

# Mira Mesa Direct Access Ramp Completes, Opens to Public Monday

By ALEXANDER NGUYEN

Traffic and transportation for Mira Mesa residents are going to get a lot better with the Mira Mesa direct access ramp and the Miramar College Transit Station completed.

Local officials were gathered at Miramar College on Wednesday for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Mira Mesa direct access ramp and Miramar College Transit Station. The \$60-million project will improve traffic along the Interstate 15 corridor and expand Rapid transit services to UCSD, Sorrento Mesa and UTC areas.

“This transit station provides a great new hub for MTS services on the I-15 corridor,” Metropolitan Transit System chairman Harry Mathis said. “With this new facility, together with the introduction of our new Rapid 235 and Rapid 237 services, we have greatly enhanced the ability of people all over San Diego to get around our region. Rapid 235 is already a huge success, with more than 3,700 trips every weekday, and this facility will increase ridership even more. We’re confident that Rapid 237 will meet similar success.”

The project was a partnership between the SANDAG, Caltrans, MTS, the city of San Diego and the San Diego Community College District, and paid for by TransNet, half-cent sales tax for transportation, as well as state and federal funds.

“As a region, we are making historic investments to transform public transit into an attractive and viable travel choice,” SANDAG first vice chairman and Imperial Beach Mayor Jim Janney said. “Rapid offers a new level of comfort and convenience — comparable to riding the Trolley.”



**MTS Rapid Transit Bus making the inaugural drive down the Mira Mesa Direct Access Ramp.**

*Photo Credit: Alexander Nguyen*

The Mira Mesa DAR is the fifth DAR built on the I-15 corridor and will be opened on Oct. 6 for carpools, vanpools, FasTrak users and permitted clean-air vehicles. The Miramar College Transit Station is scheduled to be opened on Oct. 12 and will house a couple of Rapid bus lines, such as Rapid 235 and Rapid 237, with new routes planned in the coming years.

Located off Black Mountain Road west of I-15, the Transit Station features a dozen bus bays, new shelters, and next

vehicle arrival signs, as well as on-campus parking for transit riders. The top level of the college police station/parking garage will be available for transit riders who download a parking pass in advance from [sdmts.com](http://sdmts.com). Other bus routes that will service the station include routes 20, 31, 110, 921, and 964.

About 95 million people rode public transit last year, according to MTS, and the new transit station is expected to increase that number.



**Chris Newman of the Federal Highway Administration at the Mira Mesa Direct Access Ramp ribbon cutting.**



**MTS Rapid Transit Bus**



**Local officials cutting the ribbon at the Mira Mesa Direct Access Ramp and Miramar College Transit Station.**