. And funny coincidence! The West Covina Foothill Transit Store is located in the adjacent Washington Mutual building (which also serves as our administrative office).

If you're a West Covina resident and a Foothill Transit customer and this is something you'd really like to see in your city? Please take the time to let us know. Send an email to ffriesema@foothilltransit.org and tell us why you need this park and ride in your city. And as always, thank you for riding Foothill Transit.



Due to increasing costs, lower customer usage, and advances in cell phone and PDA technology, we're removing free WiFi access on Silver Streak service. This won't directly affect most of you. But there are a handful of Silver Streak customers out there who were logging on. But it was quite literally a handful.

When we first launched WiFi on our Silver Streak service in spring of 2007, it was intended to provide a unique, on-board amenity not available on any other transit service in Southern California. But recent advances in cell phone and PDA technology have reduced the need and the attraction for this kind of mobile wireless access. And really, who enjoyed trying to balance a laptop on their thighs in a moving vehicle?

Apparently, not too many of you. Seriously, on average we maybe got one person logon per day per bus. Which when you consider how many of you ride the Silver Streak? Ouch. The cost of the service, which we provided for free, just didn't make sense. There are so many other things that money could be used for - improving service, maintenance, fuel (which looks like it's going up again).

So it was neat while it lasted. But it's time to move on. And starting March 17th, we will. Thanks to those of you who did log in - hopefully this change won't cramp your online style too much. Mostly, we're just happy you're on board. Thanks for riding.