



NORTH COUNTY

Transit district seeks riders' input



From top left to right, riders boarded an NCTD Breeze bus in Oceanside; a Sprinter train passed over Highway 78 near Cal State San Marcos; passengers exited a Sprinter train at the Oceanside Transit Center; a bus rider put his bike on a rack on a Breeze bus in Oceanside; and a train approached the San Marcos Civic Center station. *Charlie Neuman / Union-Tribune photos*

The agency that oversees public transit in North County wants some big-picture help.

Starting Tuesday, the North County Transit District will host a series of workshops on the future of public transportation across the region.

Agency officials want to gather comments on what works and what doesn't, at a time when budget constraints are forcing the NCTD to develop a more detailed long-range transit strategy.

The Oceanside-based agency operates Breeze buses, the Coaster commuter train and the Sprinter light-rail system.

The public workshops will run from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The schedule:

- Tuesday, Oceanside Mission Branch Library, 3861 Mission Ave.
- Wednesday, Encinitas City Hall, 505 S. Vulcan Ave.
- Thursday, Escondido City Hall, 201 N. Broadway.
- Oct. 21, San Marcos Civic Center, 3 Civic Center Drive.

Along with gauging public opinion, the transit district is studying its service performance throughout the region, with an eye toward reworking routes. The agency is also looking for additional ways to save money, including possibly letting private contractors operate some bus routes.

For more information, go to gonctd.com.

— Steve Schmidt