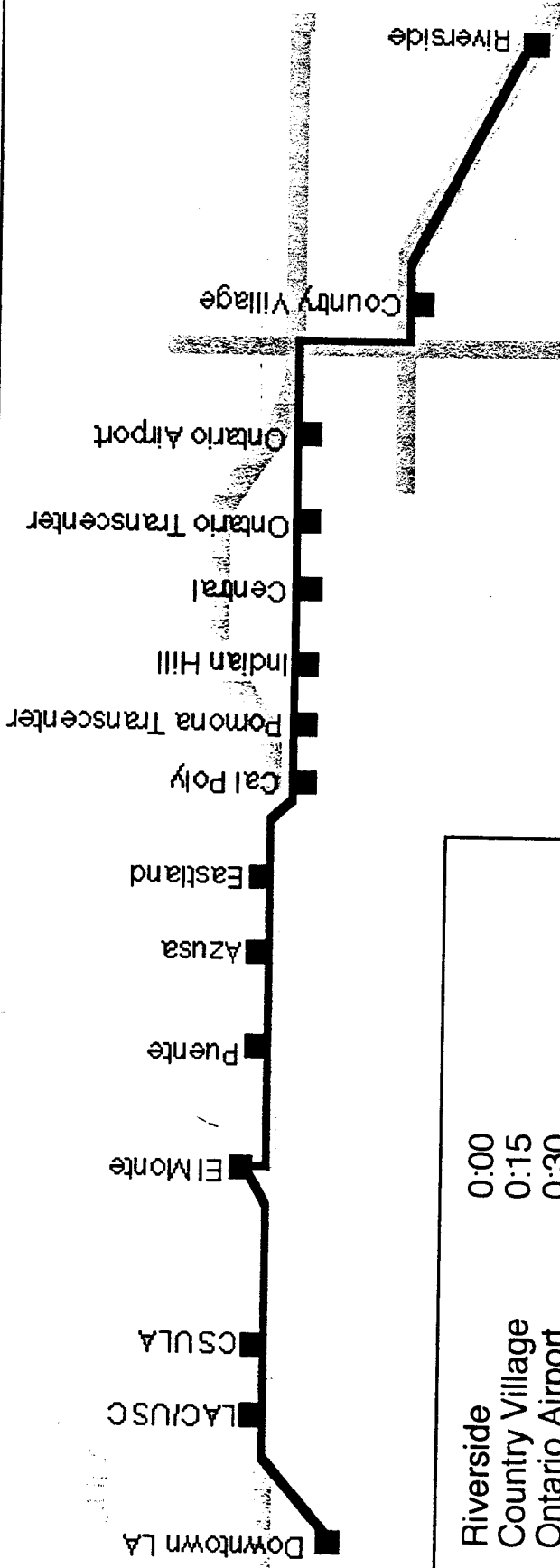


FOOTHILL #496: LA-POMONA-ONTARIO-RIVERSIDE



Riverside	0:00
Country Village	0:15
Ontario Airport	0:30
Ontario Transit Ctr	0:36
Holt/Central	0:45
Holt/Indian Hill	0:48
Pomona TransCtr	0:53
Cal Poly	1:03
Eastland	1:10
El Monte	1:18
CSULA	1:27
Downtown LA*	1:49

(*via Spring to Olympic -- original #496 route)

Route Planning & Graphic Design: Charles P. Hobbs • 818 700 8464 • transit@primenet.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ROUTE CHANGES EFFECTIVE SATURDAY, JULY 1.

New, Faster Service On Inland Empire Connection Route 496

Route 496 new EXPRESS bus service will travel directly from the Riverside Downtown Terminal to Country Village Rd. at the community of Country Village via the 60 freeway and then follow its previous route to Ontario Airport, Montclair Plaza, and the Montclair Transcenter. Pick up a Route 496 schedule for exact hours of operation. As a result of these changes, RTA has created new Route 49 for faster service on Mission Blvd. from the Riverside Downtown Terminal to Country Village Rd.

Introducing RTA Route 49 On Mission Boulevard!

