



September 23, 2018

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

Re: Acquisition of ZEV Buses

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) opposes the delegation of authority to the General Manager/CEO to approve the Cooperative Agreement for the Acquisition of ZEV Buses prior to this being reviewed by the Sacramento Regional Transit Mobility Advisory Council (MAC). Additionally, this project appears to have significant operating costs and consequences for early terminations, with unclear contract terms as the agreement has yet to be finalized.

Earlier this month, funding was approved for six (6) "EV-STAR" 25' electric buses for Regional Transit's "SmaRT Ride" microtransit pilot project that are not ADA accessible. Neither that purchase, nor solutions to the accessibility problems, were presented to the MAC board prior to the action. Likewise, the purchase and design of these buses has not been brought before MAC.

While we appreciate Regional Transit's commitment to both innovative curb-to-curb transit solutions and commitment to reducing carbon emissions through the purchase of fully electric vehicles, we have concerns about the ADA accessibility of the vehicles being purchased and overall safety, of both passengers and operators who will be using the new buses.

The object and purpose of the Mobility Advisory Council is to advise RT on system accessibility features and improvements, provide communication between RT and key stakeholder groups whose interests are representing persons with disabilities and older adults, and represent public transportation interest areas for persons with disabilities and older adults. Being involved in the design and procurement of new vehicles is directly in line with the mission and purpose of MAC. Bringing them into the decision making process after procurement, or not at all, undermines their ability to engage in a meaningful way.

In light of the fact that the next Mobility Advisory Committee meeting will not be until November 1, 2018, we request that this item not be voted upon prior to their review and the terms of the agreement are finalized. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

SacTRU