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SunLine Offers Week of Free Rides on Commuter Link 220 to Riverside July 13-17

Promotion Held in Conjunction with Trial Run of the World's First Long- Range 40-Ft. Electric Coach

(Thousand Palms, CA) Next week, from Monday, July 13 through Friday, July 17, rides on SunLine Transit Agency's [Commuter Link 220](#) traveling to and from Riverside will be free for all riders. This special provides an opportunity for passengers to ride in an electric bus as part of a trial run of the world's first long-range 40-ft. coach.

The bus model is provided by BYD Company Ltd. and is a model BYD C9.

SunLine Transit Agency was selected by BYD to run a demonstration project on the Line 220 which goes from various locations in the Coachella Valley to the City of Riverside. SunLine is evaluating battery electric buses for future use in its revenue fleet. SunLine could potentially run the electric buses from energy collected through solar and stored in battery energy storage – which further reduce costs and eliminates harmful emissions.

"We're really excited about being selected to test this innovative new concept in zero emissions transit," said Lauren Skiver, General Manager of SunLine Transit Agency. "We thought it would be a great way to encourage potential riders to try out our [Commuter Link 220](#) line as well, so we designed the free rides promotion in conjunction with the BYD C9 trial run. We think there a number of people here in the Valley who are still unaware of our weekday service to and from Riverside."

The [Commuter Link 220](#) runs twice daily, Monday through Friday, to and from Riverside with additional stops including Morongo Casino and Moreno Valley. SunLine's Commuter Link buses feature plush seats, free Wi-Fi, cup holders, overhead reading lights, and luggage and bike racks.

To take advantage of the free rides promotion, riders can get on at any stop on the [Commuter Link 220](#) route between Palm Desert and Riverside. For more information or to learn about the [Commuter Link 220](#) route and its stops, go to sunline.org.

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SunLine Transit Agency is a joint powers authority formed in 1977 to operate the Coachella Valley's public transportation system. SunLine offers fixed route bus service and curb-to-curb paratransit for the mobility impaired. 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 Services Group regulates three taxi franchises who provide taxi services throughout the Valley. SunFuels alternative fueling station offers compressed natural gas and hydrogen for SunLine and the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To learn more, please visit sunline.org.