

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 28, 2023
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Jason Johnson, VP, Finance/CFO
SUBJ: APPROVING THE RYDEFREERT STUDENT TRANSIT PASS AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolution.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approving this action will continue the County of Sacramento's financial support for the RydeFreeRT program.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed Student Transit Pass Agreement with the County of Sacramento includes \$350,000 to fund the RydeFreeRT program for the current fiscal/school year. This revenue is included in the FY2024 Operating Budget.

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, once students returned to the classroom, student ridership rebounded strongly. In FY2023, student ridership at SacRT was nearly 3.4 million, doubling pre-RydeFreeRT (and pre-pandemic) totals.

Funding partnerships are an important piece of securing the future of the RydeFreeRT program. In 2022, 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. In FY2023, the County of Sacramento contributed \$350,000 towards the RydeFreeRT program. The recently-approved FY2024 budget for the County includes the same contribution for this fiscal year.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08-081

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

August 28, 2023

APPROVING THE RYDEFREERT 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 Sacramento Regional Transit District (therein "SacRT") and the County of Sacramento (therein "County") 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, 2023 until June 30, 2024, 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.

PATRICK KENNEDY, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: _____
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary