

# NEXT STOP NEWS



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MARCH 2010

## RT to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Service Changes for June 2010

As RT rebounds from bus service reductions and fare increases implemented in 2009, the state's complete elimination of State Transit Assistance funds, and declining state and local sales tax revenues continue to significantly impact RT's operating budget.

The budget shortfall has been caused by three main factors linked to the downturn in the economy: State and local sales tax revenues are down, fare revenue has failed to meet projections due to furloughs and high unemployment and Governor Schwarzenegger has eliminated State Transit Assistance funds.

Updated figures presented at the RT Board of Directors meeting on February 22, 2010, show that these factors combined have created an approximately \$13 million budget shortfall for this fiscal year and an estimated \$25 million deficit that's expected to follow in FY 2011. Despite recent service reductions, fare increases in January 2009 and September 2009, a hiring freeze, freezing employee pay, implementing employee furloughs, and a number of other cost-cutting measures, RT is now faced with an unanticipated budget deficit that must be resolved by June 30, 2010. RT must also develop a long term plan to address the expected further decline in revenue in Fiscal Year 2011.

RT will be forced to drastically reduce the level of bus and light rail service, and lay off a high percentage of employees throughout the agency. RT staff is working to identify options to address this significant budget shortfall with the goal of maintaining as much service to the public as possible.

RT will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed service changes on Monday, March 8 at 4 p.m. in the RT Auditorium at 1400 29th Street (at N Street). Changes may include the reduction, realignment or discontinuation of any route.

The proposed service changes are scheduled for adoption by the RT Board of Directors on Monday, March 22, 2010, and if approved, would be implemented on Sunday, June 20, 2010.

Comments may be submitted in writing to the Planning Department at P.O. Box 2110, Sacramento, CA 95812-2110 or by e-mail to [servicechanges@sacrt.com](mailto:servicechanges@sacrt.com) and must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 8.

RT's administrative offices are served by Routes 36, 50E, 67, 68 and light rail at the 29th Street light rail station.

## Rider Alert

### River Cats Service Discontinued

Due to budget constraints, RT will not operate special service to River Cats home games this season.

### April 2010 Service Changes

Effective Sunday, April 4, RT will implement service changes on the following route:

#### Route 81: Florin – 65th Street (Weekday and Weekend Schedule Changes)

In order to improve light rail connections at the Florin Station, trips will be adjusted by a few minutes on Monday through Saturday (after 6 p.m.) and all day on Sunday.



## State of RT Breakfast and TransitAction Awards

On Friday, March 19, at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento, RT and the Sacramento Metro Chamber are co-hosting the 2nd annual State of RT Breakfast. This is your chance to hear directly from Mike Wiley, General Manager/CEO, RT's vision for transit in the Sacramento region over the next 25 years, and how the challenges RT faces today and in the years to come will affect this vision.

RT's TransitAction Awards, honoring transit excellence, will be presented to selected nominees that made a significant and positive impact to public transit.

Public transit is an important part of planning and maintaining viable transportation options. In Sacramento, transit helps revitalize business districts, allows employers to tap into larger workforces, builds economic revenues and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions that damage the environment. On an individual level, transit saves money and provides people with mobility options, freedom and opportunities.

Don't miss this memorable and educational event. For ticket information, visit [www.sacrt.com](http://www.sacrt.com) and click on the TransitAction Awards icon or visit the Sacramento Metro Chamber's Web site at [www.metrochamber.org/stateofrt](http://www.metrochamber.org/stateofrt).

## Blueprint: Then | Now | Next

### 5 Year Anniversary Celebration of the Sacramento Blueprint

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is convening an interactive forum celebrating the unique development of the Sacramento region's smart growth Blueprint on Friday, April 2 in the California State University, Sacramento's Union Ballroom located at 6000 J Street from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

This event will highlight plans, smart growth developments and other activities. Learn what the Blueprint was, is and will be, and how the Blueprint and smart growth principles improve quality of life for all residents in our region.

