

T O R R A N C E

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Torrance Transit joins Google Transit to Offer Patrons Better Trip Planning Tool

Torrance, Calif., March 24, 2011 – The City of Torrance's Transit Department (Torrance Transit), in partnership with Google Transit, is pleased to announce that it now offers a better, and more convenient trip planning tool for Torrance commuters. Torrance Transit is one of the first operators in the South Bay using this tool.

"Our partnership with Google, Inc. will allow our riders to more easily and efficiently plan their trips from anywhere, making transportation more accessible, which is our goal," says Kim Turner, Transit Director.

On October 19, 2010, the Torrance City Council approved Torrance Transit's contract with Google Inc., which allows Torrance Transit's schedule data to be accessible via Google Maps. Now riders can have step-by-step trip planning from their desktop computers or smartphones. As part of joining the program, Torrance Transit's website now has the Google Transit Trip Planner widget, which is located at <http://Transit.TorranceCA.Gov>. This widget makes it possible to input the departing and destination information and it will link over to the Google Maps page with the entire list of detailed trip planning information.

Torrance Transit is proud to have joined the number of data providers that take advantage of Google Transit in the South Bay. Currently there are few regional providers on Google Transit, and Torrance Transit is proud to have developed its data feeds from scratch internally, which yields more accurate information for those planning their trips. Some more benefits to transit riders of the South Bay include:

- **Customized routes:** Riders can now input their starting and ending points, select the public transportation option, and then Google Transit presents multiple travel options. The rider can customize the trip planner to include leave/arrive by times, less walking, or less transfers.

- more -

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TORRANCE TRANSIT**

- **Information access by mobile phone:** Trip planning through Google Maps is available on most mobile smartphones (Android, iPhone, Blackberry, Windows Mobile, etc.). Google Maps information is now available to Torrance Transit riders wherever they are located, whether at home or when plans change out on the streets.
- **Timetables Rendered Unnecessary:** With Google Transit as one's trip planner, there is no longer a need to fumble through time tables. Since Google Transit provides stop to stop directions, it will also provide the proper departure and arrival times, reducing the need for timetables when planning trips.
- **Street view of bus stop locations:** Using Google Maps, users can easily view ground-level images of all Torrance Transit bus stops to ensure riders they're in the right spot.
- **Fare calculation estimates:** If the necessary data is provided to Google Transit, it will automatically calculate the fare cost estimate. It even provides a comparison of the cost to drive to your destination.
- **Support for 12 languages:** Google Maps and Google Transit support multiple languages so it is very convenient for foreign language riders, whether residents or international tourists.

Torrance's Transit Department is very excited to use tool and offer it to the community. We invite everyone to utilize Google Transit for their next trip planning needs.

About Torrance Transit

Torrance Transit began January 15, 1940 with three leased 1931 Mack-33 buses. By 1970 the fleet consisted of 13 heavy diesel vehicles. Today 51 vehicles operate on eight fixed routes all around the South Bay, connecting with Metro and other transit agencies. Annually the system has approximately 3.5 million boardings driving 15 million passenger miles.

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