



Unitrans Facts

History

Unitrans was formed by the Associated Students of UC Davis and began operation on February 28, 1968 with two RTL doubledecker buses that had been retired from service in London. It is since grown into one of the largest student-run transit systems in the world.

Opened to the general public as the transit service for the City of Davis in 1972.

Undergraduate students passed an initiative in 1990 to increase registration fees to provide unlimited access to Unitrans service to undergrads at no fare. Subsequent increases in this fee were passed in 1999, 2004, and 2007.

Statistics

Unitrans has 4 million annual boardings; ~22,500 on a typical day with UCD in session. 91% are UCD undergrads, 5% are grad students/staff/faculty, and 4% are general public.

16 lines run in all-day service. The highest ridership is in the Anderson-North Sycamore and Cowell corridors, served by the J/G and W/M lines. Together these lines carry almost half of all Unitrans riders.

Among the 100+ public bus transit systems in CA, Unitrans has the 3rd highest passengers per vehicle hour (behind only SFMTA and LA MTA) and the lowest cost per rider.

During regular service, buses make about 650 trips per day, covering almost 4000 miles.

Buses

47 buses in Unitrans active fleet – 3 are vintage doubledeckers (with newer engines), 2 are modern doubledeckers, 40 are standard transit buses, and 2 are small shuttle buses.

The fleet features 42 CNG buses, including the only CNG vintage doubledecker bus in the world. 94% of the miles operated by Unitrans are provided by natural gas buses.

Staff

All 175 drivers are UCD students working part-time.

There are a total of 245 student employees, who work in all areas of the operation, maintenance, administration, and support functions, along with 15 career staff.

Funding

Annual operating budget is \$5.3 million. \$2.7M from student fees (\$29/student/quarter), \$1.3M from City of Davis FTA funds, \$0.8M from City TDA funds, \$0.3M from fares, \$0.2M other income. Total annual student wages are \$2.5M.

Unitrans Operating Revenue, Expenses, and Reserve Balance

