

**SunLine Rolls Out New 6th Generation Hydrogen Fuel Bus
at the 3rd Annual “State of Public Transit” Luncheon**

Senior Federal Transit Administration Official Vincent Valdes Headlines Event

(Thousand Palms, CA) -- Environmentally friendly public transportation was shining brightly in California’s desert in late February as SunLine Transit Agency unwrapped its newest hydrogen fuel cell bus to kick off its 3rd Annual “State of Public Transit” Luncheon. The unveiling ceremony took place February 19th, at the Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa, located in Rancho Mirage, California.

Guests toured SunLine’s sparkling new Advanced Technology (AT) bus, a 40-foot, low-floor New Flyer model that features the latest advances in hydrogen fuel cell reliability, performance and weight reduction. Among the features: a smaller and lighter fuel cell power plant; lighter hydrogen



storage tanks; a smaller fuel cell thermal management system; new and improved high voltage battery technology, as well as the latest in diagnostic tools and data collection.

The eye-catching bus, with exterior feature images depicting a child blowing bubbles that symbolize a future of clean, renewable energy, is the 6th generation hydrogen fuel vehicle introduced by SunLine. The Agency’s groundbreaking use of zero-emission fuel dates back to 2005 when it placed its first fuel cell bus in service. It’s all part of SunLine’s legacy of championing the use of alternative fuels for public transportation, a practice that began in 1994 with the conversion of its entire fleet to clean-burning compressed natural gas (CNG). Frank Cullen, Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) teamed with SunLine General Manager C. Mikel Oglesby to unveil the Advanced Technology (AT) bus.

“Once again, SunLine is honored to celebrate another historical milestone with the help of our Congresswoman, a driving force along the Agency’s road to hydrogen throughout the years”, stated Oglesby.

- more -

SunLine Rolls Out New 6th Generation Hydrogen Fuel Bus at the 3rd Annual “State of Public Transit” Luncheon – Page 2

Following the ceremony, guests moved into the main ballroom for a series of presentations at the Luncheon, including a keynote speech by Federal Transit Administration official Vincent Valdes. Mr. Valdes serves as Associate Administrator for Research, Demonstration & Innovation at the FTA offices in Washington D.C.



In his current role, Mr. Valdes manages an office of 40 program managers, transportation specialists and engineers who work on the FTA’s critical transit research activities. The program provides research leadership to the transit industry and facilitates the development of transit technologies and techniques that support national transportation goals. He delivered an overview of current research and development programs and how they support agencies such as SunLine Transit.

“We were pleased to welcome Mr. Valdes as he shared some of the exciting advances taking place in the world of public transit,” said Oglesby. “However, this was more than simply learning about what’s on the drawing boards for tomorrow. It was an opportunity to see how agencies such as SunLine are embracing and utilizing these new technologies today.”

- end -

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 vehicles travel more than 21 million passenger miles per year, covering 536 bus stops located throughout a 1,120 mile-service area. SunLine offers fixed route bus service, curb-to-curb paratransit for the mobility impaired.