

**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 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:** Charles Johnson, Jeff Thom, Gene Lozano, Helen O’Connell, German Ayon, Frank Trujillo, Pam Flohr

**Absent:** Mariano Rosales, Hugh Lafler

**SacRT Staff:** Priscilla Vargas, Austin Greiner, Richard Mitchell, Vincent Beatty, Charity Oakley, Jessica Gonzalez, Michael Cormiae, Anthony Adams, James Drake, Thomas Russell Jr, Jamie Poole-Canevari, Alan Figueroa-Camarena, Carmen Alba, Anthony DiCristofano

**Guests:** Dan Allison, Jeffrey Tardaguila, Joseph Wilson, Regina Marie Brink

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Mr. Johnson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2024, meeting, with final edits by Mr. Lozano. Mr. Johnson motioned, and Ms. O’Connell seconded. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Tardaguila stated the amount of bus cancellations have climbed from the week prior. He stated that 30-40 of them were addressed by 9 am. Fareboxes not working at 29th St. station and haven’t worked for months along with the Sacramento Valley Station, where no connect cards were working at the low platform station and hasn’t been repaired. He also hopes to get updates on construction on the I-80 and Folsom stations.

Mr. Thom mentioned that light rail members can possibly address the connect card issue. Ms. Poole Canevari, stated that IT has been working with a vendor for months now, she will check the status and update Mr. Tardaguila and the MAC. She mentioned that the machines are damaged easily but are repaired quickly since they are frequently monitored.

Mr. Wilson asked if there are any plans to extend the service on the weekends at the Township 9 Light Rail Station, as some of his caregivers are not able to drive him. Mr. Drake responded that the Green Line stations, will not be expanded due to a tight budget this year.

**CHAIR REPORT**

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Public Education Communication Plan for S700 Trains and In Person Customer Service Support Efforts During Launch (Jessica Gonzalez, Director, Marketing and Public Communications)**

Ms. Gonzalez reminded the MAC about the August 17, 2024, S700 Exclusive Tour at the Township 9 Light Rail Station, and the September 3, 2024, S700 Launch Celebration. From September 3 to September 8, 2024, SacRT staff will be helping those who are riding the new trains**.** Security guards will also be at light rail stations to assist people who are interested in riding the new trains**.** Mr. Trujillo asked when riders from Folsom will be able to ride the new trains.Ms. Gonzales stated the trains will be available mid-October and a bus bridge will be used in the meantime.Mr. Lozano asked about the agenda for the August 17, 2024,Exclusive Tour. Ms. Gonzales said the Exclusive Tour will not include an agenda. The event is similar to an open house to present S700 train features.

1. **Downtown Riverfront Streetcar Light Rail Project (Anthony Adams, Director, Planning)**

Mr. Adams gave a brief history of the project and stated it will begin at Sutter Health Park and end at Sacramento Valley Station. The reason “Streetcar” is used rather than light rail is due to grant awards. The project is currently in design at 85% completion and is currently on a $50 million grant with construction to begin in 2027. The cycle track that will go along the track and be built by West Sacramento. This track will not be on the same platform level as the rail and sidewalk.

Mr. Adams shared the progress to date. Stakeholder outreach has been completed, the alignment and layout has been agreed by Sacramento and West Sacramento. And the environmental impacts have been identified and there seems to be no negative impacts. Tribal consultations are currently ongoing and is anticipated to conclude by late August 2024. Caltrans Co-Op drafted and Legal has provided comments, as they own the Tower Bridge and STOPS (Simplified Trips on Projects Software) model produced and submitted to FTA, and the score received will determine the grant amount.

The next steps will be to submit to Small Starts for funding in a couple of weeks with the Co-Op with Caltrans process to follow. After that, a draft of the CEQA/NEPA will be ready for the stakeholders to review. A full-time project manager will be hired in early 2025 with design completion to occur in the same year. The operations costs are estimated at $4 million and are still awaiting an agreement with West Sacramento. The asking prices from Small Starts is $50 million Federal and $11.5 million from State/Local funds. The streetcar will have the ability to travel 50-60 mph when it travels past the city.

Mr. Lozano expressed concern with bike lanes being street level and floating bus stops and brings up a solution trapezoidal delineator.

Ms. O’Connell asked if West Sacramento is going to oversee the streetcars rather than SacRT. Mr. Adams responded by stating there are ongoing discussion on how it will operate, even annexing West Sacramento could be a point of conversation, giving them more responsibility and a seat on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Tardaguila asked how the streetcar will connect to the other stations in the SacRT service area. Mr. Adams responded by stating It will connect through the Sacramento Valley Station.

Mr. Johnson asked about potential obstacles for the project and Mr. Adams replied that the funds may be the obstacle, new revenue sources may be needed.

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

Mr. Cormiae provided the MAC with a bike policy update. He reiterated his report from the prior meeting that the policy was amended, allowing bicyclist to sit in the priority seating area when not in use. Bicyclist will need to surrender the priority seating, if needed. He along with Mr. DiCristofano explained that as an incremental modification that can be performed relatively quickly, the exterior speaker for ramp deployment will be repositioned so that it can be heard on the exterior of the vehicle.

Mr. Ikwut explained the long-term plan is to demolish the mini-high platforms, the short-term solution is to barricade them from use. The original solution was to chain the entrance, but blind individuals with service animals may encounter their animal going under the chain, so a better solution is to install a solid barrier which is less likely to be vandalized. The barricades will be in place for 1-2 months while the gate is being constructed. Mr. Johnson asked about the demolition time, Mr. Ikwut stated, that funds are needed so it may take up to two years. Mr. Thom asked if the barricade would have a sign in both print and braille. Mr. Ikwut responded stating it will.

Mr. Lozano expressed concern over the braille sign material, which needs to be resistant to damage, and he also mentioned audible information devices are a requirement, not an option. He is also concerned about the bike policy; how will it be enforced when the cyclist refuses to relocate? Passengers will need to rely on the TAs on the train and security guards at the train stations. Those who don’t comply can be cited per law.

Ms. O’Connell asked if the bike policy applies to the bus as well, because she’s had drivers not enforce the policy.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Lozano requested an update on the Watt/I-80 Transit Center project, before the end of the year.

Ms. O’Connell, thought that SacRT GO was going to get a new contract for the drivers, is it possible to get an update on the progress. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are a handful of outstanding union items remaining which will be discussed in upcoming meetings with the union.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Mitchell introduced his new Superintendent, Thomas Russell Jr. and thenMs. Vargas acknowledged Austin Greiner since it was his last day in the department. He took a promotion in light rail. She also introduced Alan Figueroa-Camarena to the department.

The next MAC Meeting will be held at the Q St building, 1102 Q Street, Suite 4600 4th Floor, Sacramento California 95811

**ADJOURNMENT**