



August 27, 2017

Regional Transit Board of Directors
Henry Li, General Manager/CEO
1400 29th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Re: Board Item 7 – Automatic Passenger Counters

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) is writing to oppose moving forward with releasing an RFP for the purchase and installation of automated passenger counters for SacRT's light rail fleet for \$ 2,200,000 at this time.

While SacTRU appreciates the need to have modern and accurate counting equipment, we cannot support installing this equipment into nearly obsolete vehicles. We believe RT should prioritize updating the aging vehicles or purchasing new vehicles over installing new equipment into obsolete train cars.

Additionally, we believe this proposal and a comprehensive review of what is being purchased should go before the Mobility Advisory Council (MAC) for review and comment prior to any board action being taken. The object and purpose of the MAC is to advise RT on system accessibility features and improvements. The Council is meant to provide RT with the consumer's perspective on many of RT's system improvements, such as RT facilities. The Council's work plan links accessibility issues with larger customer-oriented decisions. Their input should be included in staff analysis and board discussion prior to purchase of system equipment and upgrades. Bringing them into the conversation later in the process potentially undermines their ability to engage in a meaningful way.

We, therefore, urge your "NO" vote on this item at this time. We urge the Board and staff to prioritize securing funding to upgrade our essential light rail vehicles, such as an AC retrofit for existing cars, over installing new equipment. We ask that this item be removed from the consent calendar and discussed. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

Sac TRU