



September 9, 2018

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

Re: SacTRU Opposes Use of Prop 1A Funds

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) opposes the use of a portion of the Proposition 1A High Speed Rail Funding for the Downtown Riverfront Streetcar Project in advance of a Small Starts Grant Agreement (SSGA). If the SacRT Board decided to proceed with this action, we urge you to secure further guarantees of the reimbursement and more equitable representation on the JPA Board.

As SacRT staff explained to the Board last June, there are other eligible uses for these funds. Expending them to continue advancing the struggling Streetcar Project prior to the SSGA creates the obvious risk that they will be unavailable for those other projects if the Streetcar Project is not ultimately granted an SSGA. Our members find this item especially problematic when staff has been working so hard to secure grants and monies for projects to improve core services that could benefit from matching Prop 1A funds.

SacTRU urges the board not to make this allocation of funds for the troubled Project, or at the very least to make its approval of the allocation request contingent on securing an agreement from the Cities to reimburse SacRT for any expended Proposition 1A funds if the Project is ultimately abandoned or if CTC staff ultimately finds this request to be ineligible after allocating funds.

Additionally, SacTRU does not support the current structure of the streetcar oversight board. We think that SacRT is being placed in a difficult situation in overseeing this joint project between the cities and county and should have more equitable representation on the board. Currently none of the members of the JPA board represent the county at large or the other communities that are part of SacRT. SacRT is much larger than the City of Sacramento, yet those tax payers have no representation in the JPA.

We urge the Board not to approve any allocation requests of Prop 1A funds and realign the power structure of the JPA in a more equitable way. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

SacTRU