

Yuba-Sutter Transit Newsletter

July 2008

Volume 19 – Number 5

SHORT RANGE PLAN ADOPTED

At their meeting on May 22, 2008, the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors adopted the 2008 Yuba-Sutter Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP). The draft plan, which was approved without change, is available for review at the Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office during normal business hours. It is also posted on-line at www.yubasuttertransit.com.

The plan includes many operational, capital, management and financial recommendations believed necessary to effectively and efficiently meet current and future local transit service needs in a financially constrained environment over the next five to ten years. The major initiatives planned for FY 2008-2009 include:

Local Fixed Routes

- Half-hour weekday service frequency on Route 2
- Improve transfers between Routes 1 & 3 at the North Beale Transit Center
- Streamline Route 5 to improve on-time performance

Sacramento

- Expansion of the Bogue Road Park & Ride Lot
- Service to the new McGowan Park & Ride Lot

Rural Routes

- Scheduled Foothill Route service
- Expansion of the Live Oak Route

Facilities

- More than double the design capacity of the existing facility in a two phase project in 2009 & 2010

Vehicles

- Fall 2008 delivery of twelve low-floor fixed route buses to replace eight 1995/1996 model buses
- Spring 2009 delivery of ten demand response buses to replace ten 1999 models
- Spring/Summer 2009 order of three high-capacity, tour-style buses to expand the commuter bus fleet

The Yuba-Sutter Short Range Transit plan, last updated in 2003, is the blueprint for local transit operations and development. The listing of an alternative in the plan does not guarantee implementation nor does its rejection prevent future implementation. Each alternative must still be individually evaluated as appropriate prior to approval and implementation.

Contact Keith Martin (keith_martin@sbcglobal.net) at (530) 634-6880 for more information.

SPECIAL NIGHT MEETING SET FOR AUGUST 7TH ON DRAFT McGOWAN PARK & RIDE PLAN

PROPOSED PLAN TO INTEGRATE THE NEW STOP INTO THE EXISTING SACRAMENTO SERVICE

Yuba-Sutter Transit has been seeking passenger input on how the new McGowan Park & Ride Lot should be integrated into the existing Highway 70 and Midday Express Sacramento services. That input was used to develop a draft service plan that is now being circulated for formal public comment.

The draft plan will be the subject of a special night meeting and public hearing on Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Yuba County Government Center at 915 8th Street in Marysville. (The hearing notice and draft service plan are posted on the internet at www.yubasuttertransit.com for review.)

As proposed, the new McGowan Park & Ride Lot that will soon be under construction between Powerline Road and Highway 70 in Olivehurst would replace the existing North Beale Road Transit Center stop in Linda on all existing Sacramento Commuter and Midday Express schedules. Minor time changes would also be made to all existing Sacramento schedules that now serve the North Beale Road stop to reflect anticipated changes in travel times.

Any changes that may result from this process, including other possible minor schedule changes to reflect current conditions, are expected to become effective on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 or shortly thereafter depending on the construction schedule.

Testimony regarding the proposed changes may be submitted 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 telephone at (530) 634-6880; by FAX at (530) 634-6888; or, by e-mail to keith_martin@sbcglobal.net. All communication must be received either at or prior to the hearing to be considered. Contact Keith Martin at (530) 634-6880 for more information.

JULY 4TH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In observance of Independence Day, Yuba-Sutter Transit will not operate on Friday, July 4th. Service will operate as scheduled on Thursday, July 3rd and Saturday, July 5th.

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INTERSTATE 5 “BOAT SECTION” PROJECT UPDATE

The reconstruction of Interstate 5 in downtown Sacramento reached the midway point when the second of four planned directional closures of I-5 ended on Sunday, June 23rd. The project schedule has been adjusted by Caltrans and the next closure will again be in the southbound direction from Wednesday, July 9th through Monday, July 14th.

The next northbound closure will be from Friday, July 18th through Wednesday, July 23rd. During this last closure, our regular stop at P & 5th Street will again be moved to 5th & P Street due to the closure of the P Street on-ramp to northbound I-5.

Our supplemental service schedule has also been adjusted. During the two upcoming directional closures only, we will have two or three buses standing by each morning (Monday - Thursday) to provide additional capacity when and where needed. These supplemental morning buses may also be used during non-closure periods if ridership begins to regularly exceed seated capacity.

For the remainder of the project (Monday – Thursday), one supplemental bus will start at 3:55 p.m. from the stop at J & 4th Street ahead of the 2nd PM 99 and the 1st PM 70 schedule and a second supplemental bus will leave J & 4th at 4:30 p.m. in between the 3rd PM 99 and the 2nd PM 70 schedules. Both of these afternoon buses use Highway 99 and both will stop in East Nicolaus by request.

On Fridays only, one supplemental bus will start from J & 4th just prior to the 1st PM Highway 99 schedule at approximately 3:44 p.m. in response to the unique ridership demand on this day. The Friday supplemental bus will not stop in East Nicolaus on the way to Yuba City.

Supplemental service is evaluated daily and adjustments will be made as necessary and is subject to change without notice. Call 530-742-2877 (511 toll-free) for more information.

SERVICE NOTES

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICE HOURS – The customer service counter in the Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The office is closed for lunch except by special appointment. Please plan your visit accordingly to avoid any unnecessary inconvenience.

COMMUTER E-MAIL LIST – We maintain a list of 450 or so e-mail addresses of Sacramento commuter passengers and others who have an interest in this service. If you are not already on this list and would like to receive regular Sacramento service updates, send an e-mail request to keith_martin@sbcglobal.net.

SEAT HOGS – Ridership is up dramatically and full or nearly full loads are now common on our local fixed route and Sacramento commuter buses. The number of complaints regarding “Seat Hogs” has increased as well. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis so please do not save them with your bags, appendages or anything else in an attempt to force others to search elsewhere for a seat. This insensitive practice delays passenger boarding, contributes to buses running late and just infuriates your fellow passengers.

REPORT THEFTS & VANDALISM – Theft or vandalism of cars parked near any local bus stop has been rare over the years, but we have heard of a few in recent months in the Sam’s Club and Bogue Road lots though authorities say that cars parked in these lots appear to be no more at risk than elsewhere in the area. If you should become a victim of such an incident, it is critical that you report it to the appropriate law enforcement agency and to our office as this information is the basis for decisions regarding patrol frequency and other security measures.

BUS PASSES & TICKET BOOKS

Yuba-Sutter Transit’s 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 only from the 24th of the month until the 7th of the following month.

1. Bel Air Market Customer Service Counter – **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. Wal-Mart Customer Service Counter – **Linda**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards
4. J & J Liquor – **1545 North Beale Road, Linda**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes
Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards
5. Yuba College Cashier’s Office – **Linda**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes
6. Yuba-Sutter Transit Office – **Marysville**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento Commuter Passes & Punch Cards / Single Ride Tickets for All Services

All passes and tickets are also available by mail. Call Rose Menefee at (530) 634-6880 for more information.

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Service Information: (530) 742-2877 / TTY 634-6889
Toll-Free Service Information: 511

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