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**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

July 18, 2024

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

The Zoom meeting was called to order at **2:30 p.m.**

**Present Members:**

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

**Absent:** Frank

**SacRT Staff:** Priscilla Vargas, Craig Norman, Henry Ikwut-Ukwa, Jessica Gonzalez, Kathy Sachen, Michael Cormiae, Richard Mitchel, Blanca Salcedo, Carmen Alba, Jamie Poole-Canavari,

Anthony DiCristofano

**Guests:** Jeffrey Tardaguila, Regina Brink, Justin Rossman, Alicia Garcia

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Mr. Thom called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2024, meeting, with edits by Mr. Lozano. Ms. Flohr motioned, and Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Tardaguila asked about disabled riders not being picked up due to heat, and fare boxes not working due to heat.

**CHAIR REPORT**

1. **TIRCP Cycle 7 Grant Application**

Mr. Thom instructed Mr. Greiner to read a letter signed by Mr. Thom on behalf of the MAC, which staff including Gregg Fishman would send to Secretary Toks Omashakin as support for SacRT’s Transit and Inner-City Rail Capital Program grant application. The letter explained the benefits of SacRT’s proposed project. Mr. Thom called for a motion for the MAC to support the letter. Mr. Johnson moved; Ms. O’Connell seconded. The motion to approve the letter passed with a voice vote. Mr. Lozano motioned that the MAC request staff to consider including training to members of the blind/low-vision community to certified mobility specialists, as part of the collaboration under the grant. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* 1. **Siemens Low Floor Vehicle Project**
     1. **Public Education Communication Plan for S700 Trains (Jessica Gonzalez, Director, Marketing and Public Communications)**

Ms. Gonzalez reported that next week, invites to the August 17, event for riders with disabilities will be sent. The “How to Ride S700” videos are on YouTube, and the version with audio description should be available next week. Mr. Lozano asked if the audio-described video included suggestions made after the first video was released, such as focus on buttons and standing back from the ramp. Ms. O’Connell asked about the time of the event; it is 10 am to noon. Mr. Tardaguila asked about bus and train coverage to accommodate more riders in wheelchairs and asked about any written brochure on S700 train features. Ms. Gonzalez said there will be some written materials available.

* + 1. **Tactile Door Striping at Light Rail Station Platforms (Craig Norman, Director, Engineering & Construction)**

Mr. Norman reported that platform modification has been underway, but before S700 vehicles can be put into service, door indicator tiles must be installed. In the legacy fleet, the first door lines up with the mini-high platform, and there are door indicator tiles for the following doors. Door indicator tiles at modified platforms must align with S700 train doors and must include a bridge plate. California law requires door indicator tiles at the first door, but SacRT is allowed an interim exception during fleet transition: new platforms will have one door indicator tile to align with the second or third doors of S700 vehicles; other door indicator tiles will be removed; and riders with visual disabilities will use the mini-high platforms when boarding legacy vehicles. S700 trains will begin service only on the Gold Line, while the legacy fleet will remain only on the Blue Line. Ms. Flohr asked who would be responsible for helping riders find the new door indicator tiles; Mr. Norman said this would be transit ambassadors. More will be reported as this plan develops.

* + 1. **S700 LRV Project Implementation Response to Public Feedback: Activation Strip to Deploy Ramp (Henry Ikwut-Ukwa, Vice President Capital Projects)**

Mr. Ikwut-Ukwa discussed the activation switch issue raised by Ms. O’Connell; staff found from Siemens that it was not feasible to move the switch because of engineering issues and the risk of accidental activation. Staff reached out to other agencies and found that the switch was not an issue there. Ms. O’Connell said that people with physical limitations on their ability to reach the outer door buttons would have a problem doing so while the vehicle is in motion; some riders cannot reach those buttons nor the switch. Mr. Johnson had this issue and had to ask for help. Mr. Ikwut-Ukwa said that operators will be trained to recognize riders needing assistance, and staff will continue to learn. Mr. Thom said organizations such as Transportation for the Masses, and others with connections to the MAC, should file reports as issues arise. Mr. Lozano emphasized the importance of filing formal complaints and suggested that staff informally collect feedback from riders in the first month. Ms. Alba said that Lisa Hinz will oversee transit ambassadors assisting and receiving feedback.

* + 1. **S700 LRV Update (Anthony DiCristofano, Assistant Vice President Operations, Craig Norman, Director, Engineering & Construction, Michael Cormiae, Director, Light Rail Maintenance)**

Mr. DiCristofano found that the ramp deployment tone is not audible from the outside, so he discussed with Siemens and found that Portland has adopted a means to address this issue. By dropping the speaker into a lower section of the door pocket, the audio tone can be heard outside the vehicle. Staff intend to implement this as soon as possible. Mr. Lozano asked if the audio tone would replace the voice announcement that the ramp is being deployed. Mr DiCristofano said the tone would be adopted first, but a voice announcement may be added later. Mr. Tardaguila asked about audio indicating to riders on the inside that the ramp is not deployed. Mr. DiCristofano said there are other safety measures such as doors opening to width of ramp, but no audio for that issue. Mr. Lozano said the use of multiple sounds could be confusing.

Mr. Norman reported that staff researched between-car barriers and found that they are required on elevated level-boarding platforms, which are 14 inches; our new platforms are only 8 inches. Per California regulations, the door indicator tiles serve the same purpose. Mr. Lozano said that this will be inadequate, particularly when there are three train cars, and suggested that a barrier or bollards be used after ongoing discussion. Mr. Thom said this could be discussed at an A&I meeting.

Mr. Cormiae discussed the height of the priority seating. Per APTA guidelines, seats are designed to be comfortable for riders from 5th to 95th percentile height. The S700 priority area seat height has been found to be satisfactory. Ms. O’Connell asked about the height regulation; Mr. Cormiae said the seats are 19 inches high. Mr. Lozano asked about the height of alternative seats; Mr. Cormiae said there are seats about 18 inches high. Mr. Lozano asked to discuss the heights of the risers at seat ends, and depth of the tread, at a future meeting.

* 1. **SacRT GO Quarterly Update (Richard Mitchell, Director, Community & Contract Bus Services) (Attachment 2) \***

Mr. Mitchell reported on SacRT GO and UZURV ridership for Q2 2024. May 2024 set the new record in ridership to date, totaling 32,248; FY 2023-2024 had total ridership of 351,543, slightly less than 2019 pre-COVID ridership. On-Time Performance (OTP) was highest in June. Staff hosted SacRT hiring events in May 2024, and more hiring events are scheduled in August 2024. Mr. Johnson asked about what is needed to increase OTP. Mr. Mitchel said that new operator hiring has helped. Ms. O’Connell asked about what SacRT is doing to retain operators. Mr. Mitchell said bargaining with ATU is ongoing, and after negotiations, David Topaz may update the MAC.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Brink announced that there will be a virtual meeting of the ACB Capitol Chapter, California Council of the Blind, along with the National Federation of the Blind River City Chapter this Saturday, in order to hear a presentation from the City of Sacramento on their ADA transition planning process. Mr. Lozano requested that Mr. Mitchell present the MAC with an update in the August or September meeting on UZURV GPS. Ms. Vargas will address this. Mr. Tardaguila said that tomorrow, SacMoves will have a meeting on the transit tax.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Thom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. O’Connell motioned to adjourn. Mr. Lozano seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

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