

# NEXT STOP NEWS

## INSIDE:



**September service improvements starting August 29**



**Airport Express service to resume August 29**



**RydeFreeRT makes back to school easy**



**Free Rides to COVID-19 vaccine appointments extended**

## AUGUST 2021

### SacRT Gets Ready to Show Off the Short-Range Transit Plan

SacRT On the Move is SacRT's Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP), which will make recommendations looking forward over the next five years.

In September 2019, SacRT reimagined the entire bus network with the SacRT Forward project. Every bus route had changes, and many shifted to more frequent service seven days a week. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic upended transit service and changed travel patterns everywhere. With the new bus network implementation and impacts from COVID-19, SacRT will examine ridership data to see what is working and what is not.

SacRT will use the data to have conversations with riders, stakeholders and the community to establish how to move forward with future service. SacRT will share some of the key components of the draft plan, including but not limited to a five-year service outlook, which SacRT will continuously develop throughout the planning and outreach process. For that reason, public review and feedback on system recovery is highly encouraged and welcomed.

SacRT plans to share the draft SRTP with the SacRT Board of Directors Fall 2021 and will seek additional public comment in September 2021. SacRT staff will review and consider all public comments received with a goal of having the final SRTP ready to implement by December 2021. SacRT encourages our riders, stakeholders, and the entire community to become involved in helping make this plan meaningful to the Sacramento region. More information about the SRTP is available at [sacrt.com/SRTP](http://sacrt.com/SRTP).

### Enjoy a Week of Free Pop-Up Art on The Gold Line

SacRT's Gold Line is the setting for a week of free pop-up art experiences and the Sacramento Valley Spark Art Stops Challenge. From Saturday, August 14 through Saturday, August 21, 2021, explore new and existing art at the Mather Field/Mills and Sunrise light rail stations.

Artists, performers, and instructors will be on-hand for the curated nonprofit pop-up event making commuting more fun and inspiring. Visit [sacvalleyspark.org/artstops](http://sacvalleyspark.org/artstops) for details.

### Don't Miss SacRT's 2021 Transit Academy

SacRT's free 2021 Transit Academy is a four-class course designed to educate and engage residents, business, and community leaders about SacRT's planning process and how transit shapes our communities. Classes will be held once a week over a four-week period on Tuesday evenings starting on October 5 through October 26, 2021.

Applications will be accepted starting Tuesday, August 17 through Friday, September 17, 2021. Check SacRT's website for instructions for how to apply starting August 17. SacRT will be looking for participants that live and work in communities throughout the service area.

SacRT's Transit Academy will include presentations, Q & A and interactive discussions, and behind-the-scenes field trips, including Siemens Mobility to see new light rail car manufacturing, a transit-oriented development project, and SacRT's bus facilities. Graduates will be recognized as knowledgeable representatives for public transit and be encouraged to engage the community in conversations about the region's mobility needs and the many benefits gained from public mass transportation, even if you don't ride.

### SacRT Recognized as 2021 Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year

SacRT has been honored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) as the 2021 Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year. This prestigious and highly competitive award recognizes organizations in the public transportation industry across North America whose accomplishments and innovations have greatly advanced public transportation.

SacRT was recognized for a number of initiatives that launched between 2018 and 2020 including, lowering fares, expanding service, completing a comprehensive route optimization; introducing one of the nation's biggest and most successful microtransit services; regaining the trust of city jurisdictions and reannexing transit services back into the SacRT district, implementing the nation's first fare-free rides for student program of its magnitude; and achieved double-digit ridership growth.

SacRT will receive the award during APTA's Transform Conference and Expo in November 2021. For more information on the APTA Awards, visit [sacrt.com/APTAaward](http://sacrt.com/APTAaward).

### Free Rides to COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Extended

SacRT has extended free transit rides to scheduled COVID-19 vaccine appointments through Thursday, September 30, 2021. SacRT began offering free rides on March 1, 2021.

The free rides include all vaccination sites in Sacramento County within SacRT's service area, including hospitals, pharmacies, and other immunization locations.

To ride free, you only need to show a COVID-19 vaccine appointment confirmation in the form of an email, text or vaccine card, which will serve as valid fare only on the date noted in your appointment confirmation. Learn more at [sacrt.com/vaccines](http://sacrt.com/vaccines).

