



**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT
MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2025**

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: Jeff Thom, Gene Lozano, Charles Johnson, Helen O'Connell, Frank Trujillo, Melissa Bachrach Pam Flohr, Joseph Wilson, Jacob Miller, German Ayon, Dyanne Olafson

Absent: None.

SacRT Staff: Priscilla Vargas, Kathy Sachen, Austin Greiner, Henry Li, Chris Flores, George Kirbyson, Vincent Beatty, Charity Oakley, James Drake, Gregg Fishman

Guests: Jeffery Tardaguila, Regina Brink, Margie Donovan, Doris Hernandez-Morales

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Chair Thom called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025, meeting. Mr. Johnson motioned. Mr. Lozano seconded. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Donovan requested a discussion on same-day rides for SacRT Flex. Chair Thom said this will be noted. Mr. Tardaguila asked why the MAC does not track the number of electric wheelchairs that are unable to board and requested more discussion on disembarking challenges on low-floor trains. He also asked about payment verification on light rail and on vandalism of tap-to-pay devices.

CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Li reported on the Light Rail Modernization project. SacRT has received 22 new train cars and has secured funding for 59 vehicles. 66 cars are needed to operate the entire system. Gold Line stations modifications are completed and works has begun to renovate the Blue Line. Construction on the Dos Rios station has begun, and double-track was added to Folsom to support increased frequency on the Gold Line, which launched in January. Mr. Li reported that SacRT Flex has launched and is an 18 months pilot program funded through Sacramento County Measure A. SacRT Flex has fulfilled about 94% of requested rides. Mr. Li reported that the SacRT Board ratified a new 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement for SacRT GO last year, which has increased total compensation. SacRT GO is also transitioning to a new

scheduling app, which will launch in mid-April 2025, and will integrate fare payment. Tap2Ride devices have been installed on all buses including SacRT GO vehicles and automatically integrate discount fare. Over \$43 million has been raised for the Dos Rios Station, including \$9.6 million from the US DOT, though a US DOT memo has called for grants to be reviewed. The City of Sacramento now issues \$100 fines to vehicles parked illegally in SacRT bus stops. SacRT has a \$2 billion capital budget for this fiscal year, has secured \$1.1 billion, and has a \$270 million operating budget. Ms. O'Connell asked how much of the \$100 fines would go to SacRT. Mr. Li said SacRT would get 25%. Mr. Johnson asked how SacRT will accommodate increased ridership from state workers. Mr. Li said SacRT is discussing this with the state Department of General Services, which may be able to subsidize rides for state workers. Mr. Lozano asked how much single-track rail SacRT has and when they will double-track the whole system. Mr. Beatty reported that less than 10% of the system is single-track.

OLD BUSINESS

A. S700 LRV Post Launch Update (Vincent Beatty, AVP, Operations)

Mr. Beatty said that all stations for S700 vehicles have detectable tiles. A software update is being worked on regarding late ramp deployment, and will be included in Amendment 11, to be approved by the Board. This will include an equipment alert to operators. Mr. Kirbyson said that he visited the Siemens facility and demonstrated the planned software and firmware: when the ADA tape switch is pressed, there will be a chime in the cabin for the operator, and a green light will flash by the door, until the train stops; then the ramp will deploy. New software also allows the train departing announcement to sound as soon as the doors close. The speaker for the ramp deployment tone is being moved lower, and the gong sound has been changed to match the legacy gong. The CPUC will likely approve two more S700 train cars next week.

Mr. Lozano asked if Siemens plans to bring on an advisory board or to implement these changes in other transit systems around the country. Mr. Kirbyson said no, but SacRT is part of a light rail users' group that shares information about light rail usage experiences. He answered a question from Ms. Bachrach and said that staff are working to get real-time stop information for those who cannot see platform signs from in the train. Mr. Lozano asked if the RFP includes tactile route destination signs at each platform. Mr. Kirbyson said it does, and that he will meet tomorrow with that group to discuss this. Mr. Lozano requested that this be discussed with the A&I Committee, and Ms. O'Connell requested it for the TC&P Committee. Mr. Tardaguila asked if the priority seating tape switch and the jam button had priority over the external button. Mr. Kirbyson said yes, there are three buttons that can be pressed from inside the train to deploy the ramp.

B. SacRT Accessible Format Update (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer)

Ms. Vargas said she will discuss an accessible format policy draft proposal at the next TC&P Committee meeting. She has researched accessible format policies used by other agencies, which cover formats such as large print, braille, CD, and auxiliary aids as requested, including ASL interpreting. Ms. Vargas has shared a draft document with the SacRT legal department. This will be presented either at the next TC&P meeting or at the next MAC meeting.

Ms. Olafson requested changing "hearing impaired" to "deaf and hard of hearing." Mr. Lozano asked if this policy would include the development of videos with audio description, captioning, and ASL. Ms. Vargas said yes. Ms. Donovan asked about tactile maps for train stations. Ms. Vargas will include it.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Scheduling, Dispatching, & Eligibility Software Update (Charity Oakley, Director, Bus Operations)

Ms. Oakley said SacRT will transition to the QRyde scheduling software on April 19, 2025. During the transition period, the SacRT GO app will be unavailable on April 17, and the last day to book on the app will be April 16. There may be a gap in the availability of a mobile app, but reservations will continue with the SacRT GO reservations department. Chair Thom asked if end users were involved in testing the app. Ms. Oakley said staff were reaching out to the MAC for testing. Ms. Vargas said that QRyde has worked with end users across the country, but not yet on the SacRT GO app. Ms. O'Connell said it was important to test this app thoroughly to avoid the problems experienced with Ecolane and to inform users in advance about what features the app will have. Mr. Johnson said that on the Ecolane app, voice activation could not be used and asked about availability on iPhone and Android. Ms. Oakley said the app is available on iPhone and Android and voice activation should work. Ms. Bachrach said voice activation also does not work on the main SacRT app. Ms. Oakley will follow up. Ms. Vargas said that staff are hoping to also offer booking online. Ms. Donovan asked if QRyde had experience developing apps for accessibility other than for blind and low-vision people. Ms. Vargas said yes.

B. Access & Infrastructure Committee Update (Gene Lozano, A&I Chair)

This item was tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Vargas said the Website Accessibility Project is in process and the website accessibility changes may be available in April. Mr. Tardaguila shared that the Pannell Meadowview Community Center is hosting the Sweet Potato Festival and that the Capitol Air Show will take place at Mather.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.