

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 28, 2023
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Tabetha Smith, Clerk to the Board
SUBJ: APPROVAL OF THE ACTION SUMMARY OF JULY 24, 2023

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to Approve.

**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MEETING
July 24, 2023**

ROLL CALL: Roll Call was taken at 5:30 p.m. PRESENT: Directors Budge, Daniels, Hume, Kozlowski, Loloee, Maple, Serna, Singh-Allen, Valenzuela and Chair Kennedy. Absent: None. Director Jennings arrived at 5:32 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 2.1 Motion: Approval of the Action Summary of June 12, 2023
- 2.2 Resolution 2023-07-071: Declaring Midtown Administrative Complex Properties Excess to Transit Operations as Surplus (J. Adelman)
- 2.3 Resolution 2023-07-072: Approving the Fifth Amendment to the Personal Services Contract with Denise Standridge (J Adelman)
- 2.4 Resolution 2023-07-073: Approving the First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Light Rail System Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Sacramento (L. Ham)
- 2.5 Resolution 2023-07-074: Approving New Ground Lease for Parking Purposes with Gary Nazareno (J. Adelman)
- 2.6 Resolution 2023-07-075: Celebrating the 33rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (C. Alba)

Director Hume asked if there was a timeline for declaring the properties associated with item 2.1 as surplus.

Chair Kennedy responded that there is already some interest in the properties.

ACTION: APPROVED - Director Hume moved; Director Loloee seconded approval of the consent calendar as written. Motion was carried by roll call vote. Ayes: Directors Budge, Daniels, Hume, Jennings, Kozlowski, Loloee, Maple, Serna, Singh-Allen, Valenzuela and Chair Kennedy. Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None.

3. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. PUBLIC HEARING

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Speakers:

Lauren Palmer expressed a safety concern on the gold line light rail around the time state and government employees are finished working.

Chair Kennedy stated that staff will be responding.

Mr. Li appreciated the comment.

Public comment was taken by phone from Nick Bryant, Lisa Cooley, and Rick Hodgkins.

Mr. Bryant is concerned about the number of broken connect card machines and the inoperable elevators at the Watt/I-80 light rail station.

Ms. Cooley thinks paratransit should have increased funding for more call takers and extended service hours and days. She would like to see a monthly multi-jurisdictional paratransit pass.

Mr. Hodgkins requested that SacRT Paratransit and UZURV use the loading dock that the UC Davis shuttle picks up and drops off at.

The clerk read into the record written comments from Jeffery Tardaguila, Ronnie Miranda, and Barbara Stanton.

Mr. Tardaguila is concerned about the low floor improvements and broken connect card machines. He would like an update regarding the re-opening of the Sac Valley ramp and the status of the repairs of the elevators at Watt/I-80.

The clerk read a response from staff that addressed his concerns. The low floor improvements and some of the issues referenced are most likely smaller punch list items and still in the process of being addressed.

Mr. Miranda stated he has issues with SmaRT Ride that are not being addressed.

The clerk read a response from staff that included suggestions and information on how customer service has tried to support and help Mr. Miranda who has made 56 calls to customer satisfaction during the past year, 24 of which were related to SmaRT Ride.

Ms. Stanton, Ridership for the Masses, expressed concerns about dropped trips.

The clerk read a response regarding the trips that were canceled which stated the number of monthly bus cancellations have significantly improved. This June SacRT was at 1% cancellation rate and on track to be below 1% in July.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Information: SmarT Ride Update (L. Ham)

Laura Ham provided a SmarT Ride On-Demand Transit Update. She explained that due to the expiration of SacRT's 2018 Sacramento Transportation Authority Grant for the program, SacRT has pursued additional funding and developed a plan to right size the program to match available revenues. SacRT is pleased to extend the modestly reduced pilot program until a more permanent source of funding is secured.

Ms. Ham provided details of the SmarT Ride service, a quick overview of ridership and funding information. She explained that there are some funding gaps to fill, but SacRT is hopeful for a new funding measure or other source of revenue that will provide for continuation of the program. Ms. Ham stated several factors and strategies that were used to develop the recommended changes and noted that the changes will be closely monitored for any required adjustments.

Director Serna asked if the map includes Heritage Park and South Natomas.

Ms. Ham responded Heritage Park is included and a portion of South Natomas.

