



August 19, 2019

Sacramento City Council  
Regional Transit Board of Directors

**Re: Comments on Streetcar Dissolution**

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) is writing to support the Sacramento City ordinance dissolving the Streetcar Community Facilities District and rescinding the special tax. We request that the \$25 million in Proposition 1A funding be returned to Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) to be used in essential, shovel ready projects to enhance the existing transportation system and infrastructure of Regional Transit and serve the greatest number of users on the existing system. 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.

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) is writing to support the Sacramento City ordinance dissolving the Streetcar Community Facilities District No. 2017-01 (CFD) and rescinding Ordinance No. 2017-0043 levying the special tax. We request that the \$25 million in Proposition 1A funding be returned to Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) to be used to enhance the existing transportation system and infrastructure of Regional Transit, through projects like the lightrail modernization, and serve the greatest number of users on the existing system.

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. SacTRU supports the dissolution of the streetcar district and the return of the \$25 million Proposition 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.

SacTRU is a community coalition of public transit riders including neighborhood leaders, transit workers, student groups, community organizations, small business associations, and workers' rights groups. We believe access to public transportation is a civil right and that full funding for public transit is imperative in order to ensure that low-income and vulnerable communities have access to jobs, housing, health care, education, grocery stores, and childcare among other needs. SacTRU believes that this funding should be returned to SacRT to reach its goals of providing well-planned, affordable public transportation that is essential for daily commutes, increasing mobility for the elderly, reducing pollution, and increasing our region's economic activity.

Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,  
SacTRU