Transit-Times

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25 years of safe driving
My purse containing over $100 in cash and other valuables was found by Allen M. Daniels, a maintenance worker. My deep appreciation to you and your staff for your honesty and efficiency.

Leah Jacobson
El Cerrito

I just wanted to take time to say thanks for services rendered above and beyond the call of duty.

Eugene Cota went out of his way to help me find a tax refund check.

AC Transit should be proud to have such people, who, I am sure, are an asset to you in your efforts to remain the "best" in the business. Keep up the good work.

Ed Johnson
Berkeley

William A. Scott is a very beautiful person. I ride home each evening very tired. It's nice to hear him treat each rider as he does. It makes me forget how tired I am.

Mary K. Gustarson
Oakland

About fifty-eight minutes to eleven my husband and I were coming from the doctor's office, 3001 High St., where we transfer from a 57 to a 40 bus. The driver, R. F. Inkleberger, waited several seconds for my husband to reach the bus stop, which I appreciated very much.

Mary D. Barney
Oakland

We are the old couple who ran through the red light into the side of your coach at the intersection of Grand and Lakeshore. My husband's heel got caught in the brake pedal. The reason I am writing this letter, for both of us, is to express our sincere gratitude to your driver, V. L. Hart. No one could be kinder, more courteous or more considerate of us if we had been his own grandparents.

Dorothea and Harold Kelly
Berkeley

Not too long ago I had written to you concerning the 90-92 stop on Tennyson just west of Calaroga. You had removed the 92 from that stop and placed it on Calaroga with the last "S" stop on Calaroga. I notice you have replaced the 92 on Tennyson and I wish to thank you for that change. It will make it possible to catch either 90 or 92 before they make their end of the line loop.

Previously, I had wondered about the possibility of a stop or two at the intersection of 7th Street and 7th Street Annex in Oakland, and continue to wonder.

Ed Wilbur
Hayward

(A stop has been put in for Line 83 and Line 12C at this location.—Ed.)

I would like to say I was very impressed with James C. Purvis. He is an excellent bus driver, very courteous and helpful.

Meg Bronson
Oakland

Bus contract for 120 coaches
Given to meet growing needs

Facing ridership which is growing by leaps and bounds, AC Transit is purchasing 120 new buses from Flxible Company of Loudonville, Ohio. Contract for the equipment was awarded by the Board of Directors, with expected delivery date set for the Fall. Flxible's low bid calls for a cost of $42,372 per bus delivered.

The only other bidder, GMC Truck and Coach Division, submitted a bid of $44,537 per unit delivered.

Two-way radios assist
In catching criminals

The benefit of AC Transit's two-way radio telephones has been noted by the Oakland Police Department, who praised recent individual efforts by four bus drivers.

A fire bombing at Seminary Ave. and E. 14th St. was observed and reported by L. W. Gardiner. Gardiner followed the bombing suspect to his car and took down the license number, enabling police officers to conclude their investigation quickly.

E. G. Brewster saw two youths grabbing an elderly woman's purse at 14th St. and Clay St. His radio call resulted in the purse being recovered.

C. R. Miller saw a group of juveniles creating a disturbance at Hamilton Jr. High School, 35th Ave. and Harper St. His call brought a juvenile sergeant and two police officers who quelled the incident.

V. L. Hart reported a police officer needed assistance at 19th St. and Telegraph Ave., where a shoplifting suspect had run from a corner market. The call resulted in several officers responding and taking the suspect into custody.

Approximately 80 percent of AC Transit buses have two-way radios at the present time.

Although the contract calls for delivery within 270 days after being awarded, Flxible is hoping to be able to deliver the first coaches by late September.

The new buses are expected to meet the continued rising patronage. Each coach will seat 51 passengers.

New passenger records for the district were set the week ending March 7, compared to the same week in 1973.

Transbay riding was up nearly 26 percent; East Bay riding was up 20.68 percent; and overall riding was up 22.18 percent.

Two new records were set during the same week in daily ridership. The bus system carried 240,460 passengers on March 4 and also topped previous daily revenue records on the same day, when $71,340 was collected.

A new transbay peak was reached on March 5, when 73,062 passengers traveled back and forth to San Francisco.

