



December 11, 2017

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

Re: SacTRU 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, December 11, 2017:

Item 6: Fare Vending Machines

SacTRU supports RT staff's efforts to incorporate all comments received from the MAC and the public on universal design into the final documentation and RFP for this project. We support delegating the authority to the GM/CEO to execute a contract based on the criteria specified in the RFP in order to complete this project on time. We look forward to seeing this project's completion in the coming years.

Item 8: Contract for Structural Engineer for Various Projects with Luis Moreno

While we appreciate the need for contracting out work for short term technical assistance in the Engineering Department due to understaffing, SacTRU believes that overall system design and rider experience will benefit from having a well-trained in-house staff capable of performing the needed engineering work in a coherent and comprehensive manner. We urge the Board and staff to make developing the RT workforce a priority.

Item 9: Amendment for contract with 4LEAF, Inc.

Some of our members were concerned that by continuing to extend this contract without opening it back up to the public bidding process, RT might not be following the bidding procedures required for contracts under SacRT's Standard Operating Procedures. Our members would appreciate an explanation of the bidding procedures and assurance that extending this contract does not trigger the competitive bidding process.

Item 10: Contract for Elevator Maintenance and Repair Services with Otis Elevator Company

While SacTRU appreciates the need for immediate repair and service of the elevators at Watt/I-80, continuing to service the existing elevators is not a viable long-term solution to the problem. We would urge the Board and staff to find funding as part of the Watt/I-80 Reimagining project to replace the elevators.

Item 14: RT Board Meeting Schedule for 2018

SacTRU is concerned with the proposed Meeting Schedule which would only hold 2 meetings per month in 3 out of the 12 months (April, August, September). Only having one meeting a month leads to long agendas, such as the one presented to the Board and the public this month, limits the public's ability to participate in a timely manner, and increases the necessity of delegating authority from the Board to the staff to complete projects. SacTRU urges the Board to hold 2 meetings a month through at least half of the year.

Item 22: Loan Agreement with SACOG

SacTRU supports using the capital funds from this project for the much needed replacement and expansion of RT's vehicle fleet.

Item 23: Contract for Route Optimization Study

While SacTRU appreciates the need for hiring consultants with expertise in conducting a Route Optimization project, we are concerned by the significant increase in the cost of the project from \$140,121 to a range around \$400,000. In addition to the ROS project, this item has the potential to award future projects to the consultant including an Origin and Destination Study, Draft and Final Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) Assistance, Updated Paratransit Plan, and Updated Fleet Management Plan. While we understand the need for specialized technical expertise throughout the planning process, SacTRU believes that overall system design and rider experience will benefit from having a well-trained in-house staff capable of planning in a coherent and comprehensive manner. We believe that developing a highly skilled workforce, spending our tax dollars on local workers and companies, and reducing the need to repeatedly outsource work should be a goal of RT management. Route Optimization should be a continual process for the agency, not a one time project, and our system would be better served in the long run by investing in employee training or hiring technical experts to fill positions, rather than repeatedly contracting out basic work to consultants who may not have a comprehensive understanding of our transit system and rider needs.

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

Sincerely,

SacTRU