



November 17, 2019

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

Re: UC Davis Causeway Connection

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) has received many comments and requests for assistance from UC Davis bus riders who feel that they have not been provided an opportunity for meaningful engagement or are just now discovering changes coming to their bus service. Although a series of meetings were provided in the last few months, riders have felt that their comments and input has not been incorporated into the planning of service changes proposed by SacRT, UC Davis, and Yolo County Transportation District. As SacRT continues its rapid expansion in the region and takes on new technology and diverse services, thoughtful collaboration with partner entities and meaningful public engagement become increasingly important.

Riders are demanding meaningful public engagement to review and provide feedback to staff. If implementation is not well thought out riders could turn away from using public transportation and opt for their cars, undermining the goals of improving GHG emissions and reducing single occupancy vehicle trips envisioned by Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funds.

SacTRU requests that the Board direct staff to review rider concerns about the following issues:

- Review proposed route, stops, and schedules to match rider needs.
- Ensure there is no loss in seat capacity and bicycle capacity.
- Ensure that appropriate safety features are being included in design.
- Limit the loss of ridership due to changes.

It is our understanding that SacRT staff have been working with riders to come up with workable solutions and we urge the board to direct staff to provide additional opportunities for meaningful engagement with the public prior to the April 2020 implementation plan.

As with the SacRT Forward project, SacTRU supports staff's continued commitment to community engagement with the current proposal but think that direct communication and engagement with active riders is being underutilized. **We urge the board to not rush any decisions based on artificial deadlines, allowing adequate time for the project to continue to develop and create the best comprehensive plan for the modernization of our system.** Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,
SacTRU