

# Yuba-Sutter Transit Newsletter

January 2012

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## -- MID-YEAR REPORT -- HISTORIC RIDERSHIP GROWTH TREND CONTINUES IN FY 2012

The first six months of the fiscal year are in the books and the mid-year performance report indicates that yet another ridership record should be set in FY 2012 – the 18<sup>th</sup> in the last 19 years. After four years of phenomenal annual double digit percentage increases in ridership slowed substantially in FY 2010, ridership jumped by nearly 7 percent in FY 2011 and this trend continues into FY 2012 as ridership is up by over 8 percent (July – December 2011) over the same period last year with essentially no increase in service hours.

Significant individual mid-year performance comparisons include the continuation of the exceptional long term growth trend with an amazing 10 percent increase in local fixed route ridership; a 4 percent increase in Sacramento ridership despite stable fuel prices and a still floundering economy; and, very respectable systemwide operating and financial performance indicators.

The local fixed routes once again saw the most numerical growth through December with 44,000 more riders than in the same period last year with no service changes. The 2009 addition of half-hour weekday service on Route 2 and the introduction of low-floor buses certainly helped spur this latest growth spurt, but a significant portion is still due to the discount monthly youth pass program where area youth can purchase a pass for just \$5 a month. This program has been extended through December 2012 with another grant from the Feather River Air Quality Management District.

After back-to-back annual ridership increases of 21 percent spurred by soaring fuel prices ended in FY 2009, Yuba-Sutter Transit's Sacramento ridership dropped by 7 percent in FY 2010 as a result of Friday state employee furloughs, lower fuel prices and poor economic conditions. Sacramento ridership recovered with a 4 percent increase in FY 2011 and is up again through the first six months of FY 2012 with many peak-hour schedules running at or near their seated capacity.

Looking forward, continued economic uncertainty especially regarding the state budget; the extension of the wildly successful \$5 monthly youth pass program through December 2012; and, continued high fuel prices are all expected to contribute to a new ridership record in FY 2012.

Thanks for riding the bus!

## ALL 2011 PHOTO I.D. CARDS HAVE NOW EXPIRED

If you have a discount photo identification (I.D.) card with an expiration date of **December 31, 2011**, it has expired and must be replaced immediately. After a one month grace period ending January 31, 2012, these expired cards will no longer be accepted as proof of age or disability on Yuba-Sutter Transit buses. Hundreds of expired cards have yet to be renewed so check yours today!

Photo I.D. cards are issued to qualified seniors (age 62 and over) and persons with disabilities for proof of eligibility for Dial-A-Ride service and for discount fares that may be available on Yuba-Sutter Transit's services. These \$5 cards are valid for up to three years and renewals are free when exchanged for an expiring card. This free exchange policy will also expire on January 31<sup>st</sup> for the expired 2011 cards.

Discount photo I.D. cards are available only at the Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office at 2100 B Street in Marysville. The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. each weekday. Call Sandra Anderson at (530) 634-6880 for more information.



## UPCOMING HOLIDAY SERVICE REMINDERS

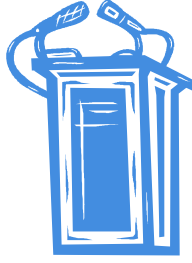
Yuba-Sutter Transit will not be in service on **Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** in observance of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**. Service will also be suspended on **Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** in observance of **President's Day**.

Please note that all service will operate as scheduled and the administrative office will be open on **Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** when some will be observing **Abraham Lincoln's Birthday** holiday.

Talking about holidays, don't forget that **Valentine's Day** is just around the corner on **Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. Wouldn't a bus pass or ticket book make a great and thoughtful gift for your transit riding friends or loved ones?

Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.

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## ANNUAL LOCAL UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS HEARING SET FOR FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the regional transportation planning agency for all of Sacramento, Sutter, Yuba and Yolo counties. SACOG holds a series of public hearings each year to determine if there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in the region. The input from these hearings is used to make decisions regarding the allocation of funding for public transportation purposes in each local jurisdiction.

The 2012 hearing for all of Yuba and Sutter Counties has been set for 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> in the Yuba County Government Center at 915 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Marysville. The comments received at the hearing will be evaluated to determine if there are any unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.

You do not have to attend the hearing to comment, but written or verbal comments must be submitted by that date to be considered at the hearing. Comments can be submitted to SACOG by mail to 1415 L Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814; by phone to (916) 340-6275; by TTY to (916) 321-9550; by FAX to (916) 321-9551; or, by e-mail to [transit\\_needs@sacog.org](mailto:transit_needs@sacog.org).

Call SACOG at (916) 321-9000 for more information.

## PROPOSED STOP CHANGE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AM HIGHWAY 99 SCHEDULE

Input is being sought from regular 1<sup>st</sup> AM Highway 70 and 1<sup>st</sup> AM Highway 99 passengers regarding the possible elimination of the Yuba County Government Center stop on the 1st AM 99 schedule. This change is being considered because both buses are scheduled to arrive downtown at the same time making two stops at the same location redundant while dropping the stop would provide minor cost savings and potentially better balance ridership between the two schedules.

The 1st AM 99 has always started in Marysville because the 1st AM 70 bus used to arrive downtown later. Both are now scheduled to arrive downtown at the same time, but a handful of Marysville passengers still catch the 99 schedule even though the 70 schedule departs 10 minutes later offering a shorter ride. In addition, the 1st AM 99 has significantly

higher average daily ridership so dropping the Marysville stop may better balance these two schedules and save about five minutes each morning by having the 1st AM 99 start at Sam's Club in Yuba City.

Please call or e-mail Keith Martin with your comments at 540-634-6880 or [keith\\_martin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keith_martin@sbcglobal.net). While sharing your thoughts on the subject, please be sure to include which morning schedule you now normally use for your trip to Sacramento. We look forward to hearing from you!

## STOP UPDATES

**WALTON TERMINAL** – The Sam's Club parking lot adjacent to this bus stop was recently fenced off for use as a staging area for a store remodel project which is projected to last until August. Plenty of parking spaces are still available north of the Sam's Club driveway from Walton Avenue.

**BOGUE & HIGHWAY 99 PARK & RIDE** – The expansion of the Bogue Road Park & Ride Lot is well underway. Please pay special attention to the continuously changing parking restrictions in the existing parking areas to avoid surprises. This project is scheduled for completion in June.

**OLIVEHURST & SEVENTH AVENUE** – Please note that the southbound bus stop at this location was recently moved from Ella School to the north side of the intersection.

## BUS PASSES & TICKET BOOKS

Monthly passes and discount ticket books are sold at the following locations. Please note that monthly passes are available from the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month until the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Sandra Anderson at (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 College Bookstore – **Linda**  
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards
3. Yuba-Sutter Transit Office – **Marysville**  
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards / Single Ride Tickets for All Services

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**Yuba-Sutter Transit**

**2100 B Street**

**Marysville, CA 95901**

**Administration: (530) 634-6880**

**FAX: (530) 634-6888**

**Service Information: (530) 742-2877 / TTY 634-6889**

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