

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SunLine Transit Agency
Media Contact: Andrea Carter
(760) 285-6828
andrea@andrecarterassociates.com



SunLine Transit Agency Moves to Level 2 Service

A Nationwide Shortage of Bus Operators Prompts the Agency to Implement a Modified Schedule

(Thousand Palms, CA) – SunLine Transit Agency announced today that it will move to Level 2 service starting Sunday, October 17, 2021, which means it will run on its weekend service schedule for local routes with the exception of Route 5 and the 10 Commuter Link. Although, Route 5 does not typically operate on the weekends, it will continue to operate as part of Level 2 service Mondays – Fridays ensuring service to the education corridor in Palm Desert. By shifting to Level 2 service, SunLine is able to provide more reliable service during a nationwide shortage of bus operators which has affected SunLine along with all other transit agencies throughout the country.

SunLine’s move to Level 2 is meant to limit the possibility of service interruptions. The Agency is working diligently to hire additional operators, and will evaluate the possibility to return to Level 1 service when staffing levels permit.

SunLine’s SunRide microtransit service – which was recently expanded in three of its four Coachella Valley service zones – will continue its regular operations connecting riders to the Consolidated Fixed Route Network.

The Agency encourages anyone interested in helping to keep the Coachella Valley moving to visit <https://www.sunline.org/driver> to learn more about its bus operator openings. Visit <https://www.sunline.org/service-levels> to learn more about what each level means for daily service schedules.

Riders are encouraged to use their myStop Mobile App to plan their trips and receive any necessary updates about their bus routes. ‘Rider Alerts’ signage has been installed at each bus stop to remind riders of possible service interruptions and provide instructions on how to download the myStop Mobile App. Downloadable PDF timetables specific to each route are also available on SunLine’s website.

In compliance with the Transportation Security Administration’s directive that masks be worn on all forms of public transportation through January 18, 2022, SunLine Transit Agency requires face coverings for the safety of our riders, employees and local communities. This extends to customers riding on board any SunLine bus (fixed route, paratransit and the 10 Commuter Link), SunRide vehicle and taxis as well as at bus stops. A face covering means material covering the nose and mouth (with no visible holes) of the individuals, excluding face shields.

SunLine will enforce face coverings to be worn in a correct manner, with no exceptions, until otherwise mandated by federal regulations.

To learn more about SunLine Transit Agency, go to www.SunLine.org.

###

About SunLine Transit Agency

SunLine provides public transit services in California's Coachella Valley spanning 1,120 mile-service area and carrying approximately 4.2 million riders. It has pioneered zero-emission bus deployments, particularly for hydrogen fuel cell electric buses (FCEB). In 1993, SunLine's Board adopted a voluntary policy of pursuing alternative fuel solutions that provide the lowest possible emissions, which led to SunLine becoming the first transit agency in the state to convert its entire fleet to compressed natural gas (CNG). SunLine is committed to transitioning its entire bus fleet to zero-emission by 2035. SunLine Refueled is a multi-tiered initiative that brings exciting new transportation alternatives to the Coachella Valley. To learn more about SunLine Transit Agency's services and policies, go to SunLine.org.