**Next Stop News**

**August 2024**

**Inside this Edition:**

* **Services changes begin this month on Sunday, August 18**
* **New low-floor light rail vehicles rollout in September**
* **Ride back to school for free with RydeFreeRT**
* **We’re hiring! Two in-person hiring events this month**

**Service Changes Begin on August 18th**Effective Sunday, August 18, SacRT will implement bus service changes for bus routes F10, F30, 33 and 105.

**Folsom Route 10:** Discontinue serving stops on American River Canyon Drive except for the first morning trip and last two evening trips. Route will add weekend service, including stops on Main Avenue and Madison Avenue.

**Folsom Route 30:** Due to low ridership, bus route F30 will be discontinued. The cost savings will be used to support additional service on bus route F10. As an alternative, Folsom SmaRT Ride offers on-demand service.

**Route 33 (Dos Rios):** Extend evening hours with the last trip departing Alkali Flat/La Valentina Station at 6:44 p.m.

**Route 105 (Elise):** Morning trip will shift back 10 minutes and start at 7:45 a.m. to make better connections. All times will shift accordingly.

New online schedules are available at sacrt.com/servicechanges.

**New Low-Floor Light Rail Vehicles Launching Soon!**
SacRT is thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new low-floor light rail vehicles. The new train cars will significantly improve accessibility and comfort for all riders.

* Gold Line: Starting Sunday, September 1, 2024, trains will operate between Sacramento Valley Station and Iron Point Station\*.
* Green Line: Starting Tuesday, September 3, 2024

\*SacRT is continuing construction efforts to add a passing track to provide 15-minute service frequency to Folsom area stations through October 2024. Once construction is complete, the new low-floor trains will operate on the Gold Line between Sacramento Valley Station and Historic Folsom Station.

The new low-floor vehicles are designed to offer a smoother and more accessible ride, particularly for passengers with disabilities, seniors, and those with strollers or bicycles. All passengers will board the new low-floor trains from the platform level, and riders in mobility devices or those needing to use the deployable ramp, can use the two middle doors.

Blue Line Riders: SacRT will continue to operate the high-floor trains on the Blue Line. The transition to low-floor vehicles on this line is anticipated in 2027, once the station platform construction is completed and additional light rail vehicles are purchased. Learn more at sacrt.com/newtrains.

**Join Us to Celebrate the Launch of the New S700 Low-Floor Trains!**
SacRT is thrilled to invite you to a special community event marking the debut of our state-of-the-art S700 low-floor light rail vehicles. Come and be a part of this exciting milestone!

Event Details:

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

7th & Richards/Township 9 Station

Join us in the celebration including tours of the new trains, live entertainment, refreshments, and more!

Learn more at [sacrt.com/newtrains](http://sacrt.com/newtrains).

**Attention Light Rail Mini-High Ramp Users**

New boarding procedure this September when SacRT begins operating new low-floor trains!

Gold Line and Green Line Stations:

Riders using mobility devices will no longer use the mini-high ramp to board. Instead, you will board at the platform level using the two middle doors to deploy a ramp.

Blue Line Stations:

Riders using mobility devices will continue to use the mini-high ramp.

Not sure which light rail line your station is located on? Visit sacrt.com/services or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

**Construction on Watt/I-80 Transit Center Underway**
Construction on the Watt/I-80 Transit Center Improvement Project is underway. This month, riders can expect to see some bus stops moved during construction efforts as the modification of the bus lane at the light rail station is completed. Lane closures will also continue on Watt Avenue through October 2024.

The improvements include widening of the Watt Avenue Bridge, construction of an open-air stairwell linking Watt Avenue and the transit center, a new bus/pedestrian plaza, improvements to I-80 on-ramps, and upgrades to the portion of the transit center located beneath Watt Avenue. Collectively, these improvements will help attract more riders, accommodate additional bus service from other regional operators, and enhance the overall accessibility of the transit center.

Questions?
Project hotline: 916-566-5221
Email: WattI80Project@sacrt.com

The Watt/I-80 Transit Center Improvement Project is expected to be completed in early 2026. Learn more about the project at sacrt.com/WattI80.

**SacRT Awarded $77 million Grant to Advance Zero-Emission Initiatives**The Federal Transit Administration awarded SacRT $76,847,678 in Capital funds to purchase new hydrogen fuel cell buses to replace older buses, modernize a bus maintenance facility and initiate a workforce development program. This is the third highest award in this major grant category across the nation.

