

Yuba-Sutter Transit Newsletter

November 2009

Volume 20 – Number 8

SPECIAL NIGHT MEETING SET ON PROPOSED SACRAMENTO ROUTE & SCHEDULE CHANGES

Yuba-Sutter Transit is now considering route and schedule changes to our Sacramento service to make better use of available seating capacity and improve overall service quality in response to changing ridership patterns. These changes will be the subject of a special night meeting and public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2009 in the Yuba County Government Center at 915 Eighth Street in Marysville.

The proposed changes include a shift in afternoon Highway 99 schedules and the elimination of all service to East Nicolaus. The public hearing notice and draft service plan are now available from the Yuba-Sutter Transit office and they will soon be posted on-line at www.yubasuttertransit.com. Any changes that may result from this process are expected to be implemented on January 4, 2010.

Three alternatives are being considered for the proposed shift of the afternoon Highway 99 schedules. The first would retain the existing schedules with no changes. The other two would add a new earlier afternoon schedule by shifting a bus from later in the afternoon and adjusting the remaining schedules to help close the resulting schedule gap. This shift is designed to provide more capacity where ridership is the highest by shifting capacity from where ridership is the lightest.

Since the Plumas Lake Park & Ride Lot opened, only the 1st and 3rd AM and PM Highway 70 and northbound 2nd Midday schedules have served East Nicolaus. As proposed, the East Nicolaus stop would be eliminated and the affected schedules adjusted accordingly. This is being proposed as part of this review because average daily ridership from this stop does not appear to justify the additional cost and travel time required for the detour from the new Highway 70.

Existing and potential Sacramento passengers are being asked to select their preferred route or schedule alternative from among those presented or to submit a specific alternative for our consideration. We especially want to hear from those directly affected by the proposed changes, but we also want to hear from those who might consider adjusting their current schedule in response to a specific route or schedule change.

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

HUNDREDS OF PHOTO I.D. CARDS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31st

Do you have a discount photo identification (I.D.) card? Does it have an expiration date of December 31, 2009? If so, it is time to start thinking about getting it replaced. Reminder notices were sent in October to the last known address for all holders of expiring cards.

Photo I.D. cards are issued to qualified seniors (age 62 and over) and persons with disabilities as proof of eligibility for Dial-A-Ride service and any applicable discount fares. These \$5 cards are valid for at least three years and new cards are free when exchanged for an expiring card. Hundreds of these cards will expire on December 31st and will not be accepted after a one month grace period, but don't delay – get your new card right away!

Photo I.D. cards are available only at the Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office at 2100 B Street in Marysville from 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. each weekday.

Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.



NOVEMBER HOLIDAY SERVICE & OFFICE SCHEDULE

- Yuba-Sutter Transit will be closed and no service will be provided on Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday, November 26th**.
- In addition, Sacramento Commuter and Midday routes will not be operated on Veteran's Day, **Wednesday, November 11th** or on the day after Thanksgiving, **Friday, November 27th**, but all other services will operate as scheduled on those days.
- The Administrative Office will be closed on **November 11th, 26th and 27th**, so please plan for your purchase of passes and tickets accordingly.

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

FEATHER RIVER BOULEVARD (LINDA) – The much needed pedestrian access project on Feather River Boulevard between North Beale Road and Arboga Road in Linda is scheduled for completion by the middle of November. The bus stop shelter on Feather River Boulevard will soon be reinstalled and service to this very busy stop will resume as soon as possible.

RIDEOUT HOSPITAL EXPANSION PROJECT (3RD & H STREETS IN MARYSVILLE) – The multi-year project to expand Rideout Memorial Hospital is now well underway. Service impacts include the long-term abandonment of the bus stops at 3rd & F Streets (westbound) and H & 4th Streets (northbound) and major disruptions of Routes 1 and 4 due to underground work on 3rd Street. The worst of the street disruptions appear to be over for now and a bus stop shelter has been installed at a new long-term temporary stop on northbound H Street between 3rd and 4th Streets.

BRIDGE STREET RECONSTRUCTION (YUBA CITY) – This project is now expected to be completed in December, but two-way traffic has resumed on Bridge Street along with cross traffic on Shasta Street. This project has significantly impacted our on-time performance on Route 2 for months.

HILLCREST WATER SYSTEM PIPELINE PROJECT (YUBA CITY) – Several major underground projects will commence in mid-November to convert the former Hillcrest water system in south Yuba City from groundwater to surface water supply. The project will continue through February, but the most significant impact to our system will be a three week closure of Clark Avenue and a three month closure of Lincoln Road where each crosses the Gilsizer Slough. During these closure periods, some Route 2 and Route 5 bus stops will be unavailable due to detours that will also affect on-time performance. Watch for posters on the bus and at the affected bus stops regarding stop and route changes or call 530-634-6880 for more information.

CELL PHONE REMINDER

In response to several recent complaints, please make a note to keep your cell phone use to a minimum while on the bus to avoid disturbing other passengers. If you must use your phone, please speak softly. For some reason, people tend to speak louder than normal when on the phone and we don't really want to know all about your life and times.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM BEING INSTALLED ON ALL FIXED ROUTE BUSES

A multi-camera surveillance system is now being installed on all 18 of Yuba-Sutter Transit's local fixed route buses. The system will combine high quality color day/night video cameras with audio recording capability; a global positioning system (GPS); and, other features to provide accurate date, time, location and other critical data for future reference as necessary.

Once activated, these systems are expected to increase the sense of security among transit passengers; discourage intimidating behavior on the bus; reduce graffiti and other vandalism; and, improve the investigation of incidents including acts of violence, accidents and passenger/employee conflicts. Such systems are quickly becoming standard equipment on public transit buses everywhere with extremely positive results. This project is funded through a grant from the California Office of Homeland Security and the expansion of the system to other buses is being considered.

BUS PASSES & TICKET BOOKS

Monthly passes and discount ticket books are sold at the following locations. 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. All passes and tickets are also available by mail.

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

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Toll-Free Service Information: 511

Web Site: www.yubasuttertransit.com