ON ITS WAY—Flxible Company will be sending 120 buses like this one to AC Transit this year to provide for the increase in ridership.

Pay raise given

A 20-cent-per-hour pay raise for cost of living has been given AC Transit employees.

In compliance with a directive from the Board of Arbitration, hourly personnel began receiving the cost of living adjustment with the payroll period beginning Feb. 24.
Bridge lane is widened for buses

Quicker and easier bus access to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge was provided from the Transbay Transit Terminal this month with the widening and striping of the bridge's lower deck on the west end.

The exclusive bus lane onto the bridge's eastbound lower deck has now been extended 200 additional feet with the completed efforts.

The work, done by the Toll Bridge Administration, is expected to reduce commute time for buses on the bridge.

Additionally, the moving of a guard rail to provide wider lanes and the restriping should reduce the accident rate.

The guard rail changes and restriping gives buses an unimpeded path into bridge traffic by eliminating one merge and providing better sight distance.

The better access to the bridge will benefit more than half the peak hour commuters, who travel home from San Francisco by bus.

First 25 year safe driving record set

Records are set to be broken.

And Charles R. Bosted, Jr., hopes someone will break the record he set this month.

Bosted is the first driver to achieve 25 years of safe driving for AC Transit. He turned the quarter-of-a-century mark behind the wheel on March 11.

When asked what ingredients go into his recipe for safety, Bosted says with a smile, "I drive defensively. I sort of bluff 'em if I have to, and if they call my bluff, I let 'em go ahead."

The son of a bus driver, Bosted has been involved in public transportation in the East Bay since Oct. 26, 1936. He worked street car lines before handling motor coaches, and between his father and himself the Bosted family has accumulated nearly 70 years of service. Bosted currently has top seniority among the District's 1250 drivers.

PBX/Information Sets new record

PBX/Information clerks set a record in handling 13,212 telephone calls during a single 24-hour period on March 14.

Questions from worried riders poured in to determine whether or not transbay buses would be in service during the San Francisco city employees' strike.

Regular information calls are running more than 5,000 per day on normal week days, according to Mrs. Zada Malinak, customer services supervisor.

Seven new trunk lines are being added to aid callers.

Three workers given Disability retirements

Three AC Transit employees have joined the ranks of pensioners by taking disability retirements.

Joseph P. Montoya, who worked for three years as a mechanic and 25 years as a driver, retires at age 51. Montoya makes his home at 14772 Crosby, San Leandro.

Retirement for Howard E. Schultz, 50, of 2651 17th St., San Pablo, comes after 10 years as a bus driver.

Nola E. Weathers, 41, of 1975 Holly Dr., Concord, retires after two years as a ticket seller, 12 years as a driver, and three years as a ticket clerk.
Advertising campaign on buses reflects newspaper centennial

One hundred years of newspaper history is riding around on AC Transit buses in an unusual advertising campaign designed to reach thousands of passengers.

To commemorate a centennial of publishing activity, the Oakland Tribune purchased the inside advertising space aboard 200 buses and launched a “newy” effort to sell subscriptions and tie in with celebration plans.

The campaign features four replica front pages, placed in 21-by-22 inch frames, along with advertising cards in 11-inch deep spaces, calling attention to the historical events recorded by the Tribune.

Bus riders are told they can obtain a free set of 15 replica front pages plus two “old Time” posters with each new subscription to the Tribune.

The front page reproductions are copies of the newspaper’s reporting of historical events, including the 1906 earthquake, the sinking of the Titanic, Lindbergh’s solo flight across the Atlantic and Pearl Harbor.

Two workers, three pensioners die

Two AC Transit employees and three pensioners died recently.

Long-time employee Irving M. Dybdal, who had worked in public transportation for nearly 30 years, died Feb. 16 at the age of 53. Dybdal was a ticket seller at the Transbay Transit Terminal in San Francisco, and was first employed Nov. 23, 1945. He is survived by his wife Lorraine, of San Lorenzo, his son Gary, stationed with the U. S. Army in Germany, his mother Mabel, two sisters and a brother.