### RydeFreeRT Makes Back to School Easy!

With RydeFreeRT, youth can ride the entire SacRT transit network, including SacRT buses, light rail, and Smart Ride on-demand microtransit service for FREE during regular service hours.

Students just need a school student ID card or a RydeFreeRT card. No sticker is required to ride. Schools will be issuing new RydeFreeRT cards at the beginning of the fall session.

Youth who are experiencing homelessness or taking part in foster programs are also allowed to participate in the program, regardless of current residence or school address.

For students and youth that do not have a school student ID or RydeFreeRT card, a RydeFreeRT card can be obtained at SacRT's Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street Station) or at a local library. Visit [rydefreert.com](http://rydefreert.com) for details.

### New High-Speed Charging Hub Coming to the Power Inn Station

SacRT partnered with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), and GiddyUp EV, Inc., to build a new high-speed electric vehicle charging hub at the Power Inn Station. The new charging hub is anticipated to go live in October 2021 and be one of the largest charging hubs in the state when built out.

This public-private partnership will deliver a state-of-the-art charging solution for Sacramento's growing electric vehicle market, meet the region and state's sustainability goals, and provide a revenue sharing model for SacRT.

The new charging station hub will be fully networked and integrated, and will only impact 55 of the 299 parking spaces located in the light rail station park-and-ride lot. With power supplied by SMUD, this high-speed and integrated charging network would advance electric vehicle adoption in the region, help meet environmental and economic goals of the State, while providing added services to various mobility users. Learn more about the project at [sacrt.com/charginghub](http://sacrt.com/charginghub).

## Masks Still Required on Transit



SacRT has increased seating to full capacity on all buses and trains. Local health officials approved a safe increase of passengers per vehicle, which means all seats will be available, and signs blocking off seats will be removed.

The Federal Department of Transportation continues to mandate that the public wear a mask onboard transit, regardless of if a person is fully vaccinated or not until September 13, 2021. Riders must wear masks that cover both the mouth and nose when awaiting, boarding, traveling on, or disembarking public transit. To request a reasonable modification of this mandate, call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

As a reminder, you should avoid public transit if you are sick, positive for COVID-19, or if you think or know you have been exposed to COVID-19. Visit [sacrt.com/covid19](https://sacrt.com/covid19) to learn more.

## SacRT Holds Public Hearing on August 19

SacRT is seeking public input in its plans to seek FTA approval on equivalent facilitation for two components related to the Siemens S700 low floor light rail vehicles. Public input will be obtained in person and virtually on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at SacRT Headquarters Auditorium located at 1400 29th Street, Sacramento (accessible via the 29th Street Station or bus routes 38, 67 and 68). SacRT is holding two public hearing options that day, the first at 10 a.m. and the second at 6 p.m.

A mockup of the new deployable ramp (bridge plate) and detectable warning tile will be available for public viewing. Please contact Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer, at 916-321-BUSS (2877), Option 2, Option 1 for additional information.



## Morrison Creek Light Rail Station Set to Open

On Sunday, August 29, 2021, the new the Morrison Creek light rail station, which is the part of the Blue Line extension to Cosumnes River College, will officially open to the public.

Located between Meadowview and Franklin light rail stations, the Morrison Creek station is a walk-on station only with no park-and-ride spaces, similar to Center Parkway Station. The station will serve the Detroit Boulevard area neighborhood and future development of the surrounding area, which is expected to take place at a later date. Safety amenities will continue to be phased in after the opening, including a dedicated pedestrian pathway with lighting.

## Rider Alert

Effective, Sunday, August 29, 2021, SacRT will implement the following service improvements:

### Route 75 Mather

The route will be re-routed slightly from Capitol Center Drive to Zinfandel Drive to better serve retail and restaurant destinations and provide greater connectivity to light rail for residents and employees in the area. Schedules will remain unchanged or undergo very minor adjustments of no more than one minute for the new stops.

### Route 78 – Butterfield

The schedule has minor adjustments of no more than one minute.

### Route 86 Grand

The inbound and outbound route 86 will now stop at J & 11th instead of 9th & K.

