

Unitrans Fact Sheet FY2017



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.

Unitrans is celebrating our 50th year of service to the campus and community in 2018!

By the Numbers

Unitrans has 4 million annual boardings or approximately 22,500 on a typical day with UCD in session. 90% are UCD undergrads, 5% are grad students/staff/faculty, and 5% are general public.

A third of UC Davis undergraduates who live off-campus use Unitrans to get to campus each day.

17 lines run in weekday service. The highest ridership is in the Anderson-North Sycamore corridor (G/J), Cowell corridor (M/W), and at West Village (V). Together these lines carry over half of all Unitrans customers.

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

During regular service, buses make about 650 trips, running for 500 hours, covering almost 4,000 miles per day.

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

There are over 200 student employees, who work in all areas of the operation, maintenance, administration, and support functions, along with 18 career staff. Students make up over 90% of all staff and in FY17 provided 177,400 labor hours.

All 150 drivers and operations supervisors are UCD students working part-time. Approximately \$4,000 of training is invested in every driver trainee.

Funding

Annual operating budget is \$5.4 million. \$2.7M from student fees (\$29/student/quarter), \$2M from City of Davis Transit funds, \$0.3M from fares/passes, and \$0.2M in other income. Total annual student wages are approximately \$2.75M.

Unitrans operating in a budget deficit due to the increasing minimum wage and will deplete its reserves by FY2020.