

### STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** February 22, 2021

**TO:** Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors

**FROM:** Devra Selenis, VP, Communications and Partnerships

SUBJ: REPEAL RESOLUTION NO. 20-06-0048, RESTATING THE SACRT

COMPLEMENTARY PARATRANSIT FARE STRUCTURE; AND

**AUTHORIZE A COVID-19 VACCINATION APPOINTMENT** 

CONFIRMATION TO BE CONSIDERED A VALID "FARE EQUIVALENT"

FROM MARCH 1, 2021 THROUGH MAY 31, 2021

#### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolutions.

#### RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

If adopted, both of these actions will help reduce the transportation barrier for individuals to get vaccinated and ensure that all residents living in SacRT's service area would have equitable access to vaccination sites.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Staff conservatively estimates that SacRT will provide approximately 26,252 free boardings during the three-month duration of the offering, which falls within the General Manager's authority (Resolution 19-07-0084) to distribute 50,000 complimentary passes per month for special promotions. This promotion will result in an estimated fare revenue loss of approximately \$44,260. The estimates are based on current ridership, anticipated new riders resulting from the free offering, and availability and willingness of passengers to receive the vaccine. The projected revenue loss from this promotion is included in the approved FY 2020-2021 Operating Budget. No additional capacity is anticipated to be required on complementary paratransit service (SacRT GO) in order to provide rides for this promotion or any future promotion that might be authorized under the new authority being requested for the General Manager/CEO to approve "fare equivalents" for SacRT GO.

Bus, Light Rail and Demand-Response Services

Current estimated number of daily passengers: 10,000 Estimated new riders from free offering: 2,500 Total number of passengers 12,500

Estimated riders eligible and obtaining vaccine by 5/31 (50%): 6,250

Free rides per passenger (two roundtrips) 4
Total free rides (6,250 x 4): 25,000
Avg Fare: \$1.52
Total Fiscal Impact \$38,000

SacRT Go Paratransit Services

Current estimated number of daily passengers: 500 Estimated new riders from free offering: 125 Total number of passengers: 625

Estimated riders eligible and obtaining vaccine by 5/31 (50%): 313

Free rides per passenger (two roundtrips): 4
Total free rides (313 x 4): 1,252
Avg Fare: \$5.00
Total Fiscal Impact \$6,260

#### DISCUSSION

From the start of the pandemic, SacRT's number one priority has been ensuring the safety and well-being of its employees, customers, and community members. Staff believes that offering free rides to and from COVID-19 vaccination centers will help the Sacramento region quickly recover from this crisis by slowing the spread of the virus. In addition, it will garner goodwill among the community.

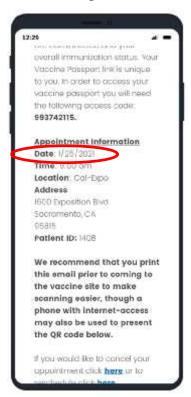
Due to the difficulty in distributing individual complimentary SacRT tickets as approved for special promotions in Resolution 19-07-0084 (Number of Complimentary Tickets to Distribute for Marketing Promotions) and Resolution 20-03-0013 (Modifying the Definition of "Fare Equivalent"), staff is requesting that the Board authorize the use of a COVID-19 vaccine appointment confirmation in the form of an email, text or vaccine card (examples shown in Attachment 1) as "Fare Equivalent" on bus, light rail, demand-response, and complementary paratransit services for individuals to travel to and from a COVID-19 vaccination site on the day of their scheduled appointment. The confirmation can be shown via smartphone or be printed.

In addition, the definition of "Fare Equivalent" is currently contained only within the fare structure for fixed-route and demand-response service. As a result, the General Manager/CEO and Board do not currently have authority to extend free ride promotions to complementary paratransit service. To accommodate the vaccine promotion and future promotional opportunities, Staff is recommending that the existing Fare Structure for complementary paratransit service be repealed and a new Fare Structure be established that provides discretion to recognize alternative documentation to be recognized as a fare equivalent on complementary paratransit service. As with fixed-route and demand-response service, fare equivalents declared by the General Manager/CEO on complementary paratransit service will be counted against the complimentary ticket allocation.

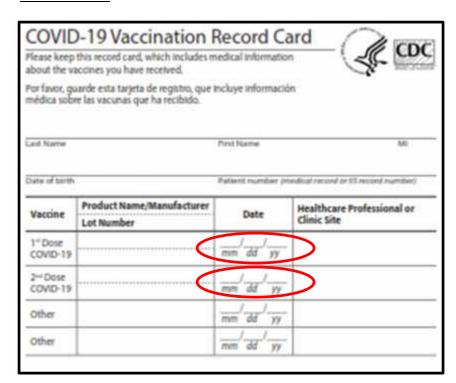
Staff recommends that the Board approve the attached Resolutions.

### **SacRT Fare Equivalent Vaccine Confirmation Examples**

#### **Text Message:**



#### **Vaccine Card:**



#### RESOLUTION NO. 21-02-0011

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:

February 22, 2021

## REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 20-06-0048 AND RESTATING THE FARE STRUCTURE FOR COMPLEMENTARY PARATRANSIT SERVICE

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Resolution No. 20-06-0048 is hereby repealed.

<u>Section 2:</u> "Complementary Paratransit Service" means origin-to-destination transportation services arranged on a scheduled basis in accordance with the Sacramento Regional Transit District's obligation to provide ADA service to destinations within three-quarters of a mile of Sacramento Regional Transit's fixed-route service as required by 49 C.F.R. Section 37.131.

