

# Northstar Park neighborhood gets a bus stop



After two years of organizing by residents at Twin Pines Mutual Housing, the Northstar Park neighborhood will have a new bus stop Monday. The revised Unitrans F-line will serve North Anderson Road and F Street.

Unitrans updates routes every year to fit the changing needs of Davis residents, but does longer-range planning every five years to respond to citizen requests for changes, operational issues and changing developments or businesses.

The new route will travel from Oak to Covell to Catalina to Alvarado to Anderson to F Street to 14th Street, ending again at Oak.

“We try to meet the changing needs of Unitrans riders,” said Anthony Palmere, Unitrans general manager. “Twin Pines has been in existence a long time, but they recently asked us to provide a closer bus route.”

One of the resident organizers, Maria Celia Ureña, was especially pleased to have the bus come to the Twin Pines community where she lives.

Because her husband no longer drives and her daughter lives in Sacramento, the 71-year-old had to rely on neighbors for rides to the grocery store, pharmacy or bank.

“If you don’t have a car, everything is far away from us,” Ureña said.

By surveying families in the neighborhood, Ureña and four other Twin Pines residents found that of 126 local homes, people from 85 of them would use the bus. Ureña alone talked to people in a four-block area before the group presented their survey findings to Unitrans.

The change was made because there are children, people with disabilities and seniors in the area who needed transportation.

“We have a lot of elderly people who didn’t drive and needed to have a bus stop near us,” Ureña said.

“We try to put service where people will use it,” Palmere said. “If a population includes people with disabilities, the elderly and children, their travel options are more limited, and they are more likely to use the bus. So, we are responding to a need.”

Added Davis City Councilman Lucas Frerichs, “We want to make sure people can get to where they need to go. We try our best to base our routes on what people need.” Frerichs is the city’s liaison with Unitrans.

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Residents of Twin Pines Mutual Housing celebrate their new Unitrans bus stop on Anderson Road, which goes into operation Monday. From left are Yolanda Torres, Maria Antonia Quintana, Aa'Nayah Hernandez, Daniel Hernandez, Tina Hernandez, Isaac Hernandez, Charles Owere, Alex Hernandez, Maria Celia Ureña and Dominique Blanchard.

*Wayne Tilcock/Enterprise photo*

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During the school year, Unitrans buses run twice an hour, and during summer break once an hour.

The Unitrans Advisory Committee recommended the change at its May 1 meeting.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops and operates rental housing for the region. The communities have nearly 3,000 residents, nearly half of whom are children.