Director Serna requested a more detailed map of zones and service areas.

Chair Kennedy requested a more comprehensive map for each district.

Ms. Ham closed with a SacRT SmarT Ride app update, which she stated will be available on Monday, August 28 to coincide with the service changes. The updated app will show an option to request a SmarT Ride and any SacRT Fixed-route transit options available nearby, including bus and light rail.

Director Daniels asked if there is a breakdown of average distance per ride.

Ms. Ham responded average ride is about eleven minutes and average wait time is about thirty minutes she does not have the average distance per ride.

Director Daniels asked if there was a cost per ride.

Ms. Ham stated not per passenger but, by zone Citrus Heights is \$1.9M.

Director Daniels asked about consideration of where the dollars come from and where dollars are spent.

The TDA dollars previously used for Dial-A-Ride have been redirected to SmarT Ride.

Director Valenzuela thanked Ms. Ham for the presentation and asked if the app update will include fixed ride services.

Ms. Ham stated it will provide a trip planner.

Director Valenzuela was excited to hear that and applauded the team. She asked how farebox recovery cost compares to traditional fixed route service.

Ms. Ham stated that she will provide that analysis to the Board.

Chair Kennedy ask if a similar analysis requested by Director Daniels for Citrus Heights could be given to Board members for each district.

Director Daniels requested the overall cost of SmaRT Ride and how it breaks down per ride and distance. He requested a future conversation of alternatives to SmaRT Ride.

Ms. Ham said that she will provide the requested information.

Mr. Li added that an industry average can also be provided.

Public comment was taken by phone from Rick Hodgkins and Lisa Cooley.

Mr. Hodgkins stated he will most likely not use SmaRT Ride if services are decreased.

Ms. Cooley asked if there would be back up transportation for transit dependent people that are unable to use the fixed route SmaRT Ride Service.

Chair Kennedy stated staff would be in touch with Ms. Cooley.

The clerk read into the record written comment from Glenn Mandelkern.

Mr. Mandelkern asked if keeping the Citrus Heights SmaRT Ride service to the Kaiser Roseville Riverside Hospital facility could be considered.

The clerk provided a response from Ms. Ham that the service to Kaiser Roseville was inadvertently left off the map and thanked Mr. Mandelkern for bringing it to attention.

7.2 Information: Presentation on Ongoing Projects and Initiatives (S. Valenton)

Mr. Li thanked the Board and SacRT customers for their feedback and recommendations. He stated SacRT's goal is to manage business with the highest level of transparency and accountability and communicate to the Board and the public in the most efficient and effective way. To further improve communication and provide the Board and the public with timely updates, staff will be presenting regular updates on various ongoing projects and initiatives. He introduced Shelly Valenton, Deputy GM.

Ms. Valenton thanked the Board for their insightful feedback and suggestions and stated

SacRT is committed to following through on them and creating new and exciting programs as a result. She reminded the board of the many regular updates and communications that are provided on major projects.

Ms. Valenton provided a brief overview of the topics that would be presented which includes a community advocate recognition program, Reimagine Watt/I-80 project status, low floor light rail train concerns and public outreach, and the homelessness and social equity program. She then provided some topics that would be covered at the August meeting. Ms. Valenton introduced Devra Selenis, VP of Marketing.

Ms. Selenis provided information regarding the Community Transit Advocate Recognition Program which would allow Board members and the SacRT General Manager to choose one constituent for recognition who has taken a personal role in supporting SacRT. SacRT will recognize each district Community Transit Advocate with a certificate at an upcoming Board meeting, feature them in a blog post, social media announcement, and an article in SacRT's passenger newsletter, Next Stop News. Each Advocate will also receive a complimentary Connect Card loaded with fare valid for up to one year.

Director Serna stated that elected officials should be excluded from nominations.

Ms. Selenis mentioned she could put that in writing and then introduced Laura Ham, VP of Planning and Engineering.

Ms. Ham introduced the Watt/I-80 Light Rail Station topic. She provided a brief description of the station which serves as a regional hub for intermodal connections, across multiple counties and jurisdictions and is one of SacRT's busiest locations and is prone to safety and security issues being situated in an at-risk community. SacRT has been working to address the issues for at least a decade.

