



SUNLINE TRANSIT AGENCY INTRODUCES COACHELLA VALLEY'S FIRST SELF-SERVICE BUS PASS VENDING MACHINE

(Thousand Palms, CA)- SunLine Transit Agency unveiled its new automated Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) during a public event, Friday, July 30, at SunLine's Division 2 facility in Indio. General Manager C. Mikel Oglesby thanked the crowd of supporters in attendance and shared the Agency's excitement about making public transportation ticketing more accessible and convenient for the thousands of passengers across the Coachella Valley.

The new TVM is user friendly, accessible to customers using wheelchairs and other mobility devices, features large print, colorful and easy to read directions, as well as voice activated audio and Braille to assist the hearing and visually impaired. These amenities meet Federal ADA accessibility requirements and further enhance the ways in which SunLine is striving to provide high quality public transit to meet the mobility needs of all who rely on its services.

Passengers may purchase bus passes at the TVM twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It's an easy three-step process to purchase a pass from the machine: Riders simply select the type of pass desired for purchase, insert their money, credit or debit card, and the machine dispenses the ticket. The machine vends the Day Pass, the 31-Day Pass and the 10-Ride Pass for adults and youth, as well as the Senior/disabled Half-fare Pass. Purchases can be made with a Visa, Mastercard, debit card, or customers can use cash. The machine accepts denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 bills and dispenses change and credit card receipts.

Among those in attendance at the Grand Opening were SunLine Board members Eduardo Garcia, Vice-Chairman and Mayor of Coachella; Glenn Miller, Indio City Councilman; and Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit. All expressed enthusiasm for the Valley's first-ever automated system.

Vice-Chairman Garcia lauded the easy-to-use features of the automated system, saying "The TVM is a great enhancement to transit services in the Coachella Valley. The ability to purchase bus passes from the vending machine creates easy access to transit services for our local bus riders and our visitors."

As host city for the inaugural installation, Councilman Miller said, "Indio is very excited that the first vending machine for transit passes that can be utilized by local riders and visitors is located in our community."

Supervisor Benoit added, "With the installation of the TVM, SunLine has taken another advanced step to providing convenient transit services to our bus riding public."

The Indio bus stop at Highway 111 and Flower functions as a high-volume transfer stop where four bus lines meet. The location was selected for its accessibility and convenience to a large number of passengers. Additionally, 24-hour video surveillance is installed at this location as a safety feature for SunLine customers.

"Although passes can be purchased on the bus as a result of the new fare box SunLine installed last year, the ability to purchase a pass before boarding the bus facilitates faster boarding and helps the bus operator stay on schedule", stated Oglesby.

Passes can also be purchased at pass outlets, on SunLine's website, by phone and by mail. For more information, individuals are asked to contact Customer Service at 1-800-347-8628 or visit www.sunline.org.