



May 8, 2017

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

Re: RT's FY 2018 Budget (Board Item No. 7)

Dear Board of Directors, Mr. Li, and Mr. Bernegger:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (Sac TRU) is writing to request a line-item budget for the proposed FY 2018 Regional Transit Operating and Capital Budget, in addition to the Preliminary Abridged FY 2018 Budget already provided. We believe the current budget documents provided to the public and the Board are insufficiently detailed and do not fulfill basic public disclosure requirements.

We would like to thank RT for attending a budget training workshop at the Organize Sacramento office on March 23, 2017. Our members appreciated learning more about how the complicated Regional Transit budget process works. We encourage RT staff to host their own events on the FY 2018 Budget and provide more outreach and community engagement with riders about the current budget proposal.

The Preliminary FY 2018 Operating and Capital Budget was released for public review on April 10, 2017. The public hearing notice was published in the Sacramento Bee and was advertised on the RT website. While this process is to give the public an opportunity to express their opinions, currently RT staff has received no emails, calls or letters asking questions or providing comment on the budget. We believe this is an indication that more meaningful community outreach is necessary.

This issue was brought up last year during the budget process. It was suggested by members of the public in 2016 that RT consider in the future providing community workshops on the budget, similar to the ones provided by Sacramento City Council. This year Mayor Steinberg and City Council members held workshops in each of their districts addressing the budget. We request that RT Staff organize similar trainings in the region covered by RT to provide more information on the FY 2018 Budget. We request that a line-item budget be made available to the public.

We look forward to working with you as the final report will be presented to the RT Board of Directors for approval on June 12, 2017. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

Sac TRU