

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 11, 2022
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Tabetha Smith, Clerk to the Board
SUBJ: APPROVAL OF THE ACTION SUMMARY OF MARCH 28, 2022

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to Approve.

**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MEETING
March 28, 2022**

ROLL CALL: Roll Call was taken at 5:31 p.m. via Zoom. PRESENT: Directors Harris, Howell, Jennings, Kennedy, Nottoli, Schenirer, Serna, Valenzuela and Chair Miller. Absent: Director Hume. Director Budge joined the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 2.1 Motion: Approval of the Action Summary of March 14, 2022
- 2.2 Resolution 2022-03-026: Approving a Visual Art Policy and Standards Pertaining to the Approval and Placement on SacRT Property (D.Selenis)
- 2.3 Resolution 2022-03-027: Authorizing the General Manager/CEO to Submit and Execute Federal Transit Administration Grants for American Rescue Plan Act Funds (J. Adelman)
- 2.4 Resolution 2022-03-028: Approving the Second Amendment to the Lease of Office Space at 1515 S. Street (J. Adelman)
- 2.5 Rescind Resolution No. 20-07-0072; Authorize the General Manager/CEO to Submit an Application for Two Projects to the California Department of Housing and Community Development under the Transit-Oriented Development Housing Program (J. Adelman)
 - A. Resolution 2022-03-029: Rescind Resolution No. 20-07-0072; Authorize the General Manager/CEO to Submit an Application for the 13th Street Station Conversion Project to the California Department of Housing and Community Development under the Transit-Oriented Development Housing Program
 - B. Resolution 2022-03-030: Authorize the General Manager/CEO to Submit an Application for the Archives Plaza Station Conversion Project to the California Department of Housing and Community Development under the Transit-Oriented Development Housing Program
- 2.6 Resolution 2022-03-031: Delegating Authority to the General Manager/CEO to Negotiate and Execute the Agreement with The County of Sacramento for Sheriff Deputy Services (L. Hinz)
- 2.7 Resolution 2022-03-032: Authorizing the Execution of the Low Carbon

Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Project(s), and Certifications and Assurances, and Submittal of Project Nominations and Allocation requests to Caltrans for Fiscal Year 2021-22 LCTOP (J. Adelman)

Director Valenzuela requested for item 2.6 be pulled and voted on separately.

Public comment was taken by phone from Rick Hodgkins, Glenn Mandelkern, Jeffrey Tardaguila and David Schwegel.

Mr. Hodgkins commented on item 2.4 and questioned if SacRT owns or rents this space. He was concerned if SacRT continues to lease space that there will be less money available to provide transit and improve services.

Mr. Mandelkern commented on item 2.2. He likes the art that he sees when outside of the vehicle but when riding in vehicles the artwork interferes with the ability to see outside.

Director Serna agreed with Mr. Mandelkern's concern and questioned if it was possible to have one car on every trainset that is not wrapped with art so there is an option for riders.

Mr. Li shared there have been multiple comments received regarding the vision interference. He recognized Director Serna's suggestion of having one train not wrapped and also proposed another potential solution, which would be minimizing the coverage on the windows and stated this will be given serious consideration in the future.

Mr. Tardaguila requested that the chat feature be available during the meeting so public attendees can communicate and comment. He commented on Item 2.4, questioning the purpose of the Second Amendment to the lease of office space at 1515 S. Street. He is concerned with the number of projects and requested more information about them. Mr. Tardaguila then inquired about the situation at the zoo where a rider was left behind.

Director Budge would like to see the Art in Public Places Program component added to the Visual Art Policy.

Mr. Li recommended bringing Item 2.2 back to the Board after considering feedback from the Board and the public. He then responded to Mr. Hodgkins and Mr. Tardaguila regarding the lease of office space at 1515 S. Street sharing that the space is leased for Transit Ambassadors and their supervisors which gives SacRT a strong presence at the 16th Street Light Rail Station, an important transfer point. Mr. Li noted that the lease is inexpensive and in the future SacRT will reevaluate the best space to host the Transit Ambassadors.

Director Serna agreed with Mr. Li to bring Item 2.2 back after consideration. He also would like to improve section 9 with regards to memorials and offered to work with SacRT staff to provide input.

Director Budge pulled Item 2.2.

Mr. Schwegel complimented Mr. Li on his success in the last few short years transitioning SacRT to one of the most efficient transit agencies in the nation. He encouraged replacing older light rail vehicles with the newest Siemens light rail model. Mr. Schwegel would like to see high speed rail expansion through the six county SACOG region mentioning this would unite the region and be a model for other agencies to follow.

