



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SunLine Transit Agency Announces New Service Routes to Kick Off 2016

Desert Hot Springs Now Has Express Service to College of the Desert, Line 111 Extends to Coachella

(Thousand Palms, CA) SunLine Transit Agency announced today the addition of new routes to service the Coachella Valley. The new service changes are in response to the Agency's outreach to its current ridership and other resources in the community.

Perhaps the most anticipated service change is an express line from Desert Hot Springs to College of the Desert (COD). The new Line 20 will provide enhanced connections between the City of Desert Hot Springs and the City of Palm Desert and to Lines 14, 15, 32, 53, 54, and 111. This new service will cut passenger trip time in half through a 40 minute commute. The Line 20 also has a stop at Dinah Shore and Monterrey Avenue – making this route not only convenient for students traveling to and from COD, but also for Desert Hot Springs residents looking to travel to this popular commercial district and shopping area.

"Desert Hot Springs just got a whole lot closer to College of the Desert with SunLine's Line 20 Express. This is big improvement in the lives of Desert Hot Springs college students," said Councilman Russell Betts, the City's representative on the SunLine Transit Agency Board. "A lot of people deserve credit for making this happen, so on behalf of our city, I'd like to extend a big thank you."

What's more, the Line 20 will be the Agency's first official introduction of the electric bus. SunLine has always been a leader in busses with low emissions and alternative fuels – including the Hydrogen bus and American Fuel Cell bus – so the electric bus is a natural extension of its commitment to serving the Coachella Valley with an environmentally-friendly clean fuels fleet. The long-range battery electric bus is the first of its kind worldwide, producing zero emissions and the ability to operate 161 miles on a single charge.

Another major service addition is the expansion of the Line 111 into Coachella. Previously, the Line 111 ended in Indio, but this additional service will take it on to Coachella with a stop at 5th Street and Vine. This will be for all trips of the Line 111, on all days.

"It's an exciting time at SunLine Transit Agency as we roll out these service enhancements and incorporate electric busses into our fleet," said Lauren Skiver, CEO/General Manager of SunLine Transit Agency. "We are frequently reaching out to the community and encouraging feedback on how we can

improve service. These additions are in response to listening to the transit needs of our riders in the Coachella Valley, and we will continue to make service changes as necessary. It's truly a team effort."

For more information on routes and fares within the Coachella Valley – in addition to SunLine's Commuter Link to Riverside, which connects to other routes and transit systems in Southern California – go to www.sunline.org. For rider alerts, follow SunLine Transit Agency on Facebook.

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About SunLine Transit Agency

SunLine Transit Agency is a joint powers authority formed in 1977 to operate the Coachella Valley's public transportation system. Its fixed route and paratransit vehicles travel more than 4 million miles per year, covering over 619 bus stops located throughout a 1,120 mile-service area, carrying approximately 4.82 million riders. SunLine offers fixed route bus service and curb-to-curb paratransit for the mobility impaired. SunLine Services Group regulates three taxi franchises who provide taxi services throughout the valley. SunFuels alternative fueling stations offer compressed natural gas and hydrogen for SunLine and the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To learn more, please visit www.sunline.org.