

Finding Aid for SCRTD files on Eastern Cities Transit, 1944-1974 [bulk 1971-1974]

Processed by: Noah Geraci with assistance from Angel Diaz; January 2016

LACMTA Research Library and Archive

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Title: SCRTD Eastern Cities Transit files

Collection number: 55-DPGTL

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 3 boxes (1.25 linear ft.)

Date (inclusive): 1944-1974

Date (bulk): 1971-1974

Repository: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) Research Library and Archive

Abstract: This collection focuses on the 1971 acquisition of Eastern Cities Transit, a small bus company serving East Los Angeles, by the Southern California Rapid Transit District (SCRTD).

Physical Location: LACMTA Research Library and Archive

Creator (collection): Southern California Rapid Transit District

Access

Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the LACMTA Research Library and Archive to make an appointment.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], SCRTD Eastern Cities Transit files, 55. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Research Library and Archive.

Acquisition Information

Eastern Cities Lines and Blue & White Bus Lines files were transferred to the SCRTD archives by Wayne Reinecke in the Planning Department on August 26, 1983, on the advice of Director of Schedules and Operations Planning Steve Parry. SCRTD was merged into LACMTA in 1993.

Biography/History

Eastern Cities Transit was a privately owned bus company operating local service in East Los Angeles from 1949-1971. It was initially known as Belvedere Transit, Inc. SCRTD acquired the financially struggling company and assumed control of operations on September 1, 1971. Lines operating at the time of the acquisition were Kern Ave. Line 140, Ford Blvd. Line 141, and City Terrace Line 142, as well as school bus service.

Collection Scope and Content

This collection consists of reports, memos, notes, and other records related to the 1971 acquisition of Eastern Cities Transit by SCRTD and operations immediately following the acquisition, as well as SCRTD's purchase and sale of Eastern Cities facilities at 4534 Floral Drive in East Los Angeles.

Organization and Arrangement of Material (if applicable)

This collection has been arranged in original order wherever possible. Many items in this collection were part of reports or study files compiled by SCRTD so original order tends to be topical rather than chronological. Where original order was unclear, material has been arranged chronologically and by function. The collection is arranged in the following series and subseries:

Series 1: Operations

- 1.1 Acquisition
- 1.2 Origin and Destination Checks
- 1.3 Operations Study
- 1.4 Schedule Change
- 1.5 Eastern Cities Lines Current Study File
- 1.6 Beardsley report

Series 2: Employees

Series 3: Properties

- 3.1 Early Property Records
- 3.2 Appraisal, Purchase and Sale of 4534 Floral Drive

Series 4: Ephemera

Related Material

45-DPGTL, SCRTD files on Blue & White Bus Company of Watts

Indexing Terms/Subjects

Transportation—Mergers—East Los Angeles (Calif.)

Transportation --California --Los Angeles

Container List

SERIES 1: OPERATIONS

Subseries 1.1: Acquisition

- Box 1, Folder 1 **Acquisition of Eastern Cities Transit Inc., 1971 July 30**
Report and recommendation by SCRTD General Manager Jack Gilstrap regarding the acquisition of ECT. Attachments include the proposed operating plan, purchase agreement, fare policies, and SCRTD Executive Staff meeting minutes.
- Box 1, Folder 2 **Acquisition of Eastern Cities Transit Inc., 1971 July 30**
Continuation of Gilstrap acquisition report attachments, including operations study and draft operating plans, capital grant application submitted to Department of Transportation Urban Mass Transit Administration
- Box 1, Folder 3 **Local Passenger Tariff No. 25, 1971 August 17**
Document issued by SCRTD Manager of Operations George Goehler outlining passenger fares, transfer privileges, and rules and regulations for lines formerly operated by ECT (appended) to Gilstrap acquisition report).
- Box 1, Folder 4 **[Accounting and operations notes], 1971**
Revenue charts, memos and notes on schedules and financial matters (appendix to Gilstrap acquisition report).
- Box 1, Folder 5 **[Takeover logistics], 1971 August-September**
Memos, meeting minutes of Operations Program Coordinating Committee, schedules and cost estimates related to operational coordination of September 1, 1971 takeover of ECT by RTD.

