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**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2024

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

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

**Introduction of Council Members and Staff:** Jeff Thom, Helen O’Connell, Gene Lozano, German Ayon, Pam Flohr, Melissa Bachrach, Frank Trujillo, German Ayon

**Absent:** Charles Johnson, Mariano Rosales

**SacRT Staff:** Priscilla Vargas, Kathy Sachen, Austin Greiner, Jamie Poole-Canevari, Tabetha Smith, Blanca Araujo, Anthony DiCristofano, Michael Cormiae, Henry Ikwut-Ukwa, James Drake, Holly Martinez, Sussan Nasirian, Casey Courtright, Rowan Brandt

**Guests:** Marylou Martinez, Jeffrey Tardaguila, Robert Coplin, Dan Allison, Regina Brink, Joseph Wilson, Alexis Bernard, Margie Donovan

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Mr. Thom called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2024, meeting. Ms. O’Connell motioned, and Ms. Flohr seconded. Mr. Lozano abstained. The motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Coplin shared that a rider using a walker could not understand how to board the light rail at Zinfandel.

**CHAIR REPORT**

Mr. Thom stated that MAC members will be selected for the Access & Infrastructure and Training, Communications & Policies committee at the January MAC meeting. There will be an election for chair of both committees. He also announced that Dyanne Olafson, Jacob Miller, and Melissa Bachrach have been newly appointed to the MAC. Ms. Bachrach introduced herself. Mr. Thom also reported that the MAC has convened a committee with himself, Ms. Flohr, Mr. Johnson, and staff to develop the 2025 Work Plan. The Workplan will be presented in January 2025.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* 1. **Cal Integrated Travel Project Update (Casey Courtright, Director Office of Management and Budget)**

Mr. Courtright reported that Cal ITP Tap-to-Ride equipment will be installed on all fixed-route services and SacRT GO. Staff are working with two hardware vendors, Kuba and payment processor Little Pay. Ms. O’Connell met on site with Casey and Kuba to test the best location to install the device. Mr. Courtright shared an image showing that the device is fixed to a stanchion facing the front of the vehicle, to the side of the passenger handrail by the stairwell. The payment device screen provides payment instructions and produces a tone to indicate accepted payment. Mounting brackets will be installed in December, and the devices will be installed beginning in December through January 2025. Mr. Courtright said the height of the device will meet ADA requirements and the location would not block the walkway but would face the first row of seats. Mr. Trujillo asked if ZipPass was still acceptable. Mr. Courtright responded affirmatively, but a new mobile app will replace ZipPass after a transition period.

Ms. Donovan was concerned about the location for guide dog users, who would have to drop the harness and turn left, and asked about driver training for when devices do not work. Mr. Courtright said the location was chosen because the area behind the driver is more commonly occupied by riders. Mr. Lozano said the placement makes sense. Mr. Tardaguila asked about security. Mr. Courtright said since it is at the front, it will be difficult to vandalize.

* 1. **Station Improvement Update (Henry Ikwut-Ukwa, VP, Capital Programs, Craig Norman, Director, Engineering & Construction)**

Mr. Ikwut-Ukwa reported that SacRT is on phase three of the station improvement program on the Gold Line, which is to update Blue Line stations Swanston, Roseville Road, Globe, and Alkali Flat-La Valentina. Swanston Station was completed in October; the platforms are raised 8 inches to accommodate low-floor trains. Globe and Alkali Flat will begin in January 2025. After this will be phase two, which has merged with phase four, and pertains to upgrading the remaining Blue Line and Gold Line stations to handle three car trains. Staff and consultants are drawing station designs, which will be ready early next summer, and released for bid. Braille signs will also be updated at all stations. Mr. Trujillo said that he heard Watt/I-80 would be improved first. Mr. Thom said this is a different project.

