



MEDIA RELEASE

VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

County Court System to offer Needles Residents services August 1

Hesperia, Calif. (July 14, 2016) – Beginning August 1, 2016, the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, Barstow District, will begin hearing Small Claims, Traffic, and Landlord Tenant matters from the Needles jurisdiction. The court is scheduling hearing dates for Needles residents to coincide with Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTa) Route 200 Needles Link, which provides Friday bus service between Needles, Barstow, and Victorville.

The collaborative effort between San Bernardino Superior Court, VVTa, and San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood is part of an ongoing effort to restore services that were reduced due to the state budgetary constraints of recent years.

“It’s great to begin rebuilding the region and connecting residents to essential services,” said Lovingood. “Through launching this service last month, we learned the value of these connections. The route opens up new options for medical, dental, social, and retail services. For veterans, elderly, and children on Medi-Cal, there are no dental services available in Needles. School teachers have shared with us how this bus service bridges that gap between Needles and these readily available services in Barstow.”

“For residents with limited transportation, the route offers independence,” said VVTa Board Chair Barb Stanton. “Needles Link delivers access to opportunities that do not yet exist in that region of California. For a reasonable fare, residents can now access major grocery stores, shopping centers, and medical services in Barstow and the Victor Valley.”

VVTa Route 200 provides round-trip service that begins in Needles with curb pickup for Needles residents who have made advanced reservations. The bus departs the G Street stop near the Needles Chamber of Commerce at 6:15 a.m. It arrives at the Barstow Library near the Barstow Court House at 9:30 a.m., the stop across from the Victorville Court House at 10:15 a.m. and the Victorville Transfer Point at 10:30 a.m., where connecting service to San Bernardino is available via VVTa Route 15 B-V Link for an additional fare. The return trip departs the Victorville Transfer Point at 2:30 p.m., the Victorville Court House at 2:45 p.m., the Barstow Library at 4 p.m., and arrives at G Street in Needles at 7:15 p.m.

Last week, Needles Link provided round-trip service for 12 passengers. Seating is limited. Reservations are recommended and may be scheduled from two weeks in advance to the day prior to service before 5 p.m. Needles residents may reserve curb-to-curb pick up and drop off service within city limits.

Regular one-way fare is \$12. Discount fare is available to veterans, those 60-years of age or older, and those with disabilities. Up to three children age five and under may ride free per adult fare. The \$6 discount fare requires identification. Needles Link fare media may be used as fare on VVTa and Barstow Fixed Route and County Route buses on the same day of purchase at no additional charge. Carry-ons are limited to two packages and must remain in passenger lap or under seat.

All Needles Small Claims and Landlord Tenant case cases filed prior to August 1, 2016 will remain assigned to the Joshua Tree Courthouse. For more information, contact the Court Executive Office at 909-708-8746.

About Victor Valley Transit Authority

Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTa) is a public transit agency and Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA), providing bus, ADA paratransit, and vanpool service to California’s High Desert. VVTa’s service area spans nearly 1,000 square miles, featuring service to Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Needles, Victorville and unincorporated San Bernardino County, including Daggett, Helendale, Hinkley, Lucerne Valley, Newberry Springs, Oak Hills, Oro Grande, Phelan, Pinon Hills, Wrightwood, and Yermo. Commuter service to Fort Irwin National Training Center (NTC) and connecting service from the High Desert to the Inland Empire is also provided. Additional information and service alerts are available at VVTa.org and [Twitter.com/VVTransit](https://twitter.com/VVTransit).



Passengers board the VVTA Route 200 Needles Link bus at the Victorville Transfer Point during last Friday's return trip to Needles, California. Beginning August 1, 2016, the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, Barstow District, begins hearing Small Claims, Traffic, and Landlord Tenant matters from the Needles jurisdiction. The court is scheduling hearing dates for Needles residents to coincide with Victor Valley Transit Authority Route 200 Needles Link, which provides Friday bus service between Needles, Barstow, and Victorville.

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