There is no charge to attend. Space is limited, so register today by calling 916-321-9000 or visit [www.sacregionblueprint.org](http://www.sacregionblueprint.org).

## Farmers' Market Moves to Sunrise Station

On Saturday, March 6, the Sunrise light rail station will become the new site of the weekly farmers' market previously located at the Sunrise Mall. The new location will provide RT passengers with convenient access via bus and light rail.

Purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables and other products at the year-round Certified Farmers' Market every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon in the Sunrise Station park-and-ride lot.

Route 74 and light rail serve the Sunrise Station on Saturdays. For more information about the farmers' market, call 916-688-0100 or visit [www.marketlocations.com](http://www.marketlocations.com).

## Season of Civil Rights Poetry Contest Winners

### "I Am the Dream and the Dream is Now"

Congratulations to the 2010 Season of Civil Rights Poetry Contest winners. Their poems were displayed on RT buses during Black History Month and at RT's booth during the Black Expo 2010.

### Congratulations to the winners!

#### We Can All Sit Together

Rosa Parks provided the spark  
That got people to their feet instead of giving up their seats  
They walked miles to their jobs and faced angry mobs  
But they were up for the fight, demanded to be treated right  
Wanted to pay their fare to sit anywhere  
Wanted to be respected like other women and men,  
Not judged by the color of their skin  
No more money to the bus if you can't respect us  
Is what they said and they forged ahead  
Boycotting through all kinds of weather  
so today we can all sit together

*Syrai Harris • 2nd Grade  
Capitol Heights Academy*

#### What We Want

We want freedom,  
equality,  
and justice for all,

we want peace,  
integration,  
and independence for all mankind,

we want not to be judged by how we look on the outside,  
but by who we are on the inside,  
and what we have to give to this world

*Harnoor Gill • 7th Grade  
Edward Harris Jr. Middle School*

#### Man-With-A-Plan

As I wait at the bus stop, I think on that man.  
That man, Dr. King, yes, he had a plan.  
When he rallied the people to fight against racism,  
unfair treatment, and slander.  
He was a smart man, he knew what he was doing,  
he knew he would stir people up.  
Yet he held his head up, and stayed off that bus,  
and everyone stayed off with him.  
Civil rights changed dramatically  
because of that Man-With-A-Plan.

*Justina Sharp*

#### Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was on a bus.  
Standing up for all of us.  
A white person wanted her seat.  
Rosa wanted to rest her feet.  
The police took her to jail.  
Laws for the black community did fail.  
They wanted to change the law  
So it would be equal for all.  
Rosa Parks sat down to mend  
So that oppression would end.

*Aniela Anuszczyk • 1st Grade  
Heritage Peak Charter School*

#### Freedom

Oppression

Slavery Unrepresented

Burdening Discriminating Dysfunctioning

By going to jail, she found a new freedom

Traveling Schooling Hoping

Self Determination Equality

Freedom

*Gabriel Anuszczyk • 4th Grade  
Heritage Peak Charter School  
(This is a Diamante Poem – A diamante is a seven line  
poem arranged in a diamond)*



## Green California Summit and Exposition

The Green California Summit and Exposition is the way to stay up-to-date on the policy innovations, technologies, strategies and best practices that are keeping the Golden State on the cutting edge of the green revolution. The event takes place on Monday, March 15 through Wednesday, March 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Convention Center located at 1400 J Street.

Discover hundreds of green products and service all in one place during the exposition. Talk to experts and get intensive, hands-on education regarding green technologies.

Admission to the summit and exposition is free to registered attendees. For more information about the event, visit [www.green-technology.org](http://www.green-technology.org). Be green and ride RT to the Green California Summit and Exposition. For route and schedule information, call 916-321-BUSS (2877) or visit [www.sacr.com](http://www.sacr.com).

*Next Stop News is produced monthly by the Sacramento Regional Transit District to keep passengers informed about current RT news and community events.*

*E-mail questions or comments about Next Stop News to [nextstopnews@sacr.com](mailto:nextstopnews@sacr.com)*