Mr. Li thanked Mr. Schwegel and shared that SacRT signed a contract for 72 light rail vehicles from Siemens. SacRT is confident that in the next 3 to 4 years the funding will be secured to replace all the older light rail vehicles.

Director Budge moved; Director Serna seconded pulling Item 2.2. Motion was carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Directors Budge, Harris, Howell, Jennings, Kennedy, Nottoli, Schenirer, Serna, Valenzuela and Chair Miller. Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Director Hume.

Director Harris moved; Director Budge seconded approval of the Consent Calendar with the exception of items 2.2 and 2.6. Motion was carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Directors Budge, Harris, Howell, Jennings, Kennedy, Nottoli, Schenirer, Serna, Valenzuela and Chair Miller. Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Director Hume.

Director Nottoli moved; Director Budge seconded approval of Item 2.6 as written. Motion was carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Directors Budge, Harris, Howell, Jennings, Kennedy, Nottoli, Schenirer, Serna and Chair Miller. Noes: Director Valenzuela; Abstain: None; Absent: Director Hume.

3. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 4.1 Resolution 2022-03-033: Voting to Support AB 2015 (Cooley), an Act to Amend the Sacramento Regional Transit District's Enabling Act (S. Valenton / O. Sanchez-Ochoa)

Shelly Valenton stated she would provide an overview of AB2015 with the hope to have unanimous support to move forward with the legislation. At the request of SacRT staff and thanks to Chair Miller, Assemblymember Ken Cooley introduced AB2015 in February. As currently drafted, the legislative measure will make clarifying amendments or clean up language to several outdated provisions of SacRT's Enabling Act. Because the changes are intended to improve the agency's operating practices, SacRT's General Manager/CEO has the authority to propose them based upon a 1997 Board Resolution. To meet the deadline for submitting bill proposals, SacRT staff submitted the cleanup language first with the intention of amending it later to add the proposed changes to the board's composition. As reported by Chair Miller at the last meeting, because the support for the board composition changes was not unanimous, Assemblymember Cooley advised

SacRT staff that he will not include in this legislation the changes pertaining to the board composition.

Ms. Valenton shared that staff will pursue board composition changes at a later time if the Board still wishes to do so. While the assembly member understands that SacRT General Manager has authority to propose the clean-up part of the bill, he requested that SacRT staff seek from the Board unanimous support for the bill as currently drafted before moving it forward through the legislature.

Olga Sanchez-Ochoa then went over the proposed cleanup changes to SacRT's Enabling Act legislation. She stated that AB2015 affects five sections of SacRT's Enabling Act that are obsolete, contain ambiguities or that require modification to improve business processes at SacRT. Ms. Sanchez-Ochoa then provided an overview of the five sections.

Public comment was taken by phone from Jeffrey Tardaguila and Rick Hodgkins.

Mr. Tardaguila questioned if the bill was submitted.

Chair Miller confirmed that the bill has already been submitted.

Mr. Hodgkins referenced that Ms. Sanchez-Ochoa mentioned that Elk Grove was annexed into the district, and he wanted to reference two other cities that were also annexed into the district which are Citrus Heights and Folsom.

Director Harris moved; Director Howell seconded approval of Item 4.1. Motion was carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Directors Budge, Harris, Howell, Jennings, Kennedy, Nottoli, Schenirer, Serna, Valenzuela and Chair Miller. Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Director Hume.

Director Nottoli thanked Chair Miller for getting a sponsor for the Bill.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public comment was taken by phone from Glenn Mandelkern, Jeffery Tardaguila and Rick Hodgkins.

Mr. Mandelkern shared that Governor Newsom is considering offering three months of free rides throughout the state at various transit agencies. He is excited about the concept because hesitant riders will be willing to use public transit if it is free.

Mr. Tardaguila encourages having checklists and policies. He recommended bringing the Visual Arts Policy to the MAC Meeting. He appreciates that the number of bus cancellations have been dropping and would like for the cancellations to be listed in red and visually oriented. Mr. Tardaguila complimented operators on assisting riders that

have been stranded and commented on the rider that was left at the zoo. He is hoping a policy will be developed and referenced a previous policy that stated anyone would get a ride home one way or another. He gave a shout out to the Citizen's Academy and to SacRT staff Jessica Gonzalez for thinking ahead and sending alerts out.

