

STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 18, 2024
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Henry Li, General Manager/CEO
SUBJ: GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

No Recommendation - For Information Only.

SacRT Meeting Calendar

Regional Transit Board Meeting
December 9, 2024
1102 Q Street - SacRT Auditorium
4:00 P.M.

Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting
December 11, 2024
1102 Q Street - SacRT Auditorium
1:00 P.M.

Mobility Advisory Council Meeting
November 21, 2024
1102 Q Street - SacRT Auditorium
2:30 P.M.

Blue Line Station Platform Construction

SacRT commenced platform construction along the Blue Line to modernize the light rail system in preparation for the new low-floor light rail vehicles. This project is an essential step toward enhancing accessibility and improving the rider experience.

Learn more about the project and service impacts at sacrt.com/stationclosure.

Thanksgiving Day Service

- Sunday/holiday schedule: SacRT fixed-route buses, light rail and SacRT GO
- No service: Causeway Connection, Elk Grove Local, Elk Grove Commuter, Folsom Stage Line, Rancho CordoVan, SacRT e-van and SmarT Ride

Day After Thanksgiving (Friday, November 29)

- Regular service: SacRT fixed-route buses, light rail, Folsom Stage Line, Elk Grove Local, Rancho CordoVan, SacRT e-van and SmarT Ride
- No service: Causeway Connection, Elk Grove Commuter

SacRT Receives \$29 Million in Grant Funding

In October, SacRT was awarded \$29 million in grant funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) from the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA).

This funding, combined with \$84 million leveraged from additional state and federal funding sources, will support several transformative projects. These include the purchase of 10 new S700 low-floor light rail vehicles; converting 17 Blue Line rail stations to accommodate the height requirement of the new low-floor vehicles; constructing the new Dos Rios Station, and constructing the new Horn Road Station in Rancho Cordova, which will close a 2.5-mile gap between existing stations on the Gold Line and provide access to a public library, parks, and the American River. Additionally, SacRT will install Cal-ITP platform validator devices and integrate them with Scheidt & Bachman fare vending machines at all light rail stations to streamline ticket purchasing and validation, improving the customer experience.

SacRT's New Tap2Ride Contactless Payment System and Veterans Discount Fare Pilot Program Launching Soon

SacRT is set to introduce two major advancements in 2025: the Tap2Ride contactless payment system and a Veterans Discount Fare Pilot Program. These innovations will make transit fare payments more convenient while offering eligible veterans a 50% discount on Basic fares.

Contactless Payment System: SacRT's "Tap2Ride" system will simplify fare payments across our bus and light rail services, allowing riders to pay quickly with a contactless debit or credit card. The system integrates with The California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP) Benefits and web app, designed to securely verify discount eligibility for veterans and seniors (*aged 65+). The app links discounts directly to a rider's payment card, eliminating the need for in-person verification, simplifying the experience for eligible riders.

Veterans Discount Fare Pilot Program: This pilot program offers discount fare for eligible veterans using contactless payments on SacRT buses and light rail. . Military veterans can begin the pre-registration process now at the state website benefits.calitp.org, click the "Choose Your Provider" button – The discount program will formally launch in early 2025 when the tap devices are activated. The state website is connected to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs database for easy eligibility verification.

Benefits of Tap2Ride & Veterans Discount Program:

- *Enhanced Convenience:* Riders can simply tap their payment card to ride, making transit fare purchases faster and easier.

- *Accessible Fare Discounts:* Verified veterans and seniors (*aged 65+) can link their discount directly to their card, streamlining access to reduced fares.
- *Reduced Administrative Steps:* The Cal-ITP web app simplifies discount eligibility verification, eliminating the need for in-person processing.

The new “Tap2Ride” program aims to make fare payment easier, faster, and more accessible for all riders, allowing them to pay for bus and light rail fares with just a tap of their credit or debit cards that are pre-registered through the Digital ID Framework. SacRT riders who prefer to continue using their existing fare payment methods such as Connect Card or ZipPass will have that option as well.

**Note: although seniors aged 62 and older are eligible to receive discount fare under SacRT’s approved fare structure, the age qualification for senior citizenship in the State of California is 65.*

Help Shape the Future of Transit in Elk Grove

SacRT, in partnership with the City of Elk Grove, is exploring new ways to enhance mobility and connectivity for Elk Grove residents and visitors. As the Sacramento region continues to grow, the City of Elk Grove is evaluating options to provide high-frequency transit service to seamlessly link Elk Grove with the larger Sacramento area.

The Blue Line/Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to Elk Grove Implementation Plan will assess the feasibility of two high-capacity transit options: extending light rail (LRT) or implementing a bus rapid transit (BRT) line. Both alternatives aim to create more efficient and accessible travel options along the corridor between Bruceville Road and Big Horn Boulevard, spanning from the current Blue Line station at Cosumnes River College to Kammerer Road near State Route 99.

Your feedback is crucial! This project aims to identify the best transit solution for the near term while establishing a long-term vision for transit in this corridor.

For more details about the Blue Line/BRT to Elk Grove Implementation Plan and to share your input, visit elkgrovecity.org/transitplan.