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**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2024

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

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

**Present Members:**

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

**Absent:** None.

**SacRT Staff:** Priscilla Vargas, Vincent Beatty, Michael Cormiae, Carmen Alba, Jessica Gonzalez, Anthony DiCristofano, David Topaz, Holly Martinez, Blanca Salcedo, Shawn Reynolds, Kathy Sachen, Austin Greiner, Chris Flores, Richard Mitchell, Sarah Poe

**Guests:** Jeffrey Tardaguila, Joseph Wilson, Margie Donovan, Regina Brink, Amy Parkin, Leslie Thom

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Mr. Thom called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2024, meeting. Mr. Johnson motioned. Mr. Lozano seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Donovan commented that despite assistance from SacRT, the Zip Pass app is inaccessible, and she will pursue legal rights and options in lieu of credit card readers. Mr. Tardaguila asked about accessibility changes at the Arden Del Paso Station, commented on a missing bus bridge at H street, shared an issue with a blocked street corner at 5th & L St, and asked about how many instances of buses being unable to pick up passengers traveling in wheelchairs are expected each month. Mr. Tardaguila also said that it was difficult to find the date and agenda for this meeting online.

**CHAIR REPORT**

Mr. Thom reported that Kathy Sachen has received the Humanitarian Award by California Council of the Blind. Ms. Donovan made this nomination and praised Ms. Sachen’s contributions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **SacRT GO Hiring and Recruitment Update (David Topaz, VP, Labor Relations)**

Mr. Topaz reported that SacRT GO is one position short of fully staffed for operators and dispatchers and has 8 overfill positions that will be filled. There are 10 positions for next year’s budget, and SacRT aims to fill all these positions by October 1. SacRT is in negotiations with ATU and will have a contract completed shortly. Mr. Topaz explained that most paratransit service providers in the state are private sector. SacRT GO operators are currently 15 cents behind the state average pay, but their pay will be negotiated to be above the average. Each classification of operator is under a different contract, but contracts will be signed soon.

Mr. Lozano asked if there would be a time when all operators were under one contract. Mr. Topaz said no. However, SacRT has worked with unions to ensure operators from one service line can work in another during a shortage, although increased staffing makes that less necessary. Ms. Flohr said SacRT GO operators should still receive specialized training. Ms. Brink asked if new and current operators may be trained with more input from members of the disabled community. Mr. Thom suggested agendizing this for the next TC&P meeting. Mr. Johnson said in a TC&P meeting last year, SacRT GO operator training was discussed; this should be reviewed before a TC&P meeting. Ms. O'Connell asked about differences in benefit packages between operator classifications, which may be a risk for retention. Mr. Topaz said the packages may not become equal, but may be increased, and that more benefits may be added to the SacRT GO contract. Ms. O'Connell said that some SacRT GO operators have been leaving because other service lines pay more. Mr. Topaz said staff will continue to work to make pay competitive and increase recruitment. The contract will expire June 30, 2024.

1. **Public Education Communication Plan for S700 Trains (Jessica Gonzalez, Director, Marketing)**

Ms. Gonzalez reported that SacRT held two community events to showcase the S700 trains this month. The June 1 event had 353 attendees, and the June 12 event had 150 attendees. Staff are also planning an invite-only event on August 17 for seniors and people with disabilities, which will be shared using contact lists. Ms. Gonzalez also said that the first version of the How To Ride video is ready, and staff are working with CIT Translations to create an audio visual description within two weeks.

Mr. Lozano asked if CIT will also provide captions for the video. Ms. Jessica said another company will do audio tracking, which staff will edit together. The video will have the current voice track followed by pauses and then another voice giving audio-visual description. Mr. Lozano requested the current version of the video to share with MAC members; Ms. Gonzalez will contact Ms. Vargas to share the link. Mr. Lozano asked about where the August 17 event will take place; this will be at the Township 9 Station, and Ms. Gonzalez will meet with Ms. Vargas to decide the time. Mr. Tardaguila asked if they would be a printed brochure to explain the S700 vehicle; Ms. Gonzalez said there will be a How to Ride brochure available, with a launch date likely in mid-July.

1. **S700 LRV Update (Vincent Beatty, Director, Light Rail Operations, and Michael Cormiae, Director, Light Rail Maintenance)**

Mr. Beatty reported that SacRT has finalized the Bike Policy. There is a policy change on bike placement in the bicycle area, which will be indicated by decals. Mr. Lozano asked to let people know where the bike area decal will be, and asked about where electric scooters will go. Mr. Beatty said they will be allowed in the bicycle area; Mr. Lozano suggested making this clear. Mr. Tardaguila asked who will enforce the bike policy; it can be done by SacRT police services, and transit ambassadors, with the former able to write citations. Mr. Cormiae reported on the door switch or tape switch, located on the bottom of ADA priority seats. SacRT had received requests to move the door switch in April and consulted with Siemens along with other transit agencies. It was found that the switch cannot be moved, and its current placement serves a function. Mr. Cormiae also said that the switch can only open the door on the corresponding side. Mr. Cormiae described the placement and function of the door push buttons and said that they meet current ADA requirements.

