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**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER** **ATTACHMENT 1**

The in-person/Zoom meeting was called to order at **2:30 p.m.**

**Present Members:**

Jeff Thom, Pam Flohr, Margie Donovan, Charles Johnson, Helen O’Connell, Gene Lozano, German Ayon, Hugh Lafler, Frank Trujillo, Mariano Rosales

**Absent:** Isabel Arreola, Alan Ruzich

**SacRT Staff:** Priscilla Vargas, Richard Mitchell, Blanca Salcedo, Carmen Alba, Jamie Poole-Canavari, Wondimu Mengistu, James Drake, Shawn Reynolds, Kathy Sachen, Austin Greiner, Vince Beatty, Mohammad Shahid

**Guests:** Jeff Tardaguila, Chuck Zurich, Mr. Brant (SacRT student intern), Leslie Thom, Regina Brink, Joseph Wilson

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Ms. Donovan motioned to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2023, meeting. Ms. Flohr seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Tardaguila mentioned a Zoom link discrepancy and commented on Dos Rios. Mr. Thom said this item would be discussed later in the Work Plan.

**CHAIR REPORT**

The **SacRT Service Changes agenda item is tabled until the February MAC meeting.**

The 2024 MAC Work Plan agenda item will occur before the SacRT GO Quarterly Update.

Ms. Vargas acknowledged Ms. Alba in her new position as Vice President, Operations, and reported that the bus stop at University & 65th will be moved back to its permanent location by January 21.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **MAC 2024 Work Plan (Jeff Thom, MAC Chair)**

Ms. Vargas read the 2023 Accomplishments in Part 1 of the final draft of the 2024 MAC Work Plan and Accomplishments. Ms. Flohr reminded the Council that this document goes to the Board of Directors once approved by the MAC. Ms. Vargas read the 2024 Goals for Part 1. Mr. Thom questioned the placement of Goal 2 and suggested placing it in Part 2; Ms. Flohr said it should stay in Part 1. Thom agreed to keeping Part 1 as-is.

Ms. Vargas read the 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Goals in Part 2. Ms. Flohr asked where funding for SmaRT Ride would be after seeing Goals 1b.1-3. Ms. Vargas said it would be in Part 3. Ms. Donovan asked about Zip Pass; Ms. Vargas said it would be in Part 3.

Ms. Vargas read the 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Goals in Part 3. Mr. Thom suggested the removal of 2023 Accomplishment 1j as it appears duplicated in Part 2. Ms. Donovan asked Ms. Vargas to repeat 2024 Goal 5 and 6. For Goal 2, Mr. Thom suggested rewording to “Consider development of comprehensive proposal for provision of documents in accessible formats.” Ms. Donovan suggested the word “recommend” over “consider,” and suggested changing “documents” to “materials and videos.” Ms. Flohr agreed.

Ms. Vargas addressed Regina Brink’s request to explore improvements to the UZURV complaint process when complaints are systemic. Ms. Donovan suggested adding this to the Work Plan. Mr. Thom questioned the need for this specific inclusion; Ms. Vargas noted that this may fall under Part 1 Goal 1b. Ms. Donovan commented on Goal 5, and suggested removing “Consider,” but Mr. Thom preferred “Consider.” Ms. Donovan called for a motion to drop the word “Consider;” Mr. Johnson declined to second the motion. Mr. Tardaguila asked why the Broadway Complete Streets project is not being considered by the MAC, and commented on the Dos Rios Light Rail Station project. Mr. Thom asked the MAC about including these two projects as 2024 Goals. Ms. Donovan seconded the motion to include these projects; it was passed with a vote. Mr. Johson suggested adding a Part 1 goal to review complaint methods. There was no opposition.

Mr. Lozano suggested removing “Consider” from Part 3 Goals 5 and 6 and moved to remove it. Ms. Donovan seconded the motion. Mr. Johnson opposed removing “Consider.” Ms. Donovan argued that the MAC was presently considering recommending; Mr. Thom disagreed. Mr. Lozano supported Ms. Donovan’s argument. Ms. Donovan said SacRT was outside federal compliance for not having completed Goal 5; Ms. Vargas objected. Mr. Thom called for a vote on the motion; the motion to remove “Consider” from Goal 5 passed. Mr. Lozano advocated for Goal 6. Ms. O’Connell concurred with Mr. Thom that “Consider” should be kept. Mr. Thom called for a vote; the vote passed.

Ms. Vargas read the 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Goals in Part 4. Ms. Flohr suggested adding recruitment of two new MAC members in the 2023 Accomplishments. Mr. Thom suggested adding a goal to explore leadership succession planning. Ms. Flohr suggested giving MAC members ID badges to enhance their visibility at public forums. Mr. Lozano and Mr. Thom discussed and accepted the removal of Part 3 Accomplishment 1j; which pertains to Magnetic Signage for the Supplemental Services. This accomplishment was a duplicate and is contained in Part 2 Accomplishments 2e.

1. **SacRT GO Quarterly Operations Update (Richard Mitchell, Director, Community Bus Services)**

Mr. Mitchell reported that SacRT GO and UZURV ridership in October 2023 were the highest since pre-COVID levels, almost 90%. Ridership dropped in November and December, but was over 93% of

pre-COVID ridership for those months. Mr. Mitchell reported that SacRT GO On Time Performance peaked in July 2023 and was lowest in October but has risen to a new peak around 89% from December 1, 2023, until January 17, 2024. SacRT is also conducting Bus Operator Hiring Events this month. The SacRT Board of Directors approved a one-year contract extension for UZURV at the January 8, 2024, Board meeting.

Ms. Donovan asked about federal penalties for low OTP levels; Mr. Mitchell said consistent poor performance over time may incur a penalty. Ms. Donovan shared her concerns about accessibility of the Zip Pass app. Ms. Poole-Canavari explained there is an issue with the app that is being monitored. Mr. Lozano asked Mr. Mitchell to attend the February 2024 MAC meeting to discuss UZURV issues.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **ASAP Grant Update (Wondimu Mengistu, Director, Grants and Capital Programming)**

Mr. Mengistu reported that SacRT strives to maximize funding opportunities by submitting highly competitive grant applications for eligible programs. Despite the proposed project being deemed ineligible in previous funding cycles and not having submitted a grant application, SacRT is proactively engaging with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to prompt a review of its eligibility status, which is currently under consideration.

Given FTA's preference for funding shovel-ready projects, SacRT recognized the need to act decisively. Therefore, upon FTA determining eligibility, our plan is to initiate and complete the required environmental (NEPA) process and preliminary project design before submitting our proposal. The NEPA and design phases may span up to a year, and collaboration with the city for potential road closures necessitates advanced planning.

The estimated total project cost is approximately $35 million, requiring a local match of $7 million. Once FTA confirms our eligibility and we conclude the pre-construction work, we will be well-prepared to submit our application in the next funding cycle.

Mr. Lozano said that the MAC and public should be able to give more input on the projects being considered for grants and suggested improving dialogue with SacRT staff to reduce turnaround time. Mr. Mengistu said that the FTA needs to confirm that SacRT is eligible to apply for this grant.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Vargas announced that Alan Ruzich sent an email of resignation from the MAC.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Thom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. No abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Mobility Advisory Council is scheduled for February 15, 2024, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.