



April 22, 2017

James Drake
RT Principal Planner
1400 29th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Re: RT's Title VI Program Update

Dear Mr. Drake:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (Sac TRU) is writing to express our support for RT's updates to the Title VI civil rights program pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We encourage RT to ensure that all members of the Board and Staff receive additional training on Title VI compliance, as outlined by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and equitable access to services.

The purpose of a Title VI fare equity analysis is to identify and document any potential disparate impacts on minority populations or disproportionate burdens on low-income populations resulting from changes to RT's fare structure. We believe RT should adopt an even higher standard and promote equity of access and service for all riders. Although the suggested policies may not disparately impact vulnerable communities, the true test should be: Do they positively benefit all riders without excluding riders who do not have the means to take advantage of the benefits.

Over the course of the last year RT implemented multiple fare changes including a mobile fare app, a group fare and a round trip fare for special events, and is considering expanded eligibility for student discounts. In addition, RT is supporting providing free transfers for 90 minutes for mobile only fares. While the analysis found that there would be no disparate impacts from these programs, it did note that many transit riders are ineligible to participate in these changes because they do not own a smart phone, cannot access the app in languages other than English, or own a credit card necessary to purchase and use the benefits. We urge the RT board to make sure that all benefits are available to all riders regardless of socioeconomic status or language barriers.

We look forward to working with you as the final report will be presented to the RT Board of Directors for approval on Monday, May 8, 2017. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

Sac TRU

cc: Sacramento Regional Transit Board Members
Henry Li, General Manager/CEO