



STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 26, 2021

TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Brent Bernegger, VP, Finance/CFO

SUBJ: APPROVING THE NINTH AMENDMENT TO THE STUDENT TRANSIT PASS AGREEMENT - 2015 WITH LOS RIOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT AND MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF PREPAID FARE IN THE FARE STRUCTURE

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolutions.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. The first recommended action will approve the Ninth Amendment to the Los Rios Community College Transit Pass Agreement, resulting in a 50% reduction in revenues for the Fall 2021 semester.
2. The second action will modify the definition of "Prepaid Fare" in the Fare Structure to allow Group Passes to be stored electronically on Connect Card or Mobile Fare Application.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Board-adopted FY22 Operating budget included a 50% reduction in fee revenue from Los Rios students during the Fall 2021 semester; therefore, there is no additional anticipated fiscal impact from the first proposed resolution. Allowing Group Passes to be stored electronically will not have a fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION

In response to COVID-19, the Los Rios Community College District (Los Rios) reduced on-campus student and faculty presence. As a result, the Los Rios Board sought and the SacRT Board authorized a 50% reduction in transit fee revenue collected from Los Rios students during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

Los Rios will continue a hybrid instructional model for the Fall 2021 semester (more on-campus classes than the Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 semester, but substantially fewer than pre-covid levels). As the region continues to recover from the pandemic, Los Rios has requested that the 50% reduction in student transit pass fees be extended to the Fall 2021 semester with the understanding that Los Rios plans to return to full, in-person learning by the Spring 2022. Furthermore, it is assumed that the Fall 2021 semester will be the final semester for which a fee reduction is requested.

Approving the fee reduction will help SacRT maintain a positive and collaborative relationship with Los Rios as well as provide financial relief to students recovering from the pandemic. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Board authorize a 50% reduction in Los Rios student fees for the Fall 2021 semester.

In a continued effort to reduce touch points and provide a safe environment for SacRT passengers to obtain fare media, Staff has been developing a solution with SacRT's mobile fare application provider (Bytemark) that will allow new groups of riders (including Los Rios students) to acquire and validate fare media using the mobile fare application. The solution is simple to deploy and will also reduce risk of fraud for SacRT. The participating group, in this case Los Rios, will provide SacRT with the email addresses of each of the participants. The email address is then associated with a special product in the application that can only be accessed by members with a registered email address. The solution provided by Bytemark has been deployed recently by other transit agencies.

The new feature has also been tested by a small group internally and Staff believes it is ready to deploy. Staff reached out to Los Rios about the new technology, which has indicated significant interest in making this transition. Los Rios is targeting a full deployment of the feature in Spring 2022 and may participate with a smaller group in the Fall. Both the Board-adopted Fare Structure and the Student Transit Pass Agreement describe the student transit pass (which is a form of "Group Pass") as a Los Rios-issued ID card containing the dates of validity, student name, and photograph. This definition is inconsistent with media obtained and stored in the mobile fare application.

Therefore, Staff is recommending that the Board adopt a change to the definition of "Prepaid Fare" in the Fare Structure to allow for the use of Group Passes stored electronically as valid fare media.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-07-0087

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

July 26, 2021

APPROVING THE NINTH AMENDMENT TO THE STUDENT TRANSIT PASS AGREEMENT - 2015 WITH LOS RIOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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

THAT, the Ninth Amendment to the Student Transit Pass Agreement – 2015 by and between the Sacramento Regional Transit District (therein “RT”) and the Los Rios Community College District (therein “Los Rios”) whereby the parties agree to a reduction or refund of the mandatory transportation fees paid by eligible students for Fall Semester 2021 to reflect the reduced benefits provided to students as a result of the substantial reduction in on-campus instruction due to COVID-19 and the definition of the “transit pass” is modified to allow for pass to be obtained and used through a mobile fare application, is hereby approved.

THAT, the General Manager/CEO is hereby authorized to execute said Ninth Amendment.

STEVE MILLER, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: _____
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 21-07-0088

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

July 26, 2021

AMENDING THE FARE STRUCTURE TO MODIFY THE DEFINITION OF PREPAID FARE

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

THAT, the fare structure set out in Resolution 09-10-0174, as previously amended, is further amended as follows; and

THAT, the definition of "Prepaid Fare" in the Fare Structure is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"Prepaid Fare means any one of the following:

1. Monthly Pass
2. Semi-Monthly Pass
3. Daily Pass
4. Fare Ticket
5. Transit Pass
6. Group Pass
7. Temporary Pass
8. Lifetime Pass
9. School Class Pass
10. Peace Officer Identification Badge
11. Paratransit Pass
12. Token

Notwithstanding anything in the definitions of the foregoing Prepaid Fare types that requires an RT-issued ID, RT-approved ID, RT-approved ID with or without sticker, or a paper scrip for valid fare, these fare types will also be valid if obtained and stored on either an RT Connect Card or an RT-approved mobile fare application, provided that they are validated prior to or at the time of boarding.";

STEVE MILLER, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: _____
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary