

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 11, 2022

TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Chris Flores, Deputy Chief of Staff / Special Assistant to the GM /
Lisa Hinz, VP, Safety, Security and Customer Satisfaction / Olga
Sanchez-Ochoa, General Counsel

SUBJ: ROSEVILLE ROAD LIGHT RAIL STATION SAFE PARKING
PROPOSAL UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to Approve.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Modifying the Delegation of Authority to the General Manager/CEO to finalize a three-party lease agreement for a temporary safe parking program at a portion of the Roseville Road light rail station.

FISCAL IMPACT

The agreement will be structured so that Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) will incur no costs related to the City's use of the station, and the City will be legally obligated to fully indemnify SacRT to the maximum extent legally permitted.

DISCUSSION

During the October 25, 2021 meeting, the SacRT Board voted to delegate authority to the GM/CEO to negotiate a three-party lease agreement with Caltrans and the City of Sacramento, contingent on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approvals.

During the October Board meeting, staff presented the agreed upon Program Guidelines between the City and SacRT staff. In the process of negotiating a three-party lease agreement, the City has since changed a few provisions that are significantly different than what was presented to the Board and staff is looking for direction from the Board before finalizing the agreement.

Public Safety Zone – The Board's motion provided direction for staff to seek the largest possible Public Safety Zone that is legally defensible, with the understanding that

encampments and storing of personal property would be prohibited and the City would enforce the prohibition within the Public Safety Zone..

In negotiations of the lease, the City has removed language requiring that it remove all encampments and personal property of unhoused individuals who set up camp within SacRT's station and the immediately surrounding areas located within the Public Safety Priority Zone . The City has indicated it would only be able to cite an unhoused camper if they are engaged in unlawful activity such as using drugs, defecating/urinating in public, sitting in a motorized vehicle for longer than 72 hours, etc. The City has taken the position that it cannot remove any encampment wherein the residents are not expressly violating the law.

Previously the city had agreed to provide an internal security guard within the safe parking site. The City has now told staff that security within the Safe Parking Site will be provided by individuals who are neither security guards or law enforcement officers. This is inconsistent with our initial discussions with the City and with what SacRT staff told the Board would be the case when staff sought authority to finalize an agreement with the City and Caltrans.

Customer Complaints – The City has declined to reimburse SacRT for additional Customer Service Representative (CSR) workload that may occur from the safe parking operations. They have proposed that SacRT staff refer customer complaints/comments regarding the safe parking program to 311. SacRT takes any complaint from a customer very seriously and we strive to quickly resolve issues. If the City does not fund additional CSR staff that will work to resolve complaints, SacRT insists that it must be provided with contact information for City staff that will be available to SacRT as issues arise on a 24/7 basis. Referral to 311 is not an acceptable option as it will not likely result in quick resolution of customer concerns and complaints. SacRT staff is concerned about the impact the inability to quickly resolve issues raised by our passengers will have on our core business of providing safe, clean and convenient transit service to the residents of the Sacramento region.

Because the parties appear to be at an impasse on both issues, staff would like direction from the Board on how to proceed at this juncture.