

STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 23, 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

October 28, 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

October 17, 2024
1102 Q Street - SacRT Auditorium
2:30 P.M.

Blue Line Station Construction Begins

Starting September 23, 2024, SacRT will commence platform construction along the Blue Line at the Swanston Station 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.

- **September 23 – October 3, 2024:** Swanston Station will be temporarily closed. Please use Marconi/Arcade or Globe stations for light rail service. Trains will pass through the station, but no boarding or deboarding will be possible.
- **October 4 – October 5, 2024:** Swanston Station will be closed with a bus bridge between Marconi/Arcade and Alkali Flat/La Valentina stations.

- **October 6 – October 25, 2024:** Swanston Station will be temporarily closed. Please use Marconi/Arcade or Globe stations for light rail service. Trains will pass through the station, but no boarding or deboarding will be possible.
- **October 26 – October 27, 2024:** Swanston Station will be closed with a bus bridge between Marconi/Arcade and Alkali Flat/La Valentina stations.

The schedule may shift depending on weather and other factors, so we encourage riders to download the free Alert SacRT app for the latest service updates or visit sacrt.com/stationclosures for more information.

California Integrated Travel Project – Veteran Discount

In April 2024, the Board of Directors delegated authority to the General Manager/CEO to enter into contracts which allowed the agency to purchase Tap-to-Ride hardware and services through state cooperative agreements. To date, SacRT has executed contracts with Kuba Inc. for Tap-to-Ride hardware and LittlePay Inc. for payment processing. The new software will allow passengers to purchase fare on-board buses or at light rail stations using debit or credit cards.

In September 2022, the California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP) launched *Cal-ITP Benefits* which is the product of a collaboration between Cal-ITP and the Digital Identity team at the California Department of Technology (CDT). *Cal-ITP Benefits* is a new web application that allows transit riders to verify their eligibility for discounts online quickly and securely as well as link their discount benefit to a contactless debit or credit card.

With the implementation of the Next Generation Tap-to-Ride system, SacRT can utilize *Cal-ITP Benefits* web app to provide seamless eligibility verification for customers who want to apply for fare discounts. The *Cal-ITP Benefits* web app offers benefits for seniors (age 65 and older) and military veterans. According to CalVet.ca.gov over 60,000 veterans reside in Sacramento County.

Prior to the launch of the Next Generation Tap-to-Ride system, SacRT will request that the Board of Directors approve a temporary six-month Veterans Discount Fare category and initiate a Veterans Discount Fare Pilot Program. The Veterans Discount Pilot Program will give SacRT an opportunity to provide discounts to eligible Veterans in a low-risk manner.

The timing of the Veterans Discount Pilot Program corresponds to SacRT's implementation of the new Tap-to-Ride contactless fare payment system as this new platform will deliver the underlying technology necessary for contactless payments. The discount will not be offered on the current Connect Card system because Connect Card is a closed loop system and does not have contactless payment capabilities.

The six-month pilot program will go into effect on the launch date of the Next Generation Tap-to-Ride contactless fare system; however, registration for the program may begin as early as October – a few months ahead of the pilot program. A launch date for the new fare system has yet to be determined and will be identified and published as part of the Next Generation fare system project implementation.

See Tracks? Think Train! Week: Promoting Rail Safety Awareness

As part of our ongoing commitment to safety, SacRT is proud to participate in the See Tracks? Think Train! Week from September 23-29, 2024. This important week-long observance is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of rail safety.

First launched in the U.S. in 2017, this initiative is a collaborative effort led by Operation Lifesaver Inc., in partnership with State Operation Lifesaver programs and rail safety advocates across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Formerly known as Rail Safety Week, the event has been rebranded to better represent its core mission: educating the public about the dangers of railroad crossings and the importance of making safe choices when near train tracks.

Every year, preventable incidents involving pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists occur at railroad crossings and along train tracks. By reminding everyone to "See Tracks? Think Train!," we can help reduce accidents and save lives. Learn more at sacrt.com/railsafety.