### Route 88 West El Camino

The inbound and outbound route 88 will now stop at J & 11th instead of 9th & K.

### Route 124 Sunrise Commuter

This will be a new peak-hour commuter bus from Fair Oaks and Orangevale to Rancho Cordova and the Gold Line. It will take riders in the morning to the Sunrise Station, with service to offices in Rancho Cordova near City Hall, Kaiser Hospital, and the VA Medical Center. It will have five morning and five afternoon trips with several locations to park and ride in Orangevale and Fair Oaks.

### Route 142 Airport Express

Service will be restored on bus route 142 Airport Express, seven days a week. The route will now operate on L Street instead of Capitol Mall. Service will be every 30 minutes throughout the day, with the first bus leaving downtown at 4:45 am and the last pick-up at the airport at 11:05 pm.

### Route 175 CordoVan Anatolia/Sunridge

Additional stops will be added in new residential developments off of Douglas Road, east of Sunrise Boulevard in Rancho Cordova. Schedules will be adjusted slightly to accommodate the new stops.

### Route 177 CordoVan Villages

Midday service will be added to the Rancho CordoVan Villages route on weekdays. The route and stops will be unchanged.

### Route F10 Folsom Stage Line

Schedules will be adjusted slightly to provide a better transfer to light rail at the Historic Folsom Station, and a better connection from American River Canyon Drive to Folsom Lake College.

For detailed information about the September 2021 service changes, visit [sacrt.com/september](https://sacrt.com/september) or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

### Airport Express Service Resumes on Sunday, August 29

SacRT is restoring the Airport Express bus route 142 between downtown Sacramento and the Sacramento International Airport. The new service will operate with all new zero-emission electric battery powered buses. The service will operate every 30-minutes, seven days a week. Learn more at [sacrtairport.com](https://sacrtairport.com).

### New Commuter Route Debuts Monday, August 30

SacRT is adding a new commuter route called Sunrise Commuter bus route 124, which will operate Monday through Friday between residential parts of Fair Oaks and Orangevale to office destinations in Rancho Cordova. Learn more [sacrt.com/schedules](https://sacrt.com/schedules).



## Contactless Fare Payment Coming to All Trains this Summer!

SacRT has partnered with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Visa, Littlepay, and SC Soft to add a contactless method for payment onboard light rail trains, which will help improve the customer experience. The innovative touch-free fare payment technology will allow riders to tap a contactless credit, debit, prepaid card, or contactless-enabled mobile or wearable device (e.g., smartwatch) to pay fare when boarding light rail trains.

Contactless fare payment is currently available on the Green Line with installation of the contactless fare payment readers aboard the full light rail fleet taking place the rest of summer. During installation periods, the payment readers will display a “testing in progress” screen, which means they are not yet activated for use.

SacRT is the first transit agency in California to introduce a contactless payment solution on board a light rail train system as part of the California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP), a Caltrans initiative to facilitate easy and accessible travel planning and payments. Visit [sacrt.com/contactless](https://sacrt.com/contactless) to learn more.



## Ride SacRT FREE to the California Classic Games at Golden 1 Center

SacRT and the Kings teamed up to offer free rides to the Golden 1 Center for the 3rd Annual California Classic, a two-day summer basketball showcase with the Sacramento Kings, Golden State Warriors, Los Angeles Lakers, and Miami Heat.

The California Classic will be held Tuesday, August 3, 2021, and Wednesday, August 4, 2021, and attendees can take SacRT bus, light rail or SmART Ride to the games for free. Print or screen shot the free ride flyer available at [sacrt.com/californiaclassic](https://sacrt.com/californiaclassic) to ride free. Free rides begin at 4 p.m. and end at the end of service each day on August 3 and August 4.

Note: The last trains leave downtown before 11 p.m. on both nights and the Downtown-Midtown-East Sacramento SmART Ride zone ends service at 9 p.m.

Plan your trip at [sacrt.com/schedules](https://sacrt.com/schedules) or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

*Next Stop News is produced monthly by the Sacramento Regional Transit District to keep passengers informed about current SacRT news and community events.*

*Email questions or comments about Next Stop News to [nextstopnews@sacrt.com](mailto:nextstopnews@sacrt.com)*