

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 12, 2022
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Devra Selenis, VP, Communications and Partnerships
SUBJ: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO TO APPROVE A
“FARE EQUIVALENT” FOR PERSONS NEEDING TO TRAVEL
ON EXISTING SACRT ROUTES SERVING WEATHER RESPITE
CENTERS

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolution.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The SacRT General Manager/CEO will be authorized to approve an appropriate form of “Fare Equivalent” for persons needing to travel on existing SacRT transit services, which may include fixed-route, demand-response, and/or complementary paratransit service depending on the circumstances, that serve cooling and warming centers that align with forecasted activation of weather respite operations within SacRT’s service area and during regular service hours.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as a result of Board approval, as the number of daily free rides will fall within the General Manager/CEO authority to distribute complimentary passes each month for marketing promotions and partnerships (Resolution No. 19-07-0084).

Based on prior annual ridership to warming and cooling centers, SacRT estimates that there may be approximately 3,750 free rides provided per year.

DISCUSSION

On any given night in Sacramento, several thousand people live unsheltered outdoors. The 2022 Point in Time Homeless Count released by the Sacramento County Continuum of Care reported approximately 9,278 individuals experienced homelessness throughout the County.

In an effort to assist our community against the imminent health and safety threats to the unsheltered population during significant weather events, Staff is seeking a delegation of authority to the General Manager/CEO to establish an appropriate alternative form of “Fare Equivalent” to allow for travel at no cost on existing routes and services that provide access to weather respite centers. Last year, there were eight deaths from hypothermia,

“more than all the cases of hypothermia from the previous 19 years combined,” according to the Sacramento County 2022 Homeless Deaths Report.

The SacRT General Manager/CEO and staff, in partnership with local jurisdictions, will work together to identify the appropriate form of “Fare Equivalent” documentation, as well as the services, routes and times the free fare would be authorized for those needing to get to an activated respite center using SacRT transit services when weather reaches forecasted activation thresholds that follow criteria similar to the list below:

- Nighttime lows of 37 degrees or lower for two or more days within a five-day span; or
- Rain for two or more consecutive days (forecast 60% or more); or
- One day or night of rain combined with nighttime lows of 32 degrees or lower; or
- Publication of a National Weather Service (NWS) Heat or Freeze Advisory. An NWS Heat Advisory is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous conditions (e.g., typically when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 100° or higher for at least 2 consecutive days, and nighttime air temperatures will not drop below 75°).

Adopting this action would help eliminate the transportation barrier for those needing to seek shelter during extreme weather conditions.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12-149

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

December 12, 2022

AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO TO APPROVE A “FARE EQUIVALENT” FOR PERSONS NEEDING TO TRAVEL ON EXISTING SACRT ROUTES SERVING WEATHER RESPITE CENTERS

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 also include an appropriate form of Fare Equivalent established by the General Manager/CEO that will serve as payment of the Applicable Fare or basic fare for SacRT transit services, which may include fixed-route, demand-response, and/or complementary paratransit service, for the limited purpose of accessing weather respite centers established by local jurisdictions, subject to the terms and conditions set out by the General Manager/CEO, including required eligibility documentation and the applicable services, routes, and times where the Fare Equivalent will be valid during regular service hours.

THAT, each free ride taken under the authority granted by this Resolution will be counted toward the General Manager/CEO’s complimentary ticket allotment.

STEVE MILLER, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: _____
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary