



August 12, 2019

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

Re: Comments on Board Items

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) is writing to comment on the following board items for the RT Board Meeting on Monday, August 12, 2019:

Board Item 4: Authorizing up to Seven Free Ride Days to Encourage Ridership of New Bus Network

Our members support SacRT's ongoing efforts to increase ridership and promote the rollout of the new bus network. It is our understanding that free days have occurred over the last several years and request staff provide details on the impact they have had on ridership, such as increased ridership on free days, increase in number of monthly passes or connect cards purchased in following month, etc. Additionally, we request information be provided on why lightrail is not included in the event. Our members are concerned that this may create unnecessary confusion for riders who must transfer within the system. The Board Item notes that Free Ride days will be chosen in advance, allowing time for promotional efforts to take place. How much advanced notice will riders be given?

Board Item 5: Fare-Free Transit for Students (TK-12) and Approving a Title VI Analysis

SacTRU supports SacRT's commitment to providing students with discounted and accessible fares within our region, creating a positive impact on a new generation of riders. With the success of this pilot program, we urge SacRT to bring back the Lifetime Senior Pass. In 2017 staff determined that bringing back the pass would be too costly for the system. We hope that as new pilot projects continue to be funded, the resurrection of this project becomes a priority in the future. We support bringing dignity and mobility to the seniors in our community that have limited transportation options.

Items Not on the Agenda

Providing a Map of the New Bus System to MAC for Review

Our members are aware of a redesign of the bus system map for the roll out of the new system to improve rider experiences and wayfinding. It is our understanding that there have been significant changes in design, yet the new maps have not been presented to the Mobility Advisory Council (MAC) for review. This is concerning as the August MAC meeting has already passed and implementation of the new system is less than a month away. Being involved in the design of a system map is directly in line with the mission and purpose of the MAC. Bringing them into the conversation later in the process undermines their ability to engage in a meaningful way. Our members request that a presentation be made or additional information be provided online for the Board and public to view and comment on.

Posting Signs at Discontinued Bus Stops and Routes

Our membership has repeatedly requested that signs be placed at bus stops and on bus routes that are going to be discontinued with the rollout of the new system. We ask that staff provide a date for when signage will be posted. With implementation less than a month away we are concerned that signs are still not posted and clearly explaining that the bus stop or route is being removed or discontinued. Clear information needs

to be provided to riders in a timely manner so that they can begin to plan how to make essential travel to school, work, hospitals, grocery stores, and other daily needed travel.

Reallocation of \$25 Million Set Aside for Streetcar Project

On Tuesday, August 13, the Sacramento City Council will vote on [Item 7, an Ordinance Dissolving the Streetcar Community Facilities District No. 2017-01 and Rescinding Ordinance No. 2017-043 File ID: 2019-01138](#). City staff is being directed to return to City Council within 60 days with a recommendation related to the future disposition of the Riverfront Joint Powers Authority and potential options for a successor project. In light of the dissolution of the streetcar project, we urge the Sacramento Board of Directors to negotiate the return of the \$25 million Prop 1A funds to the Sacramento Regional Transit District for use in essential, shovel ready projects. In 2017, [SacRT staff provided the board with a list of 38 alternative projects](#) that the funds could be used for instead of the streetcar project. In light of the need to fund the Lightrail Modernization Project, we believe it is essential that these funds be returned to the district. We do not believe that these funds should be redirected to other pet projects but should be used for their intended purpose of supporting capital projects within SacRT to provide capacity enhancements and safety improvements. We request that the SacRT Board Members request the return of Prop 1A funding, to be used to enhance the existing transportation system and infrastructure of Regional Transit and serve the greatest number of users on the existing system

Low-Floor Light Rail Car Presentation

As SacRT has begun purchasing and intends to incorporate low-floor lightrail vehicles (LF-LRVs) into the fleet, we request a formal presentation to the Mobility Advisory Council, the SacRT Board, and members of the public explaining the challenges and costs associated with this project and mixed-fleet operation.

Specifically, we request more information be provided on:

- What design requirements have been identified by staff, such as length of train, clearance requirements, partial or complete low floor access, Category 1, 2, or 3LF-LRVs? Who are the providers and what are the cost differences?
- What modifications will be required for existing cars to enable a mixed-fleet? How much track needs to be replaced/lay new track? How will stations need to be modified?
- What are construction timelines and cost requirements to convert all stations to low floor accessibility, rollout timeline, long term funding options?
- How and where will new vehicle maintenance take place? What will the new cost of service be?
- What is the public review process being followed on requirements for the vehicles and station changes? Will staff commit to incorporation of MAC prior to and throughout design and purchase of vehicles?

Our members understand that the lightrail modernization is a priority for SacRT. We also believe that design and purchase of new vehicles should be thoughtful and incorporate public comment as these vehicles will be operating on our system for decades to come. We are concerned that in the rush to purchase and implement changes public comment and participation might be lost. We urge the Board to direct staff to provide clarification on the requested information.

SacTRU looks forward to discussing these items with the Board and staff as the projects progress. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

SacTRU