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**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER** **ATTACHMENT 1**

The in-person and zoom webinar meeting was called to order at **2:30 p.m.**

**Present Members:**

Frank Trujillo, Jeff Thom, Pam Flohr, Alan Ruzich, Margie Donovan, Mariano Rosales, Charles Johnson, Helen O’Connell, Gene Lozano, German Ayon, Isabel Arreola, Hugh Lafler

**Absent:** No absences

**SacRT Staff:** Priscilla Vargas, Blanca Salcedo, Carmen Alba, David Topaz, Adam Green, Craig Hendrix, Richard Mitchell, Jamie Poole-Canavari, Kathyrn Fukasawa, Kathy Sachen, Shawn Reynolds, Austin Greiner

**Guests:** Jeff Tardaguila, Jaci Tatro, Leslie Thom, Stephanie Watts

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Ms. Flohr motioned to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2023, meeting. Mr. Ayon seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote. Mr. Lozano abstained.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Tardaguila commented on the format of the MAC agenda posted online, and on the Zoom chat being disabled, asked about posting of bus cancellations, and expressed concern about 65th Street.

**CHAIR REPORT**

Mr. Johnson reported on the addition of the fragrance-free announcement to the MAC agenda and reported that the Executive Committee will have a draft of the MAC work plan by December 7, 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **SacRT GO Hiring and Recruitment Update (David Topaz, VP, Labor Relations)**

Mr. Topaz reported that SacRT GO lost 30 employees but hired 35 employees, leaving 2 vacancies. SacRT finished a one-year contract amendment with ATU, which increased starting pay by 12%, offered a 3% retention bonus, increased wages 6-8% for the first three years and 1% the fourth year, increased pension contribution, and added holidays. SacRT will likely return to the table with ATU in January to start to track long-term contracts.

Mr. Johnson asked about the projected goal for SacRT GO drivers; Mr. Topaz reported that SacRT has one dispatcher vacancy and one driver vacancy. Ms. O’Connell suggested keeping bus driver pay equal across classifications to help retention; Mr. Topaz explained differences between driver classifications and SacRT’s continued work toward full staffing. Mr. Trujillo hoped this would improve On-Time Performance. Ms. Donovan asked about the order of promotions for SacRT operators; Mr. Topaz explained that operators may be hired at multiple points, and that CBS operators may be promoted to big bus or light rail, and that applicants with over 2 years of experience outside SacRT may be hired for big bus after starting in CBS. Ms. Donovan commented on the need to ensure upward mobility for SacRT GO operators to avoid a potential strike.

Mr. Tardaguila asked about the number of operators in each department that would be considered full force. Mr. Topaz did not have the numbers but would follow up.

1. **Post SacRT GO Open House Update (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer)**

Ms. Vargas reported that the Virtual Open House had 23 attendees, including staff. The In-Person Open House at the Pannell Center, which was a good facility but slightly cold, had 54 attendees. The panel focused on SmaRT Ride and included UZURV and VIA. MAC members in attendance were Mr. Thom, Ms. O’Connell, and Mr. Johnson. The YouTube link is available and sent to MAC members SacRT is working on ensuring everyone can ask at least one question at the Open House. The next Open House is tentatively scheduled for March 2024 and may be in a more northern location.

Ms. Donovan suggested finding a way to merge the Virtual and In-Person events and asked about SacRT’s goals and objectives for Open Houses. Ms. Vargas stated that objectives included sharing information on UZURV and SmaRT Ride, as well as providing a venue to receive feedback and improve SacRT services. Mr. Thom seconded the suggestion to combine events, praised the brief vignettes from each presenter, and suggested that the MAC make a brief presentation at an Open House. Mr. Tardaguila thanked SacRT for the YouTube link. Ms. Arreola asked about how Open House is advertised; Ms. Vargas said SacRT announces using SacRT GO rider information, posts fliers in SacRT GO vehicles, and uses postcards and email, but should improve accessible formats. Ms. Arreola suggested using the SacRT mobile app to promote the Open House.

1. **Nominating Committee Selection Update (German Ayon, MAC member)**

Mr. Ayon reported that the Nominating Committee received votes for Mr. Thom as Chair and Mr. Johnson as Vice Chair. Mr. Johnson added that nominations can be taken from the floor during the vote at the December meeting. Ms. Vargas added that the secret ballot will be available in Braille. Mr. Johnson said voting can also be done online and via phone call to Priscilla Vargas.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Access & Infrastructure Committee Chair Update – Meeting held on September 27, 2023 (Gene Lozano, Chair)**

Mr. Lozano reported that the A&I Committee had two agenda items. First, the update on construction of low-floor platforms, which includes testing of new vehicles. Mr. Lozano said that Craig Norman, SacRT Director of Engineering and Construction, reported that as of September 27, SacRT had completed 14 stations. This included handrails and ramps. Without handrails, SacRT’s contractor had installed a decorative concrete paver to signal the drop-off to blind riders. Mr. Norman had confirmed that each station was unique. The 29th and R Street station had an inconsistency between blended and vertical curb ramps. SacRT is testing new vehicles on the Gold Line at night, and before the vehicles go into service in late 2024, it is being discussed that hands-on demonstrations of the new vehicles may be provided to members of the public. Ms. Vargas confirmed that these hands-on demonstrations are being planned.

Mr. Lozano also reported that the A & I Committee has been receiving updates on the Watt & I-80 station project, and that Jenny Niello from Engineering had reported that SacRT will install accessible pedestrian signals. The bus plazas on both sides of Watt Avenue will be enlarged, and stainless steel bollards will be installed; A & I Committee has received updates on the bollards. The staircases at Watt/I-80 will have contrasting stripes in Safety Yellow. The A & I Committee had been told that at the bottom of the staircase there would be colored pavement and a lighted path; this was scrapped due to budgetary constraints. There will be digital and audible signage on bus schedules. The vendor reported that the bollards are only available in matte colors, but traffic yellow is an option. The stair striping is available in glow in the dark. The vendor confirmed that the digital signage will meet ADA requirements. Mr. Lozano also reported that the RFP had opened and that bidding for this contract will begin in December 2023.

Finally, the A & I Committee discussed track crossing safety. Mr. Thom had made a motion to place track crossing safety on the 2024 MAC work plan. Mr. Lozano moved for the MAC to place this item on the work plan, and Ms. Arreola seconded. Mr. Johnson called for a vote to add track crossing ADA compliance and recommendations to the 2024 MAC work plan; the motioned passed with a vote. Mr. Tardaguila asked about postings on bus service disruptions because of Watt/I-80. Mr. Lozano said the contractor reported that the existing elevator and staircases at Watt/I-80 will not be disrupted.

1. **MAC Meeting Schedule Update (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer)**

Ms. Vargas said that because the first Thursday of the month is often busy and reporting data is not available, she proposes that MAC meetings be moved to the third Thursday of the month starting in January 2024, and confirmed that the Auditorium is available during these times. Ms. Donovan agreed with the proposal. Ms. Flohr also agreed. Mr. Thom called for a motion to change the MAC meeting schedule for monthly meetings on the third Thursday instead of the first Thursday beginning in January 2024. The motion was carried by a vote. Mr. Johnson said that the MAC Executive Committee will develop their own schedule to accommodate this change.

**OTHER BUSINESS** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Tardaguila mentioned an event promoting public transportation over driving in November of next year, coordinated in multiple states by a group in Washington, DC. Ms. Donovan asked how this might affect SacRT GO ridership. Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Mitchell can look into this.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Johnson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. No abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Mobility Advisory Council is scheduled for December 7, 2023, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.