



June 11, 2017

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

Re: Route Optimization (Board Item 12)

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (Sac TRU) believes that the Regional Transit system should provide well-planned, affordable and extensive public transportation essential for daily commutes to work, increase mobility for the elderly, reducing pollution, enabling people to get to medical appointments and grocery stores, and increasing our region's economic activity.

We are concerned that basing route changes on the responses from the internet-based, English-only survey will skew system changes to disadvantage large portions of transit riders in violation of Title VI. We believe that community involvement in this can help update our system in a meaningful and effective way.

We request that communications and outreach events be conducted in the acknowledged top 6 languages used by RT riders: English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Hmong, and Vietnamese. We also request that RT provide outreach in a greater variety of venues, including neighborhood associations, community centers, schools, etc. Providing English-only outreach to audiences that do not currently use the RT system will not provide the needed input to develop a system that works for all riders. We would also like a seat at the table, when stakeholder meetings are held to discuss the route optimization planning.

The transit riders of Sacramento have also expressed concerns about an outside consultant performing this system redesign instead of using the excellent planners that are already on staff at RT. These planners have a detailed understanding of how our transit system and community has changed over the past several decades. Staff has identified that a total of \$140,121 for the consultant project thus far, which staff believes will be sufficient to secure a qualified firm for the entire first phase and to fund Tasks 1, 2, and 4a, discussed below. We would like to know the estimated total cost of this project, done in-house and conversely by an outside consultant.

We look forward to working the SacRT as they begin their Route Optimization program over the next 2-3 years. **We ask that the Board direct Staff to provide more information about overall funding for the project before moving forward, and to ensure that sufficient public outreach, and stakeholder engagement, such as The Sacramento Transit Riders Union, and the Regional Transit Mobility Advisory Council are conducted.** Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,
Sac TRU