

Yuba-Sutter Transit Newsletter

March 2009

Volume 20 – Number 2

UPDATE ON JANUARY 2009 SERVICE CHANGES

A number of local and rural route, schedule and stop changes were made in January to expand capacity; increase frequency; improve connections; and, enhance service reliability. Small or large changes were made to nearly every local route along with all rural routes. An early update on how these service changes met these goals was provided to the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors at their February 19th meeting.

The most significant local fixed route service change was the operation of half hour weekday service on Route 2. The increased frequency, doubling of seating capacity and resulting on-time performance improvements were all expected to increase Route 2 ridership still higher as it did when Routes 1 and 3 were converted to half hour service in 2001.

During the first month of operation, average weekday Route 2 ridership increased by 49 percent over January 2008. Such an increase was expected (though maybe not so quickly) based on what happened when half hour weekday service was added to Routes 1 and 3 in 2001. Of course, greater numbers of the new low floor buses were placed in service in January which certainly helped increase fixed route ridership as well.

Elsewhere, route and stop changes on Route 5 significantly reduced the length of this route greatly improving on-time performance. Average weekday ridership on Route 5 actually increased by nearly nine percent over January 2008 despite the reduced route length and fewer stops. Surprisingly, average Saturday ridership on Route 5 was up over 31 percent from January 2008.

Significant adjustments were also made to the Route 3 schedules so they now depart Yuba College at 15 minutes and 45 minutes after each hour. This change was designed to improve transfers between Routes 1 and 3 at the North Beale Transit Center and better space buses on North Beale Road. Because of the Route 3 change, Route 6 schedules were also adjusted to depart Yuba College at 50 minutes past the hour to retain timed transfers with Routes 1 and 3 at Yuba College.

While the major rural route changes had no immediate positive impact on ridership, the good news is that these changes to the Live Oak and Foothill Routes had no immediate negative affect either. The Live Oak Route now offers two round trips every Monday, Wednesday and Friday with all new schedules allowing half-day or full-day trips to and from Marysville and

Yuba City. The Live Oak Route also now stops at the Alturas & Shasta Terminal in Yuba City for better connections to the local fixed route system.

The Foothill Route, which still provides two round trips every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, has been streamlined to speed travel and eliminate the requirement for an advance reservation. The route now has scheduled stops in Brownsville, Oregon House, Willow Glen and Loma Rica though service at other locations along the route will still be available by appointment.

With the recent schedule changes, convenient connections to the local fixed route system or same-day round trip service to and from Sacramento is now possible from all rural routes. Applicable fares must be paid on each service.

New service brochures are now available on all buses or call 742-2877 for more information or to request copies by mail. The new brochures and lots of other information can also be found on our website at www.yubasuttertransit.com.

BOARD MEETING DATES

Regular public meetings of the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors are held at 4:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Unless otherwise noticed, these meetings are held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Yuba County Government Center located at 915 8th Street in Marysville. Special night meetings are held as necessary when an item of specific interest to out-of-area commuters is to be considered

An opportunity for public input is provided at all meetings. For easy reference, the dates and times for the next four regular meetings of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Thursday, March 19th at 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 16th at 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 21, at 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.

HOLIDAY NOTE

All Yuba-Sutter Transit services will operate as scheduled on the Cesar Chavez Birthday Holiday, Tuesday, March 31st. No supplemental Sacramento buses will be in operation that day. Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.

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ALL 2008 PHOTO I.D. CARDS ARE NO LONGER VALID

After a one month grace period that ended on January 31st, discount photo identification (I.D.) cards with an expiration date of **December 31, 2008** or earlier are no longer valid as proof of age or disability on any Yuba-Sutter Transit bus.

Yuba-Sutter Transit photo I.D. cards are issued to qualified seniors (age 62 and over) and persons with disabilities for proof of eligibility for our Dial-A-Ride service and any discount fares that may be available on other services. These \$5 cards are valid for up to three years.

Photo I.D. cards are available at the Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office at 2100 B Street in Marysville from 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. each weekday. Discount photo I.D. card applications are available by mail or on-line at www.yubasuttertransit.com.

Call Rose Menefee at (530) 634-6880 for more information regarding eligibility requirements.

ANNUAL BOARD REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Have you ever wondered about the history of Yuba-Sutter Transit? How is it organized and who is in charge? What are the current issues that the organization is facing? Where does the agency see itself going in the future?

The answers to all of these questions and many more can be found in Yuba-Sutter Transit's Annual Board Report which is presented to the Board of Directors each year at their January meeting. The January 2009 version of that report is now posted on our website at www.yubasuttertransit.com with a link right from our home page.

Specific sections of the report are dedicated to organizational history; performance indicators for our current services; administration and finance; major projects; and, current issues. Also included is a ten year fact sheet of major operational and financial data along with a list of major agency milestones over our nearly 34 year history.

The annual report provides an opportunity each year for the transit staff and board to reflect back on where the agency has come from; consider where we are now; and, look forward to where we might possibly go in the future. While this report is used primarily to brief new and continuing board members on agency issues prior to the next annual budget process, it also provides our passengers and other interested parties with valuable organizational information and insight as well.

Check it out today!

LOST ANYTHING LATELY?

It is amazing how much stuff passengers leave on the bus! Lunchboxes, umbrellas, backpacks, coats, textbooks, purses, groceries and bikes – you name it and we have probably had it in our “Lost & Found” collection at some time.

If you think you lost something on the bus, call our administrative office right away at (530) 634-6880. Found items are removed from buses at the end of each service day and brought into the office for safe keeping. Due to space constraints, **found items are kept for no more than 30 days** before being discarded or donated to a local thrift store.

We are not responsible for what you leave behind when you leave the bus. Some lost items never find their way to us, but a lot do including wallets with cash, bus passes and gift cards. Check with us before you give up on your cell phone, sunglasses, etc. and please call us as soon as you discover your loss for the best chance of recovery.

Call (530) 634-6880 for Lost & Found 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 monthly passes are available only 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. Walmart Register 18 Service Counter – **Linda**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes / Sacramento
Commuter Passes & Punch Cards
4. Yuba College Cashier's Office – **Linda**
Ticket Books / Monthly Fixed Route Passes
5. 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
2100 B Street

Marysville, CA 95901

Administration: (530) 634-6880

FAX: (530) 634-6888

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

Toll-Free Service Information: 511

Web Site: www.yubasuttertransit.com