The new Route 49 will replace Inland Empire Connection service on Mission Blvd. The 49 will run hourly, seven days a week from the Riverside Downtown Terminal to Country Village Rd. and Country Club via 7th St. and Mission Blvd. Route 49 includes convenient transfer points to RTA Route 29 at Rubidoux & Mission and Opal & Mission in addition to Inland Empire Connection Route 496 at Country Village Rd. and Country Club at the community gate of Country Village. Transfers can also be made to RTA Route 21 at Mission & Pedley and Country Village.

Inland Empire Connection Route 149 Changes

As a result of funding reductions, Route 149 stops on Green River Drive in Corona will be removed, and 149 service from the Downtown Riverside Terminal to Disneyland in Orange County will be reduced to five trips a day, Monday through Friday. The 149 will continue to offer four trips on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays with time adjustments made to increase on-time performance.

For more information about the route changes or a copy of the new schedules, please contact the RTA Telephone Information Center at (909) 682-1234 from Riverside and Moreno Valley or 1-800-800-7821 from all other areas.



(909) 682-1234
Riverside/Moreno Valley
1-800-800-7821
All Other Areas



Press Release

Riverside Transit Agency

1825 Third Street
P.O. Box 59968
Riverside, CA 92517
Phone: (909) 684-0850
Fax: (909) 684-1007

April 30, 1997

Contact: Susan Hafner
General Manager
work: (909) 684-0850

Joan Danfifer
Community Relations Rep.
work: (909) 684-0850

**INLAND EMPIRE CONNECTION ROUTE 496 TO CONTINUE WEEKEND
SERVICE THROUGH JUNE 30**

(RIVERSIDE, CA) -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- The Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) Board of Directors last week authorized that weekend service continue on the Inland Empire Connection Route 496 through June 30, 1997. The popular route provides service between the Riverside Downtown Terminal, Country Village, the Ontario Airport and Montclair Plaza. The route, which previously operated seven days a week, was cut back to weekends only in January due to funding constraints.

During the week, passengers can take RTA Route 49 and transfer to Omnitrans Route 71 at Country Village to continue their trip to Montclair.

For additional information on Inland Empire Connection Route 496 or about any of RTA's fixed bus routes, please call the RTA Information Center at (909) 682-1234 from Riverside/Moreno Valley, or 1-800-800-7821 from all other areas.

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<i>RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION</i>	
DATE:	August 13, 1997
TO:	Riverside County Transportation Commission
FROM:	Cathy Bechtel, Program Manager
THROUGH:	Jack Reagan, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Inland Empire Connection Route 496

As you will recall, the Inland Empire Connection Route 496 is currently operating on weekends only between downtown Riverside and the Montclair Transit Center. This weekend service is in operation to provide a transit connection between Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, with an opportunity to connect with Los Angeles County through a transfer to Foothill Transit, the MTA, or Metrolink at the Montclair Transit Center. Riverside Transit Agency is currently providing this service through a contract with Roesch Lines at a direct cost of \$59.47 per vehicle service hour, not including equipment. On weekdays, the Route 496 does not operate. Instead, passengers use the RTA Route 49 to travel between downtown Riverside and Country Village, then transfer to Omnitrans' Route 71 to reach Montclair.

Years ago the Route 496 operated directly between downtown Los Angeles and Riverside, Monday through Sunday; made possible through a cooperative service agreement between Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Due to funding constraints, the MTA discontinued their funding participation in July 1994. Passengers needing to travel in or out of Los Angeles County were required to transfer in Montclair, resulting in increased travel time. In July 1995, RTA began operating their Route 49 along Mission Boulevard and reduced service on Rt. 496 to peak hours only. Passengers needing to travel into San Bernardino County during the midday had to use Route 49 and make a transfer at Country Village. In January 1997, Omnitrans made major changes to their system, implementing Route 71 which served Country Village. San Bernardino County discontinued their funding participation on the the Rt. 496, and weekday service was discontinued.

