

## **STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** December 12, 2022  
**TO:** Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Steve Miller, Chair, Board of Directors  
**SUBJ:** COMMENDING JEFF HARRIS

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolution.

### RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recognizes Jeff Harris for his service on the Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) District Board of Directors.

### FISCAL IMPACT

None as a result of this action.

### DISCUSSION

Jeff Harris has been a member of the SacRT Board of Directors since 2015. The Resolution presented acknowledges Jeff Harris' service on the Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached Resolution commending Jeff Harris.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:  
December 12, 2022

# COMMENDING Jeff Harris

*Whereas*, Jeff Harris has faithfully represented the City of Sacramento on the Sacramento Regional Transit District Board of Directors from January 2015 through December 2022; and

*Whereas*, Jeff Harris has supported efforts to redesign our transit system and worked to improve coverage, frequency, and safety for riders. He was instrumental in the building and opening of the Wexler, the first Transit Oriented Development (TOD) progressed by SacRT, and the first student housing TOD in the Sacramento region. The project also modernized the University/65th Street transit center, making it easier for the 700 students living in the complex to connect to bus and light rail; and

*Whereas*, Jeff Harris served on committees and regional boards representing SacRT; and

*Whereas*, during Jeff Harris's term on the Board of Directors, Sacramento Regional Transit District accomplished the following among many others:

- Opened the Blue Line to Cosumnes River College extension in 2015, which extended light rail 4.3 miles from the terminus at Meadowview Road to Cosumnes River College and opened four new stations ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Benefited from the passage of Senate Bill 1 (SB1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, which invested approximately \$54 billion across California to fix bridges, roads, freeways and includes funding for public transit.
- Launched one of the nation's first on-demand microtransit services, called SmART Ride, in 2018, which has grown to one of the largest and most successful microtransit services in the country.
- Approved the agency's first fare reduction in its 47-year history in 2018, after implementing fiscal policies that renewed financial stability.
- Approved the Light Rail Modernization Project in 2018, which includes new accessible low-floor light rail vehicles, updated station platforms, and adding a "passing track" to Folsom area stations to allow the light rail system to operate every 15 minutes systemwide.
- Reimagined SacRT's entire bus network in 2019, which provides improved frequency, more weekend and evening service, and better routing to serve activity, employment and education centers.
- Launched the nation's first unrestricted systemwide student fare-free program in 2019, called RydeFreeRT, which offers free rides for youth and students in grades TK through 12th.
- Successfully executed transit annexation agreements with the cities of Folsom and Citrus Heights in 2019, and Elk Grove in 2020.
- Launched a new public intercity express bus service in 2020 that travels between the UC Davis campus and the UC Davis Medical Center, called Causeway Connection, using 12 zero emission electric buses secured through an Electrify America grant.
- Launched SacRT GO paratransit services in 2020, which transitioned the operation of ADA paratransit and non-ADA demand response service back in-house after more than 30 years of contracting.
- Launched the Airport Express bus route 142 in 2020 with service between downtown Sacramento and the Sacramento International Airport in partnership with Yolobus.
- Completed the South Sacramento Corridor Phase 2 (Blue Line to Cosumnes River College) project with the opening of the Morrison Creek Station between the Meadowview and Franklin stations in 2021.
- Approved SacRT's Zero Emission Bus Rollout Plan in 2021, which will transition SacRT's fleet to 100% zero emission by 2040.
- Partnered with Caltrans, Visa, Littlepay, and SC Soft in 2021 to launch the first contactless method for payment on board light rail trains in California.
- Progressed transit-oriented development with the opening of the first student transit-oriented housing project in the region at the University/65th Street Station in 2022, called the Wexler, and additional property sales.

*Whereas*, SacRT was awarded American Public Transportation Association's – 2021 North America's Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year Award for accomplishment and innovations in public transportation; and

*Whereas*, serving on the Board of Directors, Jeff Harris had a guiding vision for development of public transit and has advocated and contributed to many public transit initiatives dedicated to improving transit for the Sacramento community; and

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:*

*That*, all members of the Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors and staff wish to convey their appreciation to Jeff Harris for his outstanding leadership, his dedicated service as a Board member, and his commitment to high-quality public transportation throughout the District during his eight years of service.

ATTEST:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary

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STEVE MILLER, Chair