Mr. Hodgkins would like to know what companies SacRT contracts with for supplemental services for SacRT GO. He is concerned that if SacRT keeps contracting and outsourcing it will limit the money available for what is needed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- 8.1 General Manager's Report
 - a. Major Project Updates
 - b. Capitol Corridor JPA Special Meeting Summary – March 23, 2022 (Miller)
 - c. SacRT Meeting Calendar

Mr. Li began his report by sharing some photos from the employee appreciation event that was held last week for staff at several locations. He shared that it was very inspirational to see SacRT employees safely come out, get together and enjoy the time to celebrate tremendous achievements and hard work. The employee group photos will mark this historical time in SacRT history. Mr. Li said it was an honor to have Congresswoman Matsui and Chair Miller join in as well. The feedback has been positive and SacRT has a plan for this event to be quarterly to share appreciation. SacRT would like the public to know that this is a supportive, collaborative, inclusive and equitable fun working environment and would like to encourage others to join the SacRT award-winning team. SacRT knows that happy employees drive a positive work culture and can help keep and attract talents especially as SacRT navigates through a national workforce challenge.

SacRT continues to deal with a driver shortage and has been actively recruiting drivers by holding in-person hiring events and offering a \$2,000 sign on bonus for drivers. He announced the next hiring event is Wednesday, March 30th and more information is on the SacRT website.

Mr. Li recognized an increased demand in paratransit service as people begin to feel more comfortable traveling. He stated that SacRT GO has 14 new operators in training and 3 expected to start next week. He announced that SacRT is partnering with a private Adaptive Transportation Network Company called U-ZURV to provide up to an additional 25% of service, as allowed in our labor contract, and support for SacRT GO customers starting Tuesday, April 19th. Mr. Li acknowledged a question asked by Rick Hodgkins with regards to subcontracting and shared that the service is relatively cheaper.

Mr. Li announced that some may have seen in the news that SacRT pickup time was delayed far too long last week. He shared that two SacRT GO paratransit operators

suddenly left during a peak shift due to major medical emergencies. SacRT is actively working to prevent any situations like this in the future and Mr. Li apologized for the delay. The good news is the employees are out of the medical emergency and will come back to work on Wednesday.

Mr. Li highlighted SacRT's successful transit academy. The 2022 transit academy will be held on Wednesdays from May 4th through June 1st. The free five-class course is designed to educate and engage residents, business and community leaders and other stakeholders about SacRT's planning process and how public transit shapes the community. Applications will be accepted until Monday, April 18th. SacRT has had approximately 60 individuals go through the first two academies before the pandemic and they have become tremendous advocates for SacRT in the community. He then recognized Mr. Mandelkern as a graduate.

Mr. Li announced that last Thursday, the Women in Transportation Sacramento Chapter presented SacRT with an award for creating an in-house Social Service Practitioner position and program to connect individuals living along SacRT's right-of-way or facilities with regional social services. SacRT appreciates this recognition and is looking at ways to help assist with the homeless crisis.

Mr. Li highlighted a collaboration SacRT is participating in to help celebrate Mother Earth. On Friday, April 22nd SacRT is offering system-wide free rides on all SacRT Services. No free ride flyer is necessary, just hop aboard and go. Mr. Li then shared that it looks like the governor will provide money to all transit agencies to offer free service for three months during the gas price crisis.

Mr. Li concluded his remarks sharing a wonderful operator commendation he received. The compliment was commending the operator on the #30 line. The rider boarded at J & 53rd street and asked the driver about the connections to the 142 airport bus. When approaching L & 13th Street, the operator noticed the 142 bus pulling out. The operator called the departing bus and arranged for it to hold at the next stop. Mr. Li appreciated the feedback and provided operator Anthony Fischer with a commendation and a copy of the letter. Mr. Li stated the best customer service is the cornerstone of the SacRT business.

Public comment was taken from Barbara Stanton and Jeffery Tardaguila.

Barbara Stanton expressed concern about the number of cancelled trips. She then described a passenger's situation who missed an event due to a cancellation. Ms. Stanton announced that the 2022 Top Banana award was given to a youth named Glenn Jackson Jr. who has been talking about transit since he was 10 and he is now 14. Glenn is currently part of the youth academy for SACOG. She encouraged all to nominate people for the two additional awards that will be given out this year.

Mr. Tardaguila mentioned a broadcast by ABC, Channel 13 regarding a rider that was stranded at the zoo. He stated the need for a new policy to be put in place so that no one

gets lost in the system. He encouraged expanding the 142 route and making it more of an on-demand service. He recommended in April when schedules are revised to make sure 86 and 88 are revised with a starting location of 11th and J. Street.

9. **REPORTS, IDEAS AND QUESTIONS FROM DIRECTORS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**
10. **CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC ADDRESSES BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (If Necessary)**
11. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**
12. **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**
13. **CLOSED SESSION**
14. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**
15. **CLOSED SESSION REPORT**
16. **ADJOURN**

As there was no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

STEVE MILLER, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: _____
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary