



April 3, 2019

SACOG Transportation Committee
SACOG Board of Directors
James Corless, Executive Director
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Item 3 - Support \$20 Million for Light Rail Modernization Project

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Corless:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) is writing in support of fully funding the SacRT Light Rail Modernization Project request of \$20 million additional SB 1 dollars. Not only is this project shovel ready, it will bring real improvements for our public transit system that meet the goals of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) update.

SacTRU believes that SACOG funding should support our existing public transit system and provide a well-planned, affordable, and equitable public transportation system that is essential for daily commutes to work, increases mobility for the elderly, reduces pollution and Green House Gas emissions, enables riders to get to medical appointments and grocery stores, and increases our region's economic activity.

Our members urge the SACOG Board to support the SacRT light rail modernization project request for \$20 million in funding. It will cost at least \$410 million to replace all the light rail vehicles that are over the FTA useful life guideline (25 years), build track sidings to ensure that our entire system is equitably served by 15-minute service, and convert all stations to accommodate accessible, low-floor boarding vehicles.

According to SACOG guidelines, special consideration is given to projects focused on improving access to destinations and mobility for disadvantaged communities. Currently, passengers must climb steps to enter or exit light rail vehicles. Passengers that require ADA access only have one door to enter by a ramp. Low Floor trains will have a huge benefit to everyone who rides light rail or has difficulty boarding with bikes, strollers, wheelchairs, etc. Not only will the modernization of our fleet comply with FTA guidelines, but having multiple ADA accessible points of entry will reduce delays, speed up service, improve rider safety, and enable even more people to use the train.

Our members urge you to support SacRT's \$20 million request and will continue to participate in this process and to advocate for more regional funding for public transportation. While we support finding innovative solutions for our region's public transit needs, we believe that funding this essential project and modernizing our light rail system should be SACOG's highest public transportation funding project. We believe that fully funding 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 creating inclusive economic growth. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

SacTRU