Ms. O'Connell said that she cannot reach the door switch in a large wheelchair and can only reach the interior door button when positioned right behind it. Mr. Lozano asked if the current design, used in San Diego, will be required in the next set of upgrades to follow this. Mr. Cormiae said that this is unknown. Mr. Lozano asked about the height of the exterior door buttons; they are set to ADA requirements, around 34 inches. Mr. Lozano asked that buttons be placed horizontally for blind riders. Mr. Johnson asked that the slide bar be addressed in the future. Mr. Wilson suggested installing a second tape switch. Mr. Cormiae said this could be researched. Mr. Tardaguila asked about the fare box placement and ramp deployment. Mr. Cormiae said the fare box is still being discussed, and that an alert tone is played as the door opens and ramp deploys and retracts. Mr. Trujillo said that at the 13th Street Station, no sound was played when the ramp deployed, and a passenger's legs were hit. Mr. Lozano said that during the Siemens factory tour, the tone only played from inside the train. Ms. Alba said that staff received feedback on the lack of audio and may record an audible announcement asking passengers to step back. Mr. Lozano suggested using a female voice for the audible announcement. Ms. Vargas offered additional time to Ms. O'Connell to practice using the tape switch.

Mr. Johnson motioned for the MAC to recommend that staff interact with Siemens on future design changes. Mr. Lozano seconded; the motion passed. Mr. Lozano motioned that the MAC work with staff to reach out to similar advisory bodies in districts with S700 trains to discuss which concerns materialized. Mr. Thom seconded. Ms. Flohr suggested bringing this to the A&I committee first. Mr. Lozano said this was time-sensitive and could help to influence Siemens. Mr. Johnson argued about leaving it to the A&I committee. Ms. Alba said that SacRT will continue to receive feedback, but the S700 trains have been adopted in other areas, and we may be pleasantly surprised by their performance; and excessive changes may cause delays. The motion passed with a voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Bus Stop Improvement Plan (BSIP) Update: Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program Grant Application (Sarah Poe, Senior Planner)**

Ms. Poe provided an update on the BSIP, which was a plan funded by a Caltrans grant award, and developed in partnership with Civic Thread to assess bus stops and identify improvements needed for ADA compliance. In May 2024, SacRT applied for a state grant funding program aimed at climate adaptation and resiliency, called the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program. SacRT had identified shelter-ready bus stop locations in the BSIP, which are the proposed locations for deploying heat-resilient shelters that would be procured as a result of the grant award. The grant funds are expected to be awarded in July or August 2024.

Mr. Lozano asked if the City of Sacramento and the County Department of Transportation are aware of this plan. Ms. Poe said yes; municipalities were engaged during the development of the BSIP, and deployment of the shelters will require a permitting process with these agencies, as well. Ms. O’Connell asked if the bus stops to receive shelters would be wheelchair accessible. Ms. Poe said yes. Mr. Tardaguila asked about how many of each location identified would be in the City of Sacramento or in other areas; there would be some in each. Mr. Tardaguila also asked if the checklist of improvements for this project is the same checklist being used for other current projects; no, but SacRT is also working with the City of Sacramento on a number of other streetscape projects that require coordination. Ms. Brink asked if there are plans to train staff in accommodating service animals at these shelters; Ms. Poe said that staff training is not required at shelter locations, as they are not staffed with employees. Mr. Lozano clarified that there was room for service animals under seats.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None. Mr. Thom left the meeting, and Mr. Johnson acted as Chair.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Vargas said that staff are preparing to possibly hold the July MAC meeting in the new Board Conference room at Q street. Ms. Vargas also reassured us that MAC meetings would continue as hybrid, and said that staff are working on streamlining MAC meeting minutes; a test version may be sent out this month or in the following month. Mr. Lozano asked about the reason for moving locations. Ms. Alba said that the Q street Board Conference Room is a much nicer space. Mr. Lozano asked about what would be done with the existing Admin building. Ms. Poe said that for the campus master plan, developed by David Solomon, work is ongoing, and Kevin Schroeder may give an update on it in the future. Ms. Alba said that within the next five years, the Admin building would still be used for bus operations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Johnson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Flohr motioned to adjourn. Mr. Trujillo seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Mobility Advisory Council is scheduled for July 18, 2024, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.