

RT Board of Directors
1400 29th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: RT Participation in Funding the Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar Project - Agenda Item 22, of the June 12, 2017 Board Mtg.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the RT Board of Directors:

Sacramento Transit Riders and Advocates (STAR) urges the Board to vote “NO” on Recommended Action A: The programming of \$25 million in California Proposition 1A funds for the Downtown/ Riverfront Streetcar Project.

Pursuant to Street and Highways Sec. 2704.09 (d), the purpose of the Proposition 1A funds is to improve connectivity to the high speed rail system or for the rehabilitation or modernization of or safety improvements to tracks utilized for public passenger rail service, signals, structures facilities, and rolling stock. The Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar Project contributes little toward Prop.1A goals and RT’s Strategic Vision.

The proposed use of Proposition 1A funds for the streetcar, combined with a federal match, will finance the following additions to the streetcar starter line which contribute little to connectivity to the high speed rail system, the rehabilitation or modernization of the rail service, or RT’s strategic vision:

(1) Moving light rail from K Street to H Street (between 7th Street and 12th Street). This expensive reroute of the Blue Line will not connect it to the Sacramento Valley Station (SVS). The Blue Line going toward the Sacramento Valley Station (west) will turn south on 7th Street before it reaches the SVS. Passengers after disembarking on H will have to walk along H Street from 7th to 4th street to get to the SVS. Passengers leaving SVS (at 5th street) will have to walk from 5th street to 8th streets to get to the Blue Line. Clearly, this project should not be eligible for Prop 1A HSR funding. This move also negatively impacts the goal of customer convenience. Riders will have to walk at least an additional three blocks to get to their destinations on K Street. Moving the Blue line will add further congestion to 7th Street, significantly reducing on-time performance and reliability of light rail trains during Golden 1 events. Furthermore, SacRT will forfeit revenue from station naming rights on K Street.

(2) Providing higher capacity service to Raley Field for special events using light rail tracks. Further information is needed before STAR can comment on this item.

Proposition 1A funds, combined with a local or federal match, should be used for improvements to the light rail system, while enhancing connectivity to high speed rail. The SVS Loop Project and the replacement of aging Siemens rolling stock, are a couple examples of RT priority needs

that could be funded by Prop 1A. A modern light rail system is critical for the success of RT's Strategic Vision. It will benefit not only the Sacramento central city but the region as well.

STAR urges the Board to vote "YES" on Recommended Action B: Direct staff to use or hold the \$25 million of Proposition 1A funding for unfunded projects. Attachment 1 of Agenda Item 22 is RT's 6 page wish list of unfunded and partially-funded Capital Improvement Projects that potentially qualify for Proposition 1A funding and advance RT's strategic vision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Delphine Cathcart, James Cathcart, and Coco Cocozzella
signatories for
Sacramento Transit Advocates and Riders (STAR)

[This letter was sent by STAR to the SacRT Board of Directors, and General Manager Henry Li, on June 9, 2017]