



March 12, 2018

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

**Re: Oppose Limiting Public Participation
in Board Meeting**

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (Sac TRU) continues to have concerns about limiting the public's ability to participate in SacRT Board Meetings. Public participation affords stakeholders the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their lives.

One of the suggestions made at the last board meeting was to consider the consent calendar as one item for the purposes of public comment. Our members are concerned that this not only limits the public's time and ability to speak to specific items, but also has the potential to create confusion on what items are being commented on and may hinder the Board and staff's ability to respond accurately. Members of the public would have no more than one opportunity to address the Board concerning any and all items on the consent calendar. This is especially concerning as sometimes the consent calendar can contain dozens of items. We support continuing the practice of allowing the Board and members of the public pull individual items from the consent calendar for further discussion.

The consent calendar should only contain decisions that are either routine or are so widely supported that to make approval a separate action would unnecessarily bog the group down. When complex items are included on the consent calendar, the opportunity for meaningful public engagement and robust discussion among the Board members should exist.

Transparency is a foundational value for ethical government practices. The Brown Act is a floor, not a ceiling, for conduct and policies that go beyond the minimum requirements of law may help instill public confidence and avoid problems.

We understand the desire of staff and Board members for speed and efficiency within meetings, but we believe that limiting public comment is not the best way to manage this. Providing information to stakeholders prior to meetings and including relevant information within board items may be a better way to achieve the desired effect.

We oppose this unnecessary limiting of public participation by considering the consent calendar shall be one item for public comment. **We ask that when the item again comes before the Board that they vote not to amend Title III of the Sacramento Regional Transit District Administrative Code.** Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

Sac TRU