



June 12, 2017

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

Re: Use of Prop 1A Funds (Board Item 22, 6/12/17 Agenda)

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

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (Sac TRU) believes our transportation system should support well-planned transportation solutions that invigorate our communities by providing for the transportation needs required to connect people to jobs and revitalize local economies. Staff has identified 38 projects that potentially qualify for Proposition 1A funds, nine that are partially funded, and 29 that are unfunded. We request that Prop 1A funding be used to enhance the existing transportation system and infrastructure of Regional Transit with the goal to serve the greatest number of users the existing system.

We acknowledge the funding sources from Prop 1A, or the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century, must be used for capital projects within RT to provide capacity enhancements and safety improvements to increase connectivity to the high-speed train system. However, while our members have not yet taken a position on the development of the streetcar project, our membership strongly believes that that there are several projects listed in Attachment 1 within this agenda item that dramatically improve system reliability and future capital projects that benefit a far greater number of communities dependent on public transportation and existing riders. Additionally, we do not believe the funds should be used for projects that will require extensive relocation and removal of existing infrastructure at the core of the light rail system, causing disrupted service to transit riders — specifically the relocation of the light rail from pedestrian friendly and well-traveled K Street to the less accessible and less used H Street corridor.

After reviewing the list of alternative projects eligible for Prop 1A funds, as listed in Attachment 1 provided by staff, we have identified the following projects as being most beneficial to our members: All four (4) infrastructure projects categorized as “partially funded,” at a total maximum Prop 1A match of \$24,827,500, which remains under the \$25 million of total match allocation from the state. Each of these four projects, all of which exist to keep the existing light rail system in a safe and reliable state of good repair, would show commitment to all communities currently served by RT, and would further facilitate the expansion of future service at a time that additional funding is available. Additionally, Project R055 — Light Rail Station at Dos Rios, a partially funded project eligible for a \$8.9 million Prop 1A match, would enable system access for an entire neighborhood and increase ridership on the Green Line. Finally, the remaining list of unfunded projects serve to maintain the long-term viability of the light rail

program, and RT has previously stated a severe need to replace aging light rail vehicles, for which parts are becoming difficult or impossible to source.

We appreciate the work that staff has put into the transparency and accountability of the FY 2018 budget process, but feel that the ongoing effort to steer all Prop 1A funding toward the development of the uncertain and as yet only marginally funded streetcar project, a project whose funding source was rejected by voters in the last electoral cycle, and is contrary to RT's stated mission, "...providing safe, reliable, and fiscally responsible transit service that links people to resources and opportunities."

Staff has provided the long list of alternative uses for Prop 1A funds to the Board with only four days to consider before making a decision. We believe the Board should be given more time to review the options and discuss with their constituents the best use of these funds. Additionally, given the numerous comments given at previous meetings of the Board by community members on this subject, we feel that this topic deserves a series of workshops and opportunity for community feedback.

We respectfully ask that the Board direct staff to hold or use the \$25 million of Proposition 1A High Speed Rail funding for other project needs identified in Item 22, Attachment 1. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

Russell Rawlings
Sac TRU