

Yuba-Sutter Transit Newsletter

April 2010

Volume 21 – Number 3

SPECIAL NIGHT MEETING SET FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED SACRAMENTO FARE INCREASE

The Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors has set a public hearing to receive comments on a proposed increase in the Sacramento Commuter and Midday Express fare structure. The hearing will be held during a special night meeting to facilitate attendance by Sacramento commuters. The meeting and hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2010 in the Yuba County Government Center at 915 Eighth Street in Marysville.

As proposed, the basic one-way cash fare would increase from \$3.50 to \$4.00 for both the Sacramento Commuter and Midday services. The discount cash fare, which is available only on the Sacramento Midday service, would increase from \$1.75 to \$2.00. The monthly commuter pass would increase from \$112 to \$128. As proposed, the fare change would take effect on July 1, 2010.

Since Sacramento fares were last increased in July 2007, two new morning and two new afternoon schedules were added in September 2007; as many as four supplemental buses have been operated each weekday (Monday – Thursday) since mid-2008 for additional seating capacity; and, three new high capacity commuter buses will soon be placed in service.

Sacramento ridership has increased significantly since 2007, but it is now down 8 percent compared to FY 2009 though two supplemental buses are expected to still be required each weekday even with the high capacity buses. The proposed fare increase is expected to generate \$84,000 in FY 2011 to off-set the cost of these supplemental buses and bolster the gradually declining farebox recovery ratio for this premium service.

Interested persons may submit testimony regarding the proposed fare increase either verbally or in writing, before or at the public hearing. Written testimony can be provided by mail to Yuba-Sutter Transit at 2100 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901; by FAX at (530) 634-6888; or, by e-mail to Keith Martin, Transit Manager at keith_martin@sbcglobal.net. Verbal testimony can also be provided in person at the hearing or by telephone prior to the hearing at (530) 634-6880. All communication must be received either at or prior to the hearing to be considered.

Contact Keith Martin or Dawna Dutra at (530) 634-6880 for more information.

PROPOSED SACRAMENTO SCHEDULE CHANGES TO ENHANCE REVERSE COMMUTE OPTIONS TO MARYSVILLE

The Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors has set a public hearing to receive comments on proposed changes to two Sacramento Commuter Express schedules that are designed to enhance reverse commute options especially for those working at the new Caltrans District 3 headquarters building in Marysville. The hearing will be held as part of a special night meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2010 in the Yuba County Government Center at 915 Eighth Street in Marysville.

Caltrans has for some time been consolidating District 3 employees in their new Marysville building with many of these being transferred from offices in Sacramento. To improve the limited transit options for these employees, Yuba-Sutter Transit is considering minor changes to one morning and one afternoon schedule and the establishment of a new reverse commute bus stop in North Natomas.

As proposed, to allow for service to a new North Natomas stop, the 1st AM and the 6th PM Highway 99 schedules would be modified slightly to allow reverse commute passengers to work a 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. shift in Marysville. This would require that the peak travel directions for the 1st AM Highway 99 schedule be five to ten minutes earlier in the morning and five to ten minutes later for the 6th PM Highway 99 schedule in the afternoon. The actual times would be set after the North Natomas stop location has been confirmed. As proposed, these changes could become effective as early as July 1st.

Interested persons may submit testimony regarding the proposed fare increase either verbally or in writing, before or at the public hearing. Written testimony can be provided by mail to Yuba-Sutter Transit at 2100 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901; by FAX at (530) 634-6888; or, by e-mail to Keith Martin, Transit Manager at keith_martin@sbcglobal.net. Verbal testimony can also be provided in person at the hearing or by telephone prior to the hearing at (530) 634-6880. All communication must be received either at or prior to the hearing to be considered.

Depending on the response to this initiative, additional service improvements are possible to add more schedule options in the future. Contact Keith Martin at (530) 634-6880 for more information.

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NEW HIGH CAPACITY COMMUTER BUSES WILL SOON BE IN SERVICE

Three high-capacity, heavy-duty, tour-style buses have been delivered to Yuba-Sutter Transit for use on our Sacramento Commuter service. Nearly identical to those buses that have recently been delivered to several other long distance commuter operators in the Sacramento region, the new MCI buses are the new standard for all future Yuba-Sutter Transit commuter bus purchases.

These 45' buses have a seated capacity of 57 compared to 41 on most of our other commuter buses. This will help to keep operating costs in check as ridership grows over time. In addition, the fleet of specially equipped commuter buses will now ultimately number thirteen to improve service reliability since nine are now required to be in service each weekday. The new buses are expected to be in service by May 1st.

This purchase is being financed from a complex package of sources including the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Management program; the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and, the local Feather River Air Quality Management District. Funding has been set aside for three more of these buses for delivery in late 2011, but the final decision on that purchase, which will be based largely on ridership growth, will not be made until next year.

SACRAMENTO COMMUTER E-MAIL ADDRESS LIST

Now would be a good time to remind you that we maintain a database of well over 500 e-mail addresses for service and program updates on our Sacramento Commuter and Midday Express services. If you regularly ride this service and have not received an e-mail from us in awhile, then you are not on this list!

To be added, send your name and preferred e-mail address or addresses to Keith Martin at keith_martin@sbcglobal.net. It would also be a good idea to add this same name and e-mail address to your own address book so your e-mail server is less likely to block future messages.

SPECIAL NIGHT BOARD MEETING SET FOR MAY 20TH

The Board of Directors has cancelled their regular May meeting on Thursday, May 20th and set a special night meeting for 7:00 p.m. on the same day. The special meeting will be held in the Yuba County Government Center at 915 8th Street in Marysville. It will include public hearings on a proposed Sacramento fare increase and proposed changes to the Sacramento service to enhance reverse commute options for those working in Marysville (see the related articles on the first page). At the same meeting, the draft operating and capital budget for FY 2010-2011 will also be considered for adoption.

Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.

BUS PASSES & TICKET BOOKS

Monthly passes and discount ticket books are sold at the following locations. Please note that some outlets do not carry all media and that monthly passes are available from the 24th of the month until the 7th of the following month. Passes are also available throughout the month during normal business hours in the Yuba-Sutter Transit office at 2100 B Street in Marysville. All passes and tickets are also available by mail.

Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.

1. Bel Air Market Customer Service Center – **Yuba City**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards
2. Yuba Sutter Mall Service Counter – **Yuba City**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards
3. Yuba College Bookstore – **Linda**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards
4. Yuba-Sutter Transit Office – **Marysville**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards / Single Ride Tickets for All Services

Yuba-Sutter Transit

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