

# STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** November 18, 2024  
**TO:** Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Henry Li, General Manager/CEO  
**SUBJ:** AUTHORIZING TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SHELLY VALENTON, DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER/CEO TO REPRESENT SACRT AT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY STUDY TOUR

## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolution.

## RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopting this Resolution will authorize travel outside the United States for Shelly Valenton, Deputy General Manager/CEO to represent SacRT at the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Sustainable Mobility Tour in France.

## FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact to SacRT. All related travel cost will be fully funded by the USDOT.

## DISCUSSION

The USDOT selected Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT), along with representative from six other U.S. cities and staff from USDOT and the Federal Transit Administration, to participate in a study tour to visit Strasbourg and Lyon, France on December 7-14, 2024, to see their sustainable mobility policies, planning, and investments work in action. Over the five full program days, participants will learn more about Bus Rapid Transit (BRT); trams and streetcars; curb management and parking reform; dynamic road pricing and low emission zones; and urban planning for maximizing intercity rail service through site visits and meetings with local transportation officials in these cities.

Sacramento, to be represented by SacRT, is the only California city selected to participate in this study tour and was recommended for participation by USDOT staff based on SacRT's innovative initiatives and commitment to environmentally sustainable projects and the potential for Sacramento to benefit from lessons to be learned in the study tour based on SacRT's upcoming related transit projects.

A summary of the trip is provided by USDOT as follows:

“In support of connecting U.S. transportation practitioners with their foreign peers, the USDOT’s Office of International Transportation and Trade launched an initiative called “Crossways” that seeks to facilitate knowledge exchange and collect transportation best practices from around the world. Beyond simply connecting U.S. colleagues with their international counterparts, Crossways is a platform that advances USDOT’s policy goals by nominating international best practice examples, connecting them with U.S. states and localities that would benefit from learning firsthand about that practice, and then analyzing the similarities and differences to distill useful guidance that the U.S. jurisdiction can employ within the context of U.S. laws and USDOT guidance to employ the best practices to make American transportation infrastructure and service world leading.

This study tour is a part of USDOT’s Crossways’ pilot activities. It has been designed in coordination with USDOT’s Office of Transportation and Trade and Office of Research and Technology and supports their development and rollout of the “Climate Strategies that Work” toolkit, which is a website and playbook with 30 strategies for reducing transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions. The tour will include senior transportation representatives from six U.S. cities that are currently planning, building, or have proposed sustainable transportation options, including bus rapid transit (BRT), electric streetcars and trams, and parking reform and curb management, including curbside EV chargers, bike lanes, and parklets. These cities will get to learn from their European counterparts in Lyon and Strasbourg – both of which have leading examples of BRT, electric streetcars and trams, and curb management strategies and then USDOT experts joining the visit will connect these best practices with the guidance and recommendations in the toolkit. The visit will deepen the USDOT’s engagement with U.S. cities and give them concrete strategies and examples for how to advance their projects towards delivery.”

Pursuant to Title IX of the SacRT Administrative Code - Travel Authorization, travel outside the United States must be approved by the Board in advance.

Staff recommends approval for Shelly Valenton, Deputy General Manager/CEO to travel to Lyon and Strasbourg, France on December 7-14, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11-126

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

November 18, 2024

**AUTHORIZING TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SHELLY VALENTON, DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER/CEO TO REPRESENT SACRT AT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY STUDY TOUR**

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

THAT, travel outside the United States by Shelly Valenton, to represent SacRT at the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Sustainable Mobility Tour in France, will serve a Regional Transit business purpose and is hereby approved in accordance with Section 9.211 of Title IX of the Regional Transit Administrative Code.

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PATRICK KENNEDY, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

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