



**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT
MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
ACCESS & INFRASTRUCTURE (A & I)
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2024**

ATTACHMENT 2

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF:

Present Members: Eugene Lozano, Hugh Lafler, and Jeff Thom **Other MAC Members:** Frank Trujillo
RT Staff: Priscilla Vargas, Henry Ikwut-Ukwa, Craig Norman, Kathy Sachen, Sangita Arya, Vincent Beatty, Vinit Budhiraja, Austin Greiner **Guests:** Chuck Zurek

MEETING RULES:

Chair Lozano requested that participants remain muted, and to raise their hands to ask questions or make comments; buttons *9 and *6 are used to raise hands and mute on phones. Priscilla or Austin would call on those raising their hands. Chair Lozano reminded participants to speak slowly for CC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Lozano moved to approve the September 28, 2023, A&I meeting minutes, and added a note regarding stainless steel bollards to the Watt/I-80 section of the minutes. Mr. Lafler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment was given.

CHAIR REPORT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. LR Platform – Feasibility of installing elevated series of lights that would flash upon approach, presence, and departure of light rail vehicles (Vinit Budhiraja, Director, Information Technology)

Chair Lozano introduced the topic, explaining that a similar system has been used in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Gallaudet University and the transit district worked collaboratively in the development of this lighting system to provide greater access for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing that cannot benefit from the visual text found on the public address system displays. Mr. Lafler added that we would like to use the Gallaudet-style lighting system because it would provide consistency in the method of conveying LRV location information between the two transit systems.

Mr. Budhiraja said that SacRT is working on a GPS-based system to identify train locations, which would be displayed on signs, but there are challenges in using GPS with lighting. Research has shown that similar lighting systems are generally used as a non-vital overlay to a signal system. SacRT previously discussed a skip-stop project, which could be used to help implement this system once installed. Mr. Norman affirmed that the skip-stop project could link with a lighting system. Chair Lozano

asked if this lighting system could possibly be considered in a future project. Mr. Budhiraja said yes; this system could be included in a skip-stop project, but not in a current project. Mr. Norman said a skip-stop project is not being immediately considered but could be in several years. Chair Lozano asked who NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing should contact for questions or to express concerns on this; Mr. Budhiraja said Ms. Vargas would find out.

B. San Diego Trip Update (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer) 3:25

Ms. Vargas reported that she and other SacRT staff visited San Diego on Tuesday and met with San Diego MTS employees. Ms. Vargas reported that bicycles on the San Diego trains were parked in the priority seating area. There were no bicycle racks, due to safety concerns. No passengers in wheelchairs were observed using the ramps. The trains were clean. In the sloped area near the doors, MTS had used yellow markings for visually impaired passengers, although it is wearing off.

Chair Lozano asked about what recourse passengers with mobility devices would have if priority seating is filled with bicycles. Ms. Vargas did not receive feedback on that issue. Chair Lozano expressed concern that users of wheelchairs or electric scooters would not have the intervention assistance from operators when needing the priority seating areas, and the result might be a conflict between these individuals and bicyclists; Ms. Vargas mentioned that audio announcements could remind passengers about the use of the priority seating area. Chair Lozano asked that staff approach the issue proactively.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on the Watt/I-80 Transit Center Improvement Project (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer)

Ms. Vargas shared information from Jenny Niello: Procurement is executing a construction contract with Thompson Builders Co., which will go to the board for approval on March 11, 2024. Regarding the bollards, color selection can only occur after a contract is in place.

Mr. Thom asked about the estimated completion date. Mr. Norman said it may be in summer 2026. Chair Lozano asked about when the color for warning devices, e.g., bollards and stair stripings, may be changed to Federal Yellow. Mr. Norman said in 2-3 months, color change for bollards and stair stripings may be discussed. This item is listed by Ms. Niello to be discussed with the contractor later in the submittal process.

B. Update on the Light Rail Modernization Project (Craig Norman, Director, Engineering & Construction)

Mr. Norman said that all but five Gold Line stations are complete, and that they should be completed for Phase 1 by mid-June 2024. This includes platforms that can accommodate two-car trains. Some stations have been built to accommodate three-car trains, which is Phase 2. Four Blue Line stations will begin construction in Phase 3 by September 2024. Phase 4 would include the remaining 15 Blue Line stations, which could begin in Summer 2025 and finish by Summer 2027.

Chair Lozano asked to clarify when all stations would be modified and when high-floor platforms would be removed; FTA procurement deal says the legacy fleet may be in place until 2034, but staff is working to change this. Mr. Trujillo asked about whether all platforms would be level from the railings to the trains. Mr. Norman explained that all trains are 8 inches above the railings, and that there is about a 5 inch step into the vehicles, but ramps are available for those using a mobility device. Chair Lozano

gave an example of the Township 9 station, where there is a single level platform, while other stations have multiple levels of platforms and asked if all platforms may eventually be made uniformly level. Mr. Norman said that efforts to adjust platform levels will depend on existing conditions at each station. Mr. Lozano described the many variations in stations and confirmed that this variation would continue. Mr. Trujillo asked if there would be a way to notify riders of level variations. Mr. Lozano said this may be discussed in the next item.

C. Update on the Final Testing of the Low-Floor Light Rail Vehicle Access Features (Craig Norman, Director, Engineering & Construction)

Chair Lozano discussed a complaint about the 23rd Street station platform from a person who is blind. The individual experienced the problem after disembarking from the train and negotiating their way around the handrails to eventually get off the platform. There needs to be a method of informing people who have vision disabilities as to how to enter and exit the 23rd Street light rail station. Mr. Norman said that staff had read through complaints on this matter and confirmed with Ms. Vargas that Accessible Services would work to educate the public on this. Chair Lozano explained that at the 23rd Street light rail station, the railing does not provide clear direction like at other light rail stations, and no signage or Braille is provided to supplement directions or inform riders of layout. Mr. Norman said this is being discussed and said that the 23rd Street light rail station is only in Phase One and will be further built out with more accessibility features. Chair Lozano suggested that SacRT staff consider the following methods of providing information to passengers with vision disabilities:

1. A written narrative description of each station, including how to locate the low- and high-floor platforms; and
2. A 3-D tactile layout of each station, including platforms.

D. Update on the Track Crossings and SacRT's collaborative work with the Department of Transportation (Craig Norman, Director, Engineering & Construction)

This item was tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lozano called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lafler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 P.M.

The next meeting of the Access and Infrastructure Standing Committee will be determined soon.