



STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 26, 2021

TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Chris Flores, Special Assistant to the General Manager/CEO, Brent Bernegger, VP, Finance/CFO, and Lisa Hinz, VP, Security, Safety and Customer Satisfaction

SUBJ: STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR SACRT SAFE PARKING LOCATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

No Recommendation — For Information Only.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information Only.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

DISCUSSION

In December 2020, City of Sacramento Mayor Steinberg announced his intent to bring forward for approval by the City Council a proposal to prepare a Master Siting, Programmatic, Operations and Financing Plan (Comprehensive Master Plan) to address the homelessness crisis. The city's proposed plan has set a goal to shelter and house 5,000 unhoused individuals and to prevent others from becoming homeless.

Sacramento City Councilmembers have developed district focused short- and long-term solutions to address homelessness over the course of the last several months. Three SacRT light rail parking lots were identified by the City as potential sites for safe-parking for unhoused individuals:

- Franklin Station (D7) – 40 - 300 parking spots
- Roseville Road Station (D2) – 100 – 300 parking spots
- Florin Road (D5) – 40 – 120 parking spots

The Sacramento City Council is scheduled to take a single vote on the Comprehensive Master Plan during their Council meeting on August 10, 2021, and members of the Sacramento City Council have asked that this item be presented to the SacRT Board for discussion and input.

Strategic Action Plan for SacRT Safe Parking Locations



Chris Flores, Special Assistant to GM/CEO
&
Lisa Hinz VP, Security, Safety & Customer Service
&
Brent Bernegger, VP Finance/CFO

Agenda

1

**Background
Information**

2

**City
Proposal**

3

**Benefits &
Opportunities**

4

**Overall
Concerns**

5

**Next
Steps**

Transit's Response to the Homelessness Crisis



APTA takes the issue of homelessness seriously and encourages transit systems to share best practices in finding long term solutions for people who are homeless.

[Share Your Practice](#)

Nearly 6,000 people experiencing homelessness in Sacramento County on any given night, according to the County's last Point-in-Time Count – January 2019.

SacRT is Focused on Addressing the Homelessness Crisis



Proposed Sites

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

See 47 sites across Sacramento being considered for homeless shelters, camps, tiny homes



BY THERESA CLIFT

WHERE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE PROPOSED SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS

Sacramento City Council members have proposed 47 sites as potential locations for homeless shelters, tiny homes, permitted camps or car parking. The District 1 site, not shown here, is at an undisclosed motel.



Safe Ground & Safe Parking Sites

Safe Ground

The City of Sacramento has opened its first "Safe Ground" site in a parking lot near W and Sixth streets in downtown Sacramento.



Safe Parking

The City of Sacramento has launched a "Safe Parking" site in a parking lot on the southern section of Front Street.



SacRT's Potential Assistance

SacRT has 3 park-and-ride lots that are currently underutilized:



Franklin
Station



Roseville Road
Station



Florin
Station

Proposed Concept:

- Opportunity to temporarily utilize sites while permanent housing in progress.
- City to manage site, risks, security to help people that currently live-in cars: along roads, residential neighborhoods, etc.
- Limit the use to cars/vehicles parking onsite (no tents).
- City to provide secure restrooms to reduce existing unsanitary conditions.

Franklin Road SacRT Parking Lot (D7)



Site information:

- 668 spaces total
- Pre-covid average usage: 335 (50%)
- FTA permission required
- SacRT will retain area and access to storage of equipment

Request for temporary use 40 – 100+ spaces:

Met with Director Jennings during Jan 2021

Roseville Road SacRT Parking Lot (D2)



Site information:

- 1,087 spaces total
- Pre-covid average usage: 438 (40%)
- Cal Trans permission & FTA concurrence required

Request for temporary use 100-300 spaces:

- City of Sacramento - April 27th Presentation
- Proposal - Min of 100 spaces for vehicle only use
 - RV's and Cars (with 24/7 services and security)
 - Policy development will need to be agreed upon

Florin Road SacRT Parking Lot (D5)

Site information:

- 1,076 spaces total
- Pre-covid average usage: 159 (15%)
 - (includes bus training usage)
- Leasing 1/3 land (next 9 months)
- Near mobile home and School
- Open field next to parking
- Adjacent to Habitat for Humanity housing
- FTA permission required

Request for temporary use up to 125 spaces:

- Marked and designated parking paved slots
- Parking areas for large or small vehicles
- Area open for staff, facilities, resources



How is SacRT Involved...



- Does the homelessness crisis impact SacRT? **Yes!!**
- What has SacRT been doing to help?
Provide services, such as...
- How does this benefit the region? **Meets the mission of: Safe, Clean and Convenient Services.**

SacRT Support



- **SacRT is a committed community partner**
- Social responsibility to provide safe, clean, and convenient public transit
- A safe place to stay, will help create a pathway out of homelessness
- **Access to resources**
- **Ability to connect individuals with city and county services**
- Improve customer experiences and outcomes
- Removing barriers to stability

Benefits & Opportunities



- Potential to house those living along our right of way
- Safe place to get a good night sleep and then connect with resources
- Easily find and connect individuals with services
- Protection from severe weather
- Controlled access to right of way
- Treating individuals with dignity

How This Program Helps

Temporary/Immediate Solution:

- **Safe parking program**
 - Offers security and peace for people living in their vehicles.
 - Provide a welcoming environment, meaningful resources and tools.
 - Help families stabilize and transition back into permanent housing.
 - Opportunity to safely and securely provide space for unhoused individuals within the transit system.

Long-Term Vision Solution:

- **Property dispositions/Joint developments**
 - SacRT has plans to evaluate underutilized sites and surplus property for future housing needs.
 - This will allow the site to be temporarily utilized while neighboring cities programs come up with permanent solutions.

Overall Concerns

1

Safety/Security

2

Customer
Perception

3

Financial
Consideration

Safety & Security



- CPUC Oversight
- Increased SacRT Security Staff
- Health and Welfare
- Adults and Children Close to Tracks
- Boise Decision

Ridership Impact



- Customer Perception
- Safe and Inviting Environment for Riders
- Mismatch in Services Versus Needs

Liability



- Financial Consideration
- Possible Increase or Dropped by Insurance
- Injury or Accident Could Make SacRT Liable
- Infrastructure Concerns
- Trespassers Along Right of Way
- Expanded Employee Responsibilities

Next Steps

- Sacramento City Council to vote on the homeless siting masterplan on August 10th.
- 3 SacRT light rail park-and-ride lots for potential safe parking locations.
- The City has requested the SacRT Board provide feedback on how many spots to be include.
- Mayor supports pilot/phased approach.
- The SacRT Board and state and federal regulators would have to approve any project before it could move forward.

Questions, Comments, Feedback

