



October 22, 2017

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

Re: Agenda Item 8 – MOU Between Sacramento City and SacRT

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) is writing to express concerns left unaddressed in the issue paper distributed to the public and Board. While we understand that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Sacramento (City) and the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is an important working document ensuring the transportation needs of City residents are fully met, we believe that all revisions to important agreements deserve robust public input and oversight.

We understand that the motivation to revise the MOU is motivated by two primary factors: the City's desire to redevelop the Sacramento Valley Station (SVS) site, and the pending streetcar project proposal, which will likely significantly expand the relationship between the City, the City of West Sacramento and SacRT. With such a change, we feel that there is a need for expanded stakeholder engagement, to ensure required ADA standards are met in all aspects of the collaborative planning process.

The City and SacRT both have advisory bodies that address and review accessibility issues. For the City, this body is the Disabilities Advisory Commission (DAC). For SacRT, the responsible body is the Mobility Advisory Council (MAC). We feel that both bodies are comprised of members knowledgeable on a variety of issues faced by persons with disabilities and seniors with reduced mobility. Therefore, we feel that it is imperative that any revision to an MOU that would include expanding the relationship between the City and SacRT for the purpose of transportation infrastructure planning and development should include the engagement and meaningful opportunity for participation of both bodies.

A similar concern was raised at the October 5, 2017 MAC meeting. Several MAC members expressed concern when SacRT staff stated that a significant amount of the streetcar station siting planning had already been completed without MAC involvement, despite initial assurances that the body would be consulted earlier in the siting process. At that time, MAC Chair Jeff Thom made a recommendation that extensive work be made to engage both the MAC and the City DAC.

SacTRU is especially interested in ensuring that all public transportation facilities remain fully usable by persons with disabilities and seniors with limited mobility, groups that are dependent upon access to public transportation. We believe that the ADA, an important piece of civil rights legislation, provides a mere baseline floor for access, not the absolute ceiling.

Evolving accessibility design principles, such as Universal Design, ensure that public systems remain fully accessible by the widest number of users possible. These design concepts can only be fully

realized through stakeholder engagement; therefore, we encourage SacRT to take the lead on ensuring access by expanding the planning conversation in both SVS planning and streetcar project design to include the MAC and DAC. Their input should be included in staff analysis and board discussion throughout the process in order to ensure compliance with Federal ADA requirements that projects are made accessible to the maximum extent feasible. Bringing them into the conversation later in the process undermines their ability to engage in a meaningful way.

Before approving the MOU presented in the issue paper, SacTRU requests SacRT staff include language to the agreement requiring engagement of the SacRT MAC and City DAC. We feel that this will ensure that all collaborative development remains fully accessible to the widest number of users possible, as well as strengthening the expanded relationship between the City and SacRT. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

SacTRU