Bus driver Dale E. Dodge, 25, died Jan. 24. He had been an employee of AC Transit since Oct. 3, 1972. Dodge is survived by his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Dodge, and his sister Janice Cornell, of Oakland.

Pensioners Earl D. Soward, Benjamin F. Rawles and Carl Brentel were veteran transit workers.

Soward died Feb. 18. He was 65, and is survived by his wife Dorothy and his daughter Carol Faren, of Pinole. Soward served as a trainman, towerman, and bus driver from June 2, 1941, to April 1, 1972.

Rawles worked 23 years in public transportation before his retirement April 1, 1965. He was 74 at the time of his death, Jan. 30. Rawles is survived by his wife Dona, of Hattiesburg, Miss. Brentel, who was 86, retired March 1, 1953, after 31 years in public transportation. He died Feb. 3, and is survived by his wife Pearl, of Oakland.

Are you making a move?

If you are planning on moving, let us know where your new address will be so we may change our mailing lists.

Send information to Transit-Times, AC Transit, 508 16th St., Oakland, Cal., 94612.

Unprecedented jump in riders

An unprecedented jump in revenue and ridership was recorded in January compared to a year ago, reflecting a ten month trend.

Total passenger revenue for the month was $1,382,215, up $140,947 or 11.4 percent above the $1,241,268 collected during January, 1973. East Bay revenue was $674,518, up $36,766 or 5.8 percent above the $637,752 collected last year. Transbay revenue was $707,697, up 17.3 percent or $104,181 from the $603,516 collected in January, 1973.

Commute book sales soared 20.7 percent above last year, up $60,593 to $353,765 as opposed to the $293,172 collected in January, 1973.

Buses carried 4,707,003 passengers in January, up 10.5 percent or 446,501 riders above the 4,260,502 carried during the same month last year. East Bay riders totaled 3,242,976, or 222,506 more than last year’s figure of 3,010,468, an increase of 7.7 percent. On Transbay lines, patronage jumped by 17.1 percent with 1,464,028 patrons riding, representing an increase of 213,993 above the January, 1973, figure of 1,250,034.

Nationally, the transit industry indicated an increase of 5.4 percent in total passengers carried.

Operating costs during January were $2,556,278, up $351,816 or 16 percent above year-ago expenses of $2,204,462. The system operated 2,320,997 miles of service during January, an increase of 99,904 miles or 4.5 percent above the 2,221,093 miles operated in January, 1973.

Total income of $2,668,520 left a deficit of $116,007 after meeting full bond debt requirements.
Actions of the Board

At an adjourned regular meeting Feb. 27, the Board of Directors:
- Awarded contract for furnishing and installing wall covering for 12 Dial-a-Ride buses to Conklin Bros., on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contract for furnishing and installing carpeting in 12 Dial-a-Ride buses to Conklin Bros., on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contract for furnishing bus passenger seats for 12 Dial-a-Ride buses to American Seating Co., on motion of Director Fujii.
- Awarded contract for 120 51-passenger buses to Flxible Co., on motion of Director Rinehart. (See story, Pg. 3).
- Authorized rerouting Line 93-Hesperian-Bay Fair to serve Juvenile Hall Complex, on motion of Director Berk.
- Inaugurated new special service for Eden Roc Mobile Home Park on Line 91, on motion of Director Berk.
- Authorized one additional morning and one evening commute hour trip on Line 42-NAS-South Gate Limited Service, on motion of Director Berk.
- Extended four morning and afternoon trips on Line 79-Oakport to Lesser St., on motion of Director Berk.
- Authorized rerouting on Line 81A to provide service to Singer-Friden, Conseco Prefab Steel, and Golden Grain plants, on motion of Director Berk.

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At a regular meeting March 13, the Board of Directors:
- Authorized General Manager to participate in panel discussion on transit development and financing in Washington, D.C., on motion of Director Copeland.
- Awarded contract for 38 locked type non-registering fareboxes to Keene Corp. with option for 156 subject to review by management, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized advertising and seeking for bids on bus drivers' uniform shirts, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.
- Authorized Board members to attend ATA Rail Transit Conference in San Francisco, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Requested the Governor of California to order State Police to keep the upper passenger loading area of the Transbay Terminal clear of pickets, on motion of Director Copeland.