

LAX Begins FlyAway Service from Union Station

FlyAway to LAX

Continued from Page 1

through Union Station on a daily basis, so with this kind of daily population to draw from I'm sure the new Union Station Flyaway will be a huge success."

The new FlyAway bus service takes passengers between Union Station in downtown Los Angeles and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) terminals using freeway carpool lanes. Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa was among the passengers on the first bus from Union Station following a news conference and inaugural ceremonies.

The new nonstop FlyAway from Union Station will operate from Berth 9 at the Patsaouras/Gateway Transit Plaza, on the east side of the trains at Union Station and accessed via Vignes Street. Buses will run in both directions every 30 minutes between the hours of 5 a.m. and 1 a.m., and every hour from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. The buses will depart Union Station and LAX on the hour and half-hour.

FlyAway buses will drop-off passengers at LAX on the Upper/Departures Level in front of each terminal. Passengers departing LAX will be picked up on the Lower/Arrivals Level in front of each terminal under green signs marked "FlyAway, Buses and Long-Distance Vans."

The 20-mile, 45-minute (in most conditions) ride will cost \$3 one-way for adults, \$2 for children between 2 and 12 years, and free for children under 2 years. Tickets will be available from a kiosk staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the Patsaouras/Gateway Transit Plaza.

Parking for up to 30 days is available at Gateway Center Garage (enter on Vignes Street) for \$6 a day. Five hundred covered parking spaces are available for FlyAway customers.

Cash only is accepted for the bus ride. Unlike public buses, FlyAway buses are designed with luggage bays and feature cushioned seats. Porter service will be available to riders.

The ride from Union Station, which takes advantage of high-occupancy-vehicle lanes, takes less than 45 minutes during peak traffic periods.

At the kickoff event March 15, Councilman (and Club Member) Tom LaBonge said, "There was great progress made today by a collaboration of many people, including our mayor and the Council, the LA Department of Airports and all who work for the City of Los Angeles."

World Airports Executive Director Lydia Kennard said, "We're really proud of this new facility, and we hope that it will be a



From left: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Club Board Chairman Michael Biagi shake hands inside a FlyAway bus at the inauguration of nonstop FlyAway bus service to LAX from Union Station.

great success not only for service to LAX but also hopefully one day service to Ontario airport from Union Station. I'd like to really welcome and thank our staff – Jim Ritchie, Michael Biagi, Susan Collette and Barbara Martinoff – who were the heart and soul of this project; we know it will be a great success and a great service for the people who use our wonderful airport."

In collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, Los Angeles Airport Police will ride the FlyAway

buses on a random basis and patrol station stops on foot. Bomb detection canine teams will conduct periodic sweeps of the buses, station stops and luggage-staging areas. This security operation will also include the Van Nuys FlyAway bus service.

The new service is part of World Airports' ground transportation initiatives to expand its FlyAway bus system to improve passenger convenience and reduce traffic congestion. The new service from Union Station builds upon World Airports' experience operating the popular FlyAway service from

Van Nuys in the San Fernando Valley. The Van Nuys FlyAway has served over 18 million riders and saved 396 million vehicle miles traveled in the region since it began in 1975. World Airports ground transportation experts estimate 2,000-plus cars are removed from local streets and freeways everyday due to VNY FlyAway operations. A new state-of-the-art FlyAway terminal opened at Van Nuys Airport in December 2004. More than 2,000 spaces in a five-level parking structure and another 500 spaces in a surface lot are available at VNY.

The new Union Station location is part of a plan that will eventually add seven more locations around Southern California to the FlyAway system by 2015. World Airports also plans to add FlyAway service to its other commercial passenger facilities at Ontario International and Palmdale Regional Airports as demand warrants.

Expansion of the bus service is a requirement of the LAX Master Plan Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and one of the conditions of the recent settlement of lawsuits filed against the LAX Master Plan.

The Club thanks Club Board Chairman Michael Biagi for his assistance in producing this article, and we congratulate him for helping to create this much-needed service.



Club Board Member Mike Biagi, Airports, helped set up the new bus line to LAX.



World Airports Executive Director Lydia Kennard.



From left: Councilman Tom LaBonge, Mayor Villaraigosa and World Airports Executive Director Lydia Kennard.



Councilman Bill Rosendahl.