<u>Section 3</u>: Exhibit A sets out the fare structure for Complementary Paratransit Service and is attached hereto and incorporated by this reference.

Section 4: The basic fare for one ride (a single trip between one origin and destination) on Complementary Paratransit Service is the price set forth under item A. of Exhibit A. A person certified by SacRT as an ADA-eligible rider who pays the basic complementary paratransit fare is entitled to one origin-to-destination trip on Complementary Paratransit Service. The basic fare may be prepaid or paid in cash upon boarding. A prepaid basic fare for Complementary Paratransit Service will be valid if: (a) presented in a valid paper scrip issued by SacRT and surrendered upon boarding; or (b) purchased through a SacRT-authorized mobile fare application, at SacRT's customer service center or by an authorized 3<sup>rd</sup> party on behalf of the passenger, stored in association with the rider's name (or, in the case of a companion, in the name of the ADA-eligible passenger they are accompanying), and redeemed upon commencement of a trip through SacRT's dispatching software.

Section 5: The price charged for a Complementary Paratransit Service Monthly Pass is the price set forth under Item B. of Exhibit A. A person certified by SacRT as an ADA-eligible rider who purchases a valid Complementary Paratransit Service Monthly Pass is entitled to ride such service for up to 60 one-way trips per month, without further charge during the calendar month of the year that the pass is valid, as set out in the Ecolane software. An ADA-eligible rider who purchases a Complementary Paratransit Service Monthly Pass will also receive a Discount Monthly Pass in the form of either a Discount Monthly Pass sticker or Discount Monthly Pass stored electronically on a Connect Card, as set out in the fare structure for fixed-route and demand-response service, for unlimited rides on SacRT's fixed-route and SmaRT Ride services during the month the pass is valid. Additional trips on Paratransit Service beyond 60 per month must be paid for at the per-trip basic fare set out in Exhibit A. The Complementary Paratransit Service Monthly Pass will take the form of an electronic Complementary Paratransit Service

Monthly Pass purchased through a SacRT-authorized mobile fare application, SacRT's customer service center or by an authorized 3<sup>rd</sup> party on behalf of the passenger that is stored in SacRT's dispatching software and associated with the ADA-eligible rider's name.

<u>Section 6:</u> A person accompanying an ADA-eligible rider on Complementary Paratransit Service who is not a personal care attendant must pay the basic fare set out in Item A. of Exhibit A, if the person accompanying the ADA-eligible rider is entitled to ride in accordance with the provisions of 49 C.F.R. §37.123(f).

<u>Section 7:</u> Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 3, a personal care attendant accompanying a person certified by SacRT as an ADA-eligible rider is eligible to ride without charge if the ADA-eligible rider is authorized by SacRT as eligible to travel with a personal care attendant and if the ADA-eligible rider is provided a ride in accordance with any limitations or conditions set forth in their eligibility determination.

<u>Section 8:</u> Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 3, a person certified by SacRT as an ADA-eligible rider is not required to pay the basic fare upon boarding a bus for Complementary Paratransit Service if the basic fare for that ride is paid directly to SacRT or the operator providing such service under the terms of an agreement approved or authorized by SacRT.

Section 9: Notwithstanding the foregoing Sections, the General Manager/CEO or SacRT Board of Directors may approve the use of an alternative document (including but not limited to an event ticket, appointment confirmation, SacRT-issued flier or QR code in either paper or electronic form) as a "Fare Equivalent" in connection with a free ride promotion that satisfies a passenger's obligation to pay the basic fare set out in Exhibit A when used in accordance with the promotion documentation and eligibility requirements. A single alternative document may be used for both the ADA-eligible rider and any persons accompanying the ADA-eligible rider. Each free ride taken on Complementary Paratransit Service under a promotion authorized by the General Manager/CEO will be counted toward the General Manager/CEO's complimentary ticket allotment.

Section 10: This Resolution takes effect February 23, 2021.

	STEVE MILLER, Chair
ATTEST:	
HENRY LI, Secretary	
By: Cindy Brooks, Assistant Secretary	<u> </u>

# Exhibit A Complementary Paratransit Service Fares and Pass Pricing

	Price Effective 06/09/20
A. Basic Fare	\$5.00
B. Monthly Pass	\$137.50

#### RESOLUTION NO. 21-02-0013

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:

February 22, 2021

# AUTHORIZE A COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION TO BE CONSIDERED A VALID "FARE EQUIVALENT" FROM MARCH 1, 2021 THROUGH MAY 31, 2021

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, in addition to the enumerated list contained in Resolution No. 20-03-0013, the definition of "Fare Equivalent" as set out in that Resolution and in Resolution 21-02-0011 will temporarily include a COVID-19 vaccine appointment confirmation in the form of an email, text or vaccine card, which will serve as payment of the Applicable Fare or basic fare for SacRT fixed-route, demand-response, and complementary paratransit service on the date noted in the appointment confirmation for the period beginning Monday, March 1, 2021 through Monday, May 31, 2021.

THAT, authority is hereby delegated to the General Manager/CEO to extend the end date of the Fare Equivalent recognition if he determines, in his discretion, that the promotion is meeting the objective of providing a viable transportation option for individuals obtaining vaccinations.

	STEVE MILLER, Chair	
ATTEST:		
HENRY LI, Secretary		
By:		