

A bus ride around the city of Elk Grove

As a member of the Elk Grove Disability Advisory Committee I thought it only prudent to take a tour around the city of Elk Grove to see for myself first hand how accessible our buses are to the general public and persons with disabilities.



I started out on my tour of Elk Grove on a brisk winter morning on Friday, January 15, 2010 at approximately 9:30 a.m. I was accompanied by the city of Elk Grove's Transit manager, Tiffani Fink, and our tour was on route 162 which started off at the central depot and spanned the east/west loop of Elk Grove. My first observations were that the bus was very clean and that it set out exactly at the scheduled time. Along the way we made a stop for a few minutes at a safe reserved location because the bus was running ahead of schedule making it easy for the savvy rider to catch the bus on time. At every stop we made, the bus driver would greet each passenger and say good-bye to them as they exited the bus, this I thought was very courteous on the driver's part and I assume it is done by all the drivers. Worthy of mention was the fact that at most of the bus stops there were sheltered benches to protect would-be riders from the elements, a very considerate thing to do by the city adding more comfort to the journey. There were a few bus stops that only had a bench and two of them had no benches at all. The bus stops were all strategically located near strip malls and grocery stores making it advantageous for riders because they could ride on the bus to the store, get their shopping done and return home with ease. The bus made stops at Cosumnes River College and Elk Grove High School which I thought was advantageous for students to gain some safe traveling independence to and from school and relieve their parents of the stress and anxiety of wondering if their child got to and from school safely. Riders could also transfer to connecting buses to Sacramento from the Cosumnes River College making a trip from Elk Grove to Sacramento a breeze.

Overall, I felt very safe riding on the bus and it was indeed a comfortable and pleasurable trip and I would encourage residents of Elk Grove to try out the bus system for themselves to see how easily they could get around the city of Elk Grove.

I will be making a follow-up tour in the very near future on another bus route in Elk Grove so stay tuned.

Sincerely,

Nana Tufuoh
Disability Advisory Committee Member