The project aligns with SacRT’s broader strategy to enhance public transportation infrastructure, create new job opportunities, and ensure a cleaner environment for the Sacramento community. As SacRT works towards the 2040 zero-emission goal, this grant represents a major milestone in providing safe, reliable, and environmentally friendly public transportation options. Learn more about the project at sacrt.com/newbusfacility.

**RydeFreeRT Back to School!**

Students heading back to school can take advantage of SacRT’s RydeFreeRT program for youth in grades TK through 12th. With RydeFreeRT, youth can ride the entire SacRT transit network, including SacRT buses, light rail, and SmaRT Ride on-demand microtransit service for FREE during regular service hours.

Students should have received the new RydeFreeRT cards, which are valid through June 30, 2025, from their school prior to the summer break. Students and youth who do not have a RydeFreeRT card, can visit SacRT’s Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street Station) or Sacramento public libraries.

Youth who are experiencing homelessness or taking part in foster programs can also participate in the program regardless of current residence or school address. The RydeFreeRT program does not apply to those over 18 years old that are pursuing their GED. For more information, visit rydefreert.com or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

**Come Aboard the SacRT Team – We’re Hiring**

Join an agency that connects people to opportunities, experiences and each other. SacRT is dedicated to providing safe, clean and accessible transit services for all residents. We are hosting two in-person Hiring Events this month in the SacRT Auditorium located at 1400 29th Street, Sacramento:

* Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
* Thursday August 22, 2024, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Accessible by bus routes 30, 38, 67, 68 and light rail to the 29th Street Station; street parking is also available. Learn more at sacrt.com/hiringevents.

**SacRT’s Labor Day Schedule**In honor of the Labor Day holiday, Monday, September 2, 2024, SacRT fixed-route bus, light rail and SacRT GO paratransit services will operate on a Sunday/holiday schedule. All other services will not operate. The Customer Service Center phone lines will be open from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.; however, the Sales Center will be closed.

**SacRT Board and Mobility Advisory Council Meetings Moving to New Location**
We are excited to announce that the SacRT Board Meetings and Mobility Advisory Council (MAC) meetings will soon be moving to a new boardroom. The new venue for these meetings will be 1102 Q Street, 4th Floor, Suite 4600, conveniently located near the 13th Street Station.

Please stay updated by checking our website for specific meeting dates and locations as the move could happen as soon as August 26th for the SacRT Board meeting and September 19th for the MAC meeting.

To ride transit to the board meeting, take light rail to 13th Street Station (served by all three light rail lines) or Downtown Sacramento SmaRT Ride.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new meeting space and continuing our work to improve Sacramento’s transit system. For more information about SacRT Board Meetings, visit [sacrt.com/board](http://sacrt.com/board), and for more information about MAC meetings, visit [sacrt.com/MAC](http://sacrt.com/MAC).

**Stay Safe Around Tracks: Simple Tips to Save Lives**

“See Tracks? Think Train!” is a simple message, but one that can save lives. SacRT wants to remind the public of the proper behavior to stay safe. Whether driving or walking, when people see tracks, they should use caution and be alert for approaching trains.

Here a few important safety tips to always follow:

* Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings when near tracks or in stations.
* Avoid the danger of distraction caused by cell phones, headphones, or other electronic devices.
* Look and listen for trains. Light rail trains can travel at any time from either direction and are relatively quiet. After a train has passed, a second train might be traveling from the opposite direction.
* Whether on foot, bike or in a vehicle, it is illegal to go around moving or lowered crossing gates.

**Discover Local Artists with the Sac Open Studios Tour**Explore over 240 artist studios across the Sacramento region this September! Verge Center for the Arts is proud to present the 19th annual Sac Open Studios tour, a self-guided artist “Open Studio” tour throughout Sacramento County and parts of Yolo County. This year, the tour takes place September 14-15 & 21-22, 2024. The program is a means to connect local artists with art lovers, patrons, gallerists and their neighbors and to bring arts engagement directly to the public, in their own communities. The tour is free to attend, and event goers can ride SacRT for free to and from events with a free ride flyer, which is available at sacrt.com/freerideflyer.

To find out more about the artists participating in this year’s tour and plan your route visit SacOpenStudios.com.