Ms. Ham provided a brief history of past efforts. The SacRT master plan recommended strategies to improve pedestrian safety, create a more open design, add light, and enhance security and maintenance. She shared it is still a challenge to keep the station clean and free of issues even with a proactive maintenance and security schedule, a guard on site during operating hours, and camera monitoring and cleanings at least two times a day.

Ms. Ham announced that SacRT expects to award an approximately \$19M construction contract at the end of the year to complete the major renovation and reconstruction of the station. In June, the California Transportation Commission allocated \$8M in CA Solutions for congested corridors grant funds to support this effort as part of the Placer Gateway Project. Ms. Ham provided a list of dramatic improvements included in the project and stated in addition to public outreach, the design was reviewed with the Mobility Advisory Council (MAC) and many of their comments were incorporated.

Ms. Ham provided an update on the new Siemens S700 vehicles that will be placed in service next year. They are currently undergoing testing and in January, Siemens hosted

an outreach event with a mockup station platform for the MAC and members of the community to test the ramp and other accessible features. She shared positive feedback and stated overall, the customers indicated they feel more comfortable and safer with the new vehicles.

Ms. Ham stated outreach to similar transit systems that operate the same vehicles has been conducted and she shared some information regarding those peers using the same or similar boarding configuration. She announced on June 5th, FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez notified SacRT in writing that FTA approved the accessibility and usability of the ramp design as recommended by the FTA Office of Civil Rights.

Ms. Ham concluded her presentation with a short video showing the outreach to MAC members and their feedback after testing the mock up station platform.

Director Daniels asked if once the rider is deployed if the ramp automatically retracts.

Ms. Ham replied yes it does.

Director Budge asked for confirmation that the high platforms will remain until construction is completed.

Ms. Ham responded that the mini platforms would remain in place until the Legacy fleet is retired. She then introduced Lisa Hinz, VP, Security, Safety & Customer Satisfaction.

Ms. Hinz provided a recap on SacRT's Social Equity Program which is dedicated to overcoming the extraordinary challenges of Sacramento's most vulnerable populations, including low income, unhoused individuals, adults experiencing mental health disorders, youth, and elderly. Over the last seven plus years, SacRT has assisted the region providing free transit passes to local non-profit organizations and public agencies for distribution to individuals needing transport to work sites, food banks, and other vital community service centers. SacRT has also worked closely with the City and County of Sacramento to provide free rides to warming and cooling centers throughout the region.

Ms. Hinz provided a recap on SacRT's Social Equity Program, which is focused on a bold set of strategies and actions related to fare and service equity. The program is dedicated to overcoming the extraordinary challenges of Sacramento's most vulnerable populations, including low income, unhoused individuals, adults experiencing mental health disorders, youth, and elderly. She provided information regarding the Transit Ambassador position often referred to as "wandering customer-service-reps-slash-friendly-fare-enforcers,"

Ms. Hinz stated that SacRT has been a model of success for other innovative programming such as the hiring of a full time Social Service Practitioner, Rose Arteaga. The idea was to create a full-time position to assist Regional Transit Police Services Officers with a compassionate response to the unhoused riding the system and living around SacRT's right of way while maintaining a clean and safe transit system for all

riders. So far in 2023, the Social Equity Program maintains an active caseload of over 136 unhoused individuals and has connected approximately 775 persons experiencing homelessness with much needed resources. Ms. Hinz provided a snapshot of the many of the agencies who work with SacRT through Ms. Arteaga.

Ms. Hinz shared that SacRT's Social Equity Program serves as a model for other agencies and how much can be done with limited staffing and resources when an equity-focused program has intentionality and deep connection to an agency's mission. She concluded her presentation with some of the awards SacRT has received.

Director Singh-Allen complimented the Social Equity Program stating it is very impressive and commendable work which should be shared far and wide.

Director Daniels asked if SacRT has an app that will let you know if there are bus cancellations or when the next bus is coming.

Ms. Valenton said there is an app but, SacRT is working on further improving how it is promoted.

Director Daniels asked if there is signage.

Ms. Valenton believes there is signage but, more signage and promotion would be helpful.

Mr. Li stated SacRT received a \$17M grant for real-time information boards at major stations.

Ms. Valenton shared another exciting project, the Bus App consolidation, which will be previewed at the next board meeting.

Director Budge asked if the app is Alert SacRT.

Ms. Valenton responded it is the Tracker App which will consolidate all the apps.