Mr. Lozano said Society for the Blind submitted concerns about the platforms, including transition to only having one door indicator. Mr. Ikwut-Ukwa said that for visually impaired riders getting on high-floor trains, they will have to use the mini-high ramps, but this will be temporary; there will be two door indicator tiles for each car after low-floor trains are fully adopted. Mr. Lozano asked about the permanent solution to block off mini-high platforms. Mr. Ikwut-Ukwa said that the mini-high platform is still in use since the fleet is mixed, but eventually when the legacy fleet is discontinued, the mini-high platforms will be demolished. Mr. Lozano asked to add to the Work Plan that the MAC be involved during design of future Blue Line stations. Mr. Ikwut-Ukwa said staff will present to the Access & Infrastructure committee during this process. Mr. Thom said the current draft of the Work Plan already includes the Railyard Station, and he will add this before subcommittee meeting. Mr. Lozano said the design company should provide tactile models, and that the RFP should include this as well. Mr. Ikwut-Ukwa said that he understood the need for the tactile mockups, and would look into what options are available to SacRT in providing this accommodation. Ms. Bachrach said that station signage is not visible for wheelchair users in low-floor trains. Mr. Ikwut-Ukwa will follow up on this issue.

* 1. **S700 LRV Post Launch Update (Anthony DiCristofano, Assistant Vice President, Vincent Beatty, Director Light Rail Operations, Michael Cormiae, Director Light Rail Maintenance)**

Mr. Cormiae said SacRT now has 18 S700 trains, and another will be delivered in December 2024. Staff are working with IT to fix missing announcements at some stations. Staff are working with Siemens on the ramp extension tone and the tape switch. Ms. O’Connell was concerned about the reachability of buttons as an alternative to the call strip. Ms. Bachrach asked for follow-up on the suggestion for operators to open doors when some wheelchair users struggle to reach exterior buttons, or whenever the train stops. Mr. Cormiae said he will reach out to Mr. Beatty to clarify. Mr. Lozano asked about having same inside-train announcements as on legacy fleet; staff are looking at this with Siemens. He also asked about outdoor advanced announcements, which state train type, at stations as trains approach. Mr. Cormiae will reach out to the IT department.

Mr. Trujillo asked when low-floor trains would be available in Folsom. Mr. Cormiae stated that staff are aiming for December 2024.

* 1. **Mystery Rider Update (Lisa Hinz, Jamie Poole-Canavari)**

The item was tabled.

* 1. **SacRT Flex Update (Anthony Adams, Director Planning, James Drake, Senior Planner)**

Mr. Drake presented additional information about SacRT Flex. Customer registration will begin on December 2, 2024. A soft launch will kick off on December 17, 2024, with a full launch on January 2, 2025. The SacRT Flex fleet will consist of 11 passenger vans painted blue and black, with a rear-entry ramp. Eligible riders will either show proof of low income or proof of disability, including SacRT GO eligibility, DMV handicap placards, senior status, or other. One adult companion is allowed and must pay a fare, youth below age 18 ride free with parents, and youth under 13 may only ride with an adult. Reservations will initially be in-advance only; same-day booking may be added later. There will be an online application form. Mr. Trujillo asked about the fleet size. Mr. Drake said there would be 11 vehicles, but 9 vehicles in service daily, 1 per zone. Mr. Trujillo asked why ZipPass and other passes will not be used for SacRT Flex. Mr. Drake described fare changes, accounting reasons, and said discontinuing passes will help service not to be monopolized by a few users. Ms. Donovan was concerned about eligibility notification. This will be handled during the soft launch. Mr. Drake said after launch, the reservation window and other policies may change.

* 1. **SacRT GO 1st Quarter Operations Update (Kathy Sachen, Paratransit Operations Manager)**

Ms. Sachen corrected last month’s report on total ridership for FY25 Q1; it was 31,930; she also said 0.34% of trips were late by over 60 minutes. Ms. Donovan asked for a report on trips based on the 30-minute window. She also asked about same-day cancellations.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. O’Connell requested a presentation about bus service adjustments in Elk Grove and how that may impact SacRT GO. She also asked for a presentation about bus cancellations and what riders can do when buses have cancellations or service disruptions. She had an incident where she could not get home; there are situations where riders may not see notifications about service disruptions. Mr. Thom said this can be discussed as an agenda item.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.