**Next Stop News**

**September 2019**

* **Major Bus service changes start Sunday, September 8**
* **Try the new SacRT Forward bus network during Free Ride Days September 8 - 11**
* **Ride SacRT for free to Folsom LIVE with valid admission ticket**
* **RydeFreeRT! Free Fare for Students starts October 1**

**SacRT Forward Update**

Visit sacrt.com/forward for information about service changes and improvements, including those that serve schools within SacRT’s service boundaries. Almost every bus route has been adjusted to improve frequency, scheduling, and weekend service. Use the SacRT Forward trip planner to discover your new route on the next generation bus network. Simply enter any date after September 8, your starting point and your destination to find out which route or routes you will use on the new bus network.

As part of SacRT Forward, new bus stop signs will be at bus stops throughout SacRT’s service area. The new signs not only feature a new look, but also include the bus route destination and the bus stop number on the front of the sign.

The SacRT Forward outreach team will continue to ride the affected routes to talk with riders about the changes and improvements. Also look for the SacRT Forward outreach bus, which is traveling to community events and transit centers to provide information and offer trip planning assistance on the new bus network.

There are adjustments to almost every bus route making the new bus system user-friendly with more direct routes seven days a week.

Updated pocket timetables and system maps are now available online, at the SacRT Customer Service and Sales Center and at most libraries throughout the region. New system maps will be available for purchase the first week of September at the Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street Station) for just 25 cents.

Check out sacrt.com/forward to view all the bus route improvements, a fact sheet on the project and to sign up to receive updates on the project.

**September Service Changes:**

(Changes effective, Sunday, September 8, 2019)

**Major Service Improvements**

Bus Routes: 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 30, 34, 38, 51, 56, 61, 62, 67, 68, 72, 75, 81, 82, 84, 86, 87, 88 and 93

**All Day Bus Service to Peak Hour**

Bus Routes: 2, 5, 6, 34, 113 (new route) and 161 (new route)

**Discontinued Bus Routes**

(most service will be covered by new routes)

Bus Routes: 22, 24, 28, 47, 54, 55, 65, 74, 80 and 95

**New Route Numbers**

Bus Routes: 3 (103), 7 (107), 29 (129), and 103 (193)

**Minor or No Route Changes**

Bus Routes: 1, 33, 109, 170, 171, 172, 174, 175, 176, 177 and 200 series

Once the service changes are implemented, SacRT will continuously monitor each route to optimize and adjust service on a quarterly basis as needed. For more information on the project, visit sacrt.com/forward or email sacrtforward@sacrt.com or call 916-557-4545.

**Try Out SacRT’s New Bus Network for Free!**

On Sunday, September 8 through Wednesday September 11, try out SacRT’s new bus network on us! SacRT is offering free rides on all buses and light rail trains the first four days of service changes. Be sure to tell a friend, neighbor or family member about SacRT’s new bus network featuring improved frequency and more weekend service, and tell them they can try SacRT out for free!

**Call Center Hours Expanded**

In order to provide trip planning assistance for new and current riders navigating the New Bus Network, SacRT’s Customer Service Call Center hours will be temporarily expanded.

Effective Sunday, September 8, the new hours will be:

* Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
* Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The expanded hours will be in effect for 90 days and extended if needed.

**Own a Piece of SacRT History**

On Sunday, September 8, SacRT will make history with the launch of its new bus network as part of the SacRT Forward project. With the new network comes new bus stop signs, and along with that, an opportunity for SacRT fans to take home a piece of transit history.

SacRT is replacing bus stop signs at 2,500 different bus stops. As the new signs go up, the old ones will come down, giving our SacRT fans a chance to take home some bus stop memorabilia. All requests are on a first-come, first-served basis and SacRT reserves the right to refuse or modify any orders for any reason, with an additional limit of one sign per person.

SacRT staff will not ship the signs, but will hold signs for customers to pick up during normal business hours at the SacRT Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street in Sacramento (adjacent to the 13th Street Station). SacRT reserves the right to offer the signs to another person if they are not picked up within 30 days of request.

Please note that displaying an old bus stop sign is still subject to applicable city codes. In other words, owners must keep the signs on their own property, and not install or display them in public spaces or adjacent to public streets and roads.

To make your request for a bus stop sign, email your name, phone number and route number you are requesting to customeradvocacy@sacrt.com. Bus stop signs will not be available to pick up until Tuesday, October 1.

**Students Ride Free Starting October 1**

SacRT has partnered with the City of Sacramento and other cities and school districts within the service area to offer free fare for students in grades TK through 12 to ride SacRT bus and light rail vehicles. All students who live or go to school within SacRT’s service boundaries are eligible for the RydeFreeRT program.

The RydeFreeRT program offers fare-free transit for youth and students within the entire SacRT service network starting on Tuesday, October 1. The program is set to run for one year through Wednesday, September 30, 2020. It is important to note that students intending to ride SacRT during September 2019 will have to purchase a student monthly pass.

This initiative will provide youth universal access to ride SacRT buses, light rail, and SmaRT Ride microtransit service. The program is available all day, any day of the week, and all year during regular SacRT service hours, and is signified by a special sticker on a student ID. If your school does not supply a student ID, SacRT is anticipating to provide schools was a special RydeFreeRT card.

Most students will automatically receive a sticker with their valid student ID this year. For students/youth not attending a participating school, visit sacrt.com on a future date to find out other ways to obtain a sticker. SacRT is currently working to make additional distribution locations available. Learn more about the program at rydefreert.com.

**Ride SacRT to Sunday FunDay**

The 23rd Annual Sunday FunDay will take place on Sunday, September 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the northwest corner of Rusch Park located at 7801 Auburn Boulevard in Citrus Heights. The family-friendly event and attractions are free with the exception of food and booths selling goods.

There will be various business, craft, service clubs and non-profit vendors on site. Inflatables, pony rides, food trucks and live music from Journey Revisited. The Citrus Heights Historical Society will be hosting free tours of the historic Rusch Home.

Parking is limited at Rusch Park so take SacRT or catch a free shuttle from Grand Oaks Elementary School located at 7901 Rosswood Drive to the event. For more information, call 916-727-5400

**SacRT Offers Cash Incentives for New Bus Drivers**

If you have ever thought about becoming a Bus Operator, now is the time! As SacRT moves forward with more bus service, the District is offering an Operator Hiring Incentive Program to newly hired operators once they complete two major milestones in the District. The first, an operator will receive $500 upon completion of a six-month probationary period and a second amount of $500 after one year on the job.

If an operator voluntarily terminates employment with SacRT within 24 months of the date of hire, the operator will be required to repay all hiring incentive payments received. Recruitment incentives do not apply for re-hire applicants. SacRT pays competitive wages and offers an excellent benefit package. To view all open job postings at SacRT, visit sacrt.com/careers.

**Take Light Rail to Folsom LIVE**

Folsom LIVE returns to rock Historic Folsom for one night only on Saturday, September 21. Eight bands will perform on four outdoor stages along three blocks of Historic Folsom from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. – Gates open at 5 p.m.

Folsom Live attendees can ride SacRT free with a valid pre-purchased event admission ticket. Light rail service to and from Folsom operates every 30 minutes with the last light rail train departing the Historic Folsom Station at 11:30 p.m. and arriving in downtown Sacramento after midnight. For SacRT schedule information, visit sacrt.com. For a list of bands or to purchase tickets, visit folsomlive.com.