Director Valenzuela asked if the items that will be presented could be included on the Agenda.

Ms. Valenton replied they could be added to the agenda and the power point of the presentation is also posted.

Ms. Maple likes the addition of this item to the agenda and complimented the work being done. She acknowledged the free rides to warming and cooling centers and appreciates that partnership.

Public comment was taken by phone from Rick Hodgkins and Nick Bryant.

Mr. Hodgkins recommended security cameras in the elevators and suggested a ramp

instead of stairs. He stated if elevators are not working it should be reported systemwide and when trains are approaching it should be auditorily announced.

Mr. Bryant would like to see additional security and recommended locking the elevators at night. He also asked for the garbage near the train tracks to be cleaned up.

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- 8.1 General Manager's Report
 - a. Major Project Updates
 - b. SacRT Meeting Calendar

Mr. Li recognized July is Disability Pride Month. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed on July 26, 1990, to prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities, and SacRT is offering systemwide free rides on July 26th as part of National Disability Independence Day.

Mr. Li stated July marks the end of Fiscal Year 2023, and he is proud that SacRT is sound financially and seeing steady ridership growth. SacRT continues to play a vital role helping the region address climate change, social justice, equity, and economic mobility.

Mr. Li highlighted the tremendous work of SacRT's HR team who has been working effectively to fill vacant positions and streamline the hiring process. In FY23, SacRT hired 259 employees, which is a significant amount in the tight job market.

Mr. Li thanked staff for working diligently navigating the recent heatwaves. He is proud of the coordination with the Cities and County to provide free rides to cooling centers.

Mr. Li provided a brief budget update stating the state budget restores \$2 billion in funding for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, returning the investment into the program to \$4 billion over the next 2 fiscal years and the money will be allocated to regional MPO's on a formula basis.

Mr. Li announced Senate President Pro Tem, Toni Atkins made history when she became the first openly LGBTQ person to sign a bill into law in California. The first bill signed was Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen's AB 354 which will add a new seat to the SacRT board, bringing the total members to 12.

Mr. Li thanked Director Daniels for attending the APTA Transit Board Members annual conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mr. Li stated SacRT has begun taking applications for our upcoming Transit Academy this fall. SacRT's Transit Academy is a free five-class course designed to educate and engage residents, business, and community leaders about the planning process and how public transit shapes communities.

Mr. Li introduced Lisa Hinz to provide information regarding public comment and questions.

Ms. Hinz shared that SacRT is working on security issues at the Watt/I-80 Light Rail Station. Timers will be installed on the elevators by the end of the month and a service attendant and cameras for the elevators are also being looked at.

Ms. Hinz stated there are 165 connect card machines and approximately 21% are down. The random breaking of the machines is way too frequent, and staff is doing their best looking for innovative solutions.

9. REPORTS, IDEAS AND QUESTIONS FROM DIRECTORS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority Meeting Summary – June 21, 2023 (Daniels, Maple)

Director Maple stated that the CCJPA is improving their wi-fi capabilities. There was an update on their new marketing plan and ways they can reach more people and find more ways to get them ride. There was also an update on the tap to ride system.

Director Daniels provided a brief update from the APTA Conference he attended. He said there are several variations on fare recovery, and it was amazing to see the difference in the various boards. Some agencies partner with Uber on their SmarT Ride operations and he thinks this should be looked at.

Public comment was taken by phone from Rick Hodgkins.

Mr. Hodgkins commented on the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He mentioned it is hard for disabled individuals who do not have a smart phone to access the apps which is another reason for auditory announcements. He recommends having bathrooms at the stations that disabled passengers can use.

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

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Directors Budge, Daniels, Hume, Jennings, Loloee, Maple, Serna, Singh-Allen, Valenzuela and Chair Kennedy. Absent: Director Kozlowski.

13. CLOSED SESSION

13.1 Conference with Legal Counsel
Pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9
Existing Litigation

a. Lackey v. SacRT
Case Number 34-2023-00334262

13.2 Conference with Legal Counsel
Pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9
Existing Litigation

a. Carrillo v. SacRT
Case Number 34-2018-00225496

14. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

15. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no Closed Session Report.

16. ADJOURN

As there was no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

PATRICK KENNEDY, Chair

A T T E S T:
HENRY LI, Secretary

By: _____
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary