



August 27, 2017

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

Re: Board Item 11 – Amend Enabling Legislation

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) is writing to urge the Board not to direct staff and the SacRT State Lobbyist to pursue legislative changes to SacRT’s enabling legislation in the 2017-18 legislative session.

The magnitude of the changes suggested in the proposed enabling legislation require additional time for public review and comment. They are incredibly complex issues being considered and no justification is provided for rushing these changes through the legislative process at the last minute. The board item does not state clearly when and where this language was “Board Approved,” it does not include any information about concerns or reasoning behind the approval, and it does not explain the urgency of the matter. We are also concerned that this bill language was given to Legislative Counsel by Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva from Orange County and not a local legislative representative. Rushing these changes through the legislative process at the last minute not only denies the public a chance to review, comment, and participate in a meaningful way; it also undermines the transparency of the work being done by this agency.

While some of the amendments are minor language clean up, several of them are major changes to the enabling legislation that would affect labor contracts, increasing tax rates in the district, and Board voting procedure.

The implied urgency and legislative tomfoolery that would be involved to get a gut-and-amend bill into and pass in the current legislative session is not justified by the proposed changes. We believe there should be a real effort at stakeholder engagement and that the public should be given more than 72 hours notice to review and comment on such a complex issue, especially one that involves major tax implications. Such important issues should not be rushed.

We advise the board against voting to move this forward at this time without more consideration and deliberation, as well as stakeholder engagement. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

SacTRU