



## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** July 25, 2022  
**TO:** Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Jamie Adelman, Acting VP, Finance/CFO  
**SUBJ:** APPROVING THE RYDEFREE RT STUDENT TRANSIT PASS AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolution.

### RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the agreement will provide funding for continuation of the RydeFreeRT student transit pass program.

### FISCAL IMPACT

Execution of this agreement will generate an additional \$350,000 of fare revenue for SacRT in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, above what was budgeted for the RydeFreeRT program. Staff was in discussion with the County about participation prior to adoption of the SacRT budget on June 13, 2022; however, the funding was not approved in the County Budget until after SacRT's budget was adopted on June 13, 2022.

### DISCUSSION

SacRT launched the RydeFreeRT program in October 2019, allowing students in grades TK-12th to board SacRT buses and light rail vehicles using an Annual Student (TK-12) Pass at no cost. The program has been a major success, with student ridership more than doubling in the first five months following the launch. Ridership declined temporarily due to COVID; however, with students returning to the classroom throughout the region, student ridership has rebounded strongly, recovering fully to pre-pandemic levels in recent months.

Funding partnerships are an important piece of securing the future of the RydeFreeRT program. Earlier this year, the Board approved a multi-year agreement with the City of Sacramento that will streamline the annual renewal of the program with the City in future fiscal years. Staff has also finalized agreements with the cities of Folsom, Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove and is in the process of finalizing an agreement with the City of Citrus Heights.

In addition to the anticipated funding from cities within SacRT's service area, the County of Sacramento has allocated \$350,000 in its FY23 budget to support the RydeFreeRT program. When the agreement is approved, FY23 will mark the first time that RydeFreeRT will be fully funded by all jurisdictions within SacRT's service area.

The continued success of the RydeFreeRT program has been a bright spot for SacRT, garnering interest from transit agencies across the country. The program is appreciated by students and parents alike, making transportation more affordable and easier to access, and removing a barrier to student success. The increased interest from local jurisdictions to fund the program is a testament to its success.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07-075

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

July 25, 2022

**APPROVING THE RYDEFREE RT STUDENT TRANSIT PASS AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

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

THAT, RydeFreeRT Student Transit Pass Agreement, by and between the County of Sacramento (therein "County") and the Sacramento Regional Transit District (therein "SacRT") wherein the County agrees to pay \$350,000 in quarterly installments of \$87,500 as consideration for SacRT to permit students who live in or attend school within the boundaries of the County or who are unhoused or in foster care within the County to ride SacRT services at no cost for the period from July 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023, using an Annual Student (TK-12th) Pass, is hereby approved.

THAT, the General Manager/CEO is hereby authorized and directed to execute the foregoing Agreement.

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STEVE MILLER, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

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