This service has been in constant flux since 1994. Ridership has dwindled due to the multiple transfers and time required to complete a trip between San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties. Staff has had grave concerns about the changes made to this route over the years. SB1402 (Presley) requires the county commissions for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino to jointly develop a program for regional transit services within the multicounty region. We take this direction very seriously and have been looking for opportunities to provide a viable transit option for our Riverside County riders requiring travel along this corridor.

The FY 1998 Riverside Transit Agency Short Range Transit Plan, approved by the Commission in June, included service access along the Route 496 corridor on weekends. At the time of the Commission's approval of the SRTP, RTA was not sure whether they would provide this service directly through an extension of their Route 49 or via a contract operation, as had been done to date. As you will recall, our Chair wrote a letter to the RTA Chairman urging uninterrupted service on this corridor since the Commission approved a full years operation. The RTA Board approved a 4 month contract extension with Roesch Lines to provide service continuation through October 31, 1997.

Staff has been concerned about the delay in RTA's decision on whether the service should be directly

Staff has been concerned about the delay in RTA's decision on whether the service should be directly operated or not. They have been considering this option since April and are still undecided. As you will recall, as a result of the Barton-Aschman study completed and approved by the Commission in June 1993, the Riverside Transit Agency has authority to draft their proposed Short Range Transit Plan, collate the proposed plans from the municipal operators (Banning, Beaumont, Corona, and Riverside), and recommend funding allocations for new services. These proposed Plans are considered by a SRTP Policy Committee for preparation of the draft SRTP which is submitted to RCTC for its consideration and disposition. The SRTP Policy Committee is comprised of a representative from each Western County Operator and RCTC. It is the Commission that has approval authority over the service to be provided and the funds that are allocated to implement the approved service levels. Again, the Commission approved a full year's operation of the Route 496 and allocated the funds necessary to operate this service.

RTA staff has been reticent to commit to the operation of this line. Due to the continued uncertainty surrounding the operation of the line, the resultant confusion for our riders, and our responsibility to coordinate intercounty services, RCTC staff felt it was imperative to investigate alternatives to ensure continued operation of the service, thus the following proposal for your consideration.

Foothill Transit Agency serves the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. They currently have two routes serving the Montclair Transit Center which also connect with downtown Los Angeles. We have had one meeting with the General Manager of Foothill to determine the feasibility of them extending one of their routes to serve downtown Riverside. Foothill staff was very willing to discuss this option and investigate the cost to provide this extension provided there is consensus regarding them operating in this area.

Foothill currently contracts out all of their service with Laidlaw Transit and ATE/Ryder. Their preliminary direct cost estimates for the weekend service are comparable to RTA's current contract with Roesch. However, Foothill's costs include providing the equipment for the service, which would make it more cost effective since RTA currently provides the vehicles to Roesch. The vehicles currently used on this route have high mileage and have been experiencing many mechanical problems.

RTA's contract with Roesch expires October 31, 1997, so there is not a lot of time to finalize negotiations. Based upon a July 24, 1997 luncheon meeting our Director had with Susan Hafner, RTA is willing to talk with Foothill and Omnitrans about a cooperative effort. Staff is recommending that we pursue a contract with Foothill for the weekend service initially, with an ultimate goal of a weekday operation similar to the old Route 496. Approval of this first step would allow riders to travel between Riverside and Los Angeles, without the need for a transfer, at a more cost effective rate than is currently experienced.



Foothill Transit



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San Dimas
South El Monte
Temple City
Walnut
West Covina*

October 8, 1997

Mr. Charles P. Hobbs
9035 Topanga Canyon #112
West Hills, CA 91304

Subject: Line 496 Proposal

Dear Mr. Hobbs:

Thank you for your letter and service suggestions dated September 5th. We appreciate your input into Foothill Transit's planning process.

Currently, we are working with the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) on alternatives to providing this service. Current bus fleet assignments may limit our participation to weekend service, when more spare vehicles are available for deployment. This service transfer is still in the planning stages, however, and service hours and vehicles have not been dedicated yet.

Thank you again for your comments regarding this service.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Marchetti
Planner

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