



February 26, 2018

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

Re: Item 9 - General Planning Support Services

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Li:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (Sac TRU) requests that SacRT fully fund the planning department so that they can carry out the essential services necessary to make our transit system run efficiently and effectively.

SacRT Planning has a need for technical support where there currently a need to supplement staff resources. We urge the Board to fund the requested proposal in the short term, but also to direct RT to fund additional positions for qualified planning staff. The proposed projects for the consultant include:

- corridor planning;
- statistics;
- service planning/service assessments;
- transit service planning guidelines;
- policies and performance measures;
- transit and other related plan drafting;
- grant management and grant writing;
- analyzing and reporting;
- project oversight and management;
- and public information services.

These are long term projects that will require adequate staffing levels of qualified candidates. SacTRU believes that overall system design and rider experience will benefit from having a well trained in-house staff capable of planning in a coherent and comprehensive manner. The Route Optimization project will be one of the largest system changes in RT's history and will require robust planning and communication with the public, oversight agencies, and the Board. **We urge the Board make staffing the planning department a priority in the upcoming budget discussions.**

We believe that the planning department should be equipped with the training and expertise needed to complete the general planning work of a Transit Agency. If the goal is truly to have "readily-available, specialized technical expertise as needed," then we believe that our system would be better served in the long run by investing in employee training or hiring technical experts to fill positions, rather than repeatedly contracting out basic work to consultants who may not have a comprehensive understanding of our transit system and rider needs. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,
Sac TRU