

News Release

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SLO TRANSIT PERFORMANCE UPDATE Double Deck Bus and Overall System Ridership

Public Works Transit staff would like to provide ridership information regarding SLO Transit's double deck bus during the first two weeks of the Cal Poly Fall Quarter and Overall System Ridership from July 1st through September 30th.

This is the second year of operation for the double deck and it continues to carry many passengers on our busiest transit routes as evidenced by the photos below.



The City purchased the double deck to replace two old, worn out, polluting buses. Operating this bus requires one driver instead of two, and it produces far less emissions than two older buses. SLO Transit also experienced serious problems leaving students behind in the morning and the afternoon on our busiest routes. Students could not rely on the City bus system to get to class on time and ridership suffered as a result. The following statistics are



from September 19th to 23rd (start of Cal Poly Fall Quarter) for weekday trips where the double deck bus was used:

Double Deck Bus

- **7,616 weekday passengers carried.**
- **9 trips carried over 100 passengers per hour** – these are “crush load” and would have required leave behinds with a 40’ bus and standing room only even on the DD.
- **31 % of trips (36 of 118) exceeded 72 riders per hour** – 20 to 25% of these trips would have likely resulted in leave behinds and standing room only on a typical 36 seat bus.
- **79 % of trips (93 of 118) exceeded 36 riders per hour** – 20 to 25% of these trips would have likely resulted in standing room only on a typical 36 seat bus.
- Average passengers per trip on double deck routes 4A & 5A was 65 passengers per hour during the two weeks.
- Average passengers per trip between 7 AM and 11 AM were 80 passengers per hour.
- Average passengers per trip between 3 PM and 7 PM were 59 passengers per hour.

Overall System Ridership Year to Date (July 1, 2011-September 30, 2011)

- Total fixed ridership up 8.7% over last year (approximately 13,896 more riders).
- Cal Poly riders up 15% over last year (approximately 11,200 more riders).
- General Public riders up 2.7% (approximately 2,696 more riders).
- In 2010-11, SLO Transit experienced our highest single system year ridership at 1,045,299 passengers and we are on a pace to exceed that total this year.

City staff continues to monitor the occupancy of the double deck in its use on Routes 4 and 5 and will make adjustments to maximize ridership based upon demand of the riders at peak times of the day.

For more information on the performance and benefits of the double deck bus, please visit www.SLOCity.org/PublicWorks/Transit.asp or contact Public Works Transit Manager, John Webster at (805) 781-7121 or via email to jwebster@slocity.org.

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