

# Thousand Oaks Acorn

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## TOT talking change

### New routes to be unveiled at workshops

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**NEXT STOP: THE FUTURE—A Thousand Oaks Transit bus stops at Olsen Road and Mountclef Boulevard on March 29. TOT is considering making changes to its service and is asking for public input. MICHAEL COONS/Acorn Newspapers**

Riders have the opportunity to see what the future holds for the city's bus system during a series of five public workshops scheduled in the coming days.

The workshops will be held Fri., Sat. and Tues., April 1, 2 and 5, at which time Thousand Oaks Transit will unveil several proposed changes to its system, including additional routes and different hours.

The transit department provides about 400,000 rides annually, many of them taken by students or seniors.

On average, riders make less than \$20,000 annually and either do not own a car or don't own enough cars to get family

members where they need to go.

The changes to be discussed are the result of public input, including some gathered during the Thousand Oaks 2064 meetings held in 2014, said Priscilla Freduah-Agyemang, the city's recently hired transit assistant.

Working with outside consultants, the city has crafted the information received from riders into several specific courses of action.

"We're hoping to provide less wait time, faster travel time and add routes to serve areas we don't go to now," said Freduah-Agyemang, who was hired in February after spending time with Metro Los Angeles.

Workshop attendees will have the opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations developed as part of the city's 2016 Transit Master Plan, a process intended to guide future public transit service throughout the Conejo Valley.

They'll be able to give a thumbs up or thumbs down as well as propose further changes.

"I want people to look at the maps and say, 'I live here and I need to go there' so we can make changes that will meet their needs," Freduah-Agyemang said.

Each workshop is expected to last up to two hours and include light snacks.

Attendees can come and go as their schedule allows; they need not attend the entire session.

Spanish translation will be available. Each workshop location is accessible using a TOT bus.

The schedule of the upcoming community workshops is as follows:

Fri., April 1: from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Hillcrest Center community room, 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, T.O.; and from 6 to 8 p.m. at Thousand Oaks City Hall board room, 2100 E. T.O. Blvd.

Sat., April 2: from 10 a.m. to noon at Cal Lutheran University, Swenson Center, room 103.

Tues., April 5: from 1 to 3 p.m. at Newbury Park Library, 2331 Borchard Road; and from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Borchard Community Center stage room, 190 Reino Road, Newbury Park.

Depending on how the meetings go, the proposed changes could go into effect later this year.

For workshop locations, maps and other information about this project, go to the project web page at [www.TOTransitMasterPlan.com](http://www.TOTransitMasterPlan.com).

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