Subseries 1.2: Origin and Destination Checks

- Box 1, Folder 6 **Origin and Destination Checks, 1971 November 9**
Survey conducted by SCRTD employees documenting locations of boarding and exit by passengers on ECT lines. Divided into four folders due to length. Survey forms are accompanied by route schedules and transfer tickets.
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Origin and Destination Checks, 1971 November 9**
- Box 1, Folder 8 **Origin and Destination Checks, 1971 November 9**
- Box 2, Folder 1 **Origin and Destination Checks, 1971 November 9**

Subseries 1.3: Operations Study

- Box 2, Folder 2 **Operations Study, 1971 December 30**
RTD staff study of ECT operations, including final reports, notes, timetables, maps, and copies of PUC applications. Divided into two folders due to length.
- Box 2, Folder 3 **Operations Study, 1971 December 30**

Subseries 1.4: Schedule Change

- Box 2, Folder 4 **[Schedule change documents], 1971 November- 1972 April**
Memos and notes related to changes in route schedules

Subseries 1.5: Eastern Cities Lines Current Study File

- Box 2, Folder 5 **Eastern Cities Lines Current Study File, 1973 July**
File on ECT operations, including maps, memos, notes, fare and revenue study.
Divided into two folders due to length.
- Box 2, Folder 7 **Eastern Cities Lines Current Study File, 1973 July**

Subseries 1.6: Beardsley report

- Box 2, Folder 7 **[Beardsley report], 1974 January 9**
Report by Assistant Manager of Rapid Transit and Surface Planning Howard Beardsley on current status of Blue and White Bus Lines and Eastern Cities Transit following acquisition. Copy also in Blue and White collection.

SERIES 2: EMPLOYEES

- Box 2, Folder 8 **[General Employee Documents], 1971-1974**
Memos related to employees and employment, union contract, employee lists.
- Box 2, Folder 9 **[Driver Testing Center reports], 1964-1971**
RESTRICTED **Reports of driver physical examinations and safety tests conducted by Driver Testing Center, 5801 E. Washington Blvd. Contains protected health information.**

SERIES 3: REAL ESTATE

Subseries 3.1 Early Property Records

- Box 3, Folder 1 **Property Records, 1944-1950**
Grant deeds and title insurance policies from property purchases made by Belvedere Transit, Inc.

Subseries 3.2 Appraisal, Purchase and Sale of 4534 Floral Drive

- Box 3, Folder 2 **Appraisal, 4534 Floral Drive, 1971 January 19**
Appraisal report on 4534 Floral Drive property by David F. Culver. Includes eight 3.5x5.5" color photographs.
- Box 3, Folder 3 **Appraisal of Real Property, 1971 July 19**
Appraisal report on 4534 Floral Drive property by General Appraisal Company. Includes two 3.5x3.5" black and white photographs.
- Box 3, Folder 4 **Appraisal Report of the Eastern Cities Transit, Inc. Property Located at 4534 Floral Drive, 1971 July 26**
Appraisal report on 4534 Floral Drive property by Western Cities Appraisal Company. Includes four 4x4" black and white photographs.
- Box 3, Folder 5 **Purchase of 4534 Floral Drive, 1971**
Sale agreement, data sheets, property tax bills, title insurance receipt, and notes related to 1971 sale of 4534 Floral Drive property from ECT to SCRTD.
- Box 3, Folder 6 **Sale of 4534 Floral Drive, 1972 March-August**
Correspondence, data sheets, bids, escrow agreement and notes regarding the August 1972 sale of 4534 Floral Drive to Saul and Rose Cofsky of Los Angeles.

SERIES 4: EPHEMERA

Box 3, Folder 7

[Ephemera], circa 1960s-1971

Map and timetable for New East Los Angeles-Commerce Bus Line operated by ECT, circa 1960s.

Route map flier paste-up and photocopy, circa 1960s. Shows lines 1, 2, 3 (Kern, Ford, City Terrace).

Photocopy: "RTD Absorbs Cities Transit," *Passenger Transport*, page 2, 1971.