

## **Next Stop News May 2020**

### **INSIDE:**

- June 2020 service changes to include more bus service frequency
- Causeway Connection electric zero emission bus service to launch May 4 with modified schedule
- SacRT takes proactive measures to keep customers and employees safe during COVID-19
- Help reduce touchpoints by purchasing SacRT fare via ZipPass mobile fare app or Connect Card

### **SacRT's COVID-19 Precautions in Place to Keep Riders and Employees Safe**

during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that we continue to serve those who rely on public transit for vital access to resources, health-care and employment. SacRT is urging riders to only ride public transit for essential travel and refrain from using public transit if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

SacRT is continually adapting our operations and business to meet the changing recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide “stay-at-home” order. SacRT’s number one priority is the safety of our customers and employees.

SacRT is reminding riders to practice social distancing when riding bus and light rail vehicles by staying at least six feet away from other riders and operators when possible. To protect operators, SacRT installed a protective plexi-glass barrier on each bus by the driver’s seat and added a detachable chain barrier above the white line to further reduce exposure.

On light rail vehicles, operators are now opening all doors at each light rail station during peak hour commute times. This allows passengers to board and exit the train without having to press the door open button.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing face coverings in public, including on public transit. A face covering can be a scarf or homemade mask. Riders are urged to wear masks or face coverings when traveling on public transit. For more information on the COVID-19 precautions SacRT is taking, visit [SacRT.com/covid19](https://www.sacrt.com/covid19).

### **Construction Begins Near University/65th Street Light Rail Station**

Construction is underway at the University/65th Street Transit Center. SacRT sold its property to allow for the building of a transit oriented development next to the light rail station.

The new “65th East” development includes 223 student housing apartments with ground floor retail. It will be located at one of SacRT’s busiest transit centers that is utilized by more than 40,000 light rail riders and 30,000 bus riders per month.

The project includes the modernization of bus stops on 67th and Q streets. The new bus stops will be closer to the station and have all new ADA compliant crosswalks, making it easier for connections to transit.

SacRT plans to use the proceeds from the \$2 million property sale to purchase new low-floor light rail vehicles as part of the Light Rail Modernization project. The contractor is expected to complete the project by summer 2022. Because it’s an active construction site, be careful and aware of your surroundings if you are walking in the area.

### **Light Rail Modernization Moving Forward**

SacRT is making a major replacement to our aging light rail fleet with the purchase of 20 new low-floor light rail vehicles from local manufacturer, Siemens Mobility, Inc. This is the first time in 20 years that SacRT has purchased new light rail vehicles.

The purchase of the new vehicles is part of SacRT’s overall light rail modernization plan, which also includes converting light rail stations to accommodate the new low-floor design and adding a passing track at two locations to provide 15-minute frequency to Folsom stations.

SacRT was awarded \$150 million in funding from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capitol Program (TIRCP) and Proposition IA to modernize the light rail fleet, including the purchase of the 20 low-floor light rail trains, which will provide better accessibility for passengers with disabilities, bicycles and strollers.

SacRT was also recently awarded two state grants through the TIRCP to help purchase additional light rail vehicles and help fund expanding the Green Line for the Sacramento Valley Station Loop project that will be home to the new Sacramento Republic FC soccer stadium in the Railyards.

### **Causeway Connection to Launch May 4**

Due to impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the new Causeway Connection (Route 138) zero emission bus service between Davis and Sacramento will launch with a modified schedule on Monday, May 4.

The modified Route 138 Causeway Connection bus will operate Monday through Friday with three morning trips and two afternoon trips between UC Davis campus and the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. To view the route map and schedule, visit [causewayconnection.com](http://causewayconnection.com).

### **SacRT Buses Equipped with Free Wi-Fi Help Students**

SacRT announced a partnership with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and the City of Sacramento to support Governor Newsom's distance learning efforts.

SacRT is rolling out eight buses to be used as super hotspots to provide free Wi-Fi to areas of the city that need Internet access for students to quickly address inequities in accessing technology and connectivity. The program begins on Monday, May 4 and will be active for 60 days in order to monitor how the program is working. If successful, the program will be converted into a model to be used in cities throughout California.

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SacRT buses will be outfitted with super hotspots providing connectivity with at least a 500-foot to 1,800-foot radius. The buses will be parked between four to eight hours to provide high-speed internet services to surrounding locations while people remain inside their homes or at safe distances.

Telecom companies AT&T and Verizon will be providing the Internet access on the buses. The super hotspot locations and protocols are being developed by the City of Sacramento, Valley Vision, Sacramento Public Library, SacRT, CalSTA and public health officials. More information is available at [sacrt.com](http://sacrt.com).

### **Reduce Touchpoints by Purchasing Electronic Fare**

Purchase your SacRT fare electronically to save time, and reduce touchpoints that may occur with using fare vending machines and fareboxes.

ZipPass is SacRT's free mobile fare app. You can pre-purchase, store and use SacRT tickets and passes instantly on your phone anywhere, anytime on bus, light rail and SmaRT Ride on-demand microtransit. Just download the free app from the App Store or Google Play. Show your ticket or pass to bus operators or light rail fare inspection staff upon request.

Connect Card is the region's electronic fare payment card. Purchase fare online or at a local retailer (Raley's/Bel Air Markets), and tap your card to ride bus and light rail. Plus, it is accepted by eight other transit agencies in our region! Visit [connecttransitcard.com](http://connecttransitcard.com) or call 916-321-BUSS (2877) to get started today.

### **SacRT Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Available for Review and Comment**

SacRT is seeking public comment on SacRT's Fiscal Year 2021 Operating and Capital Budget. A hearing will take place during the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Monday, May 11, which will be an online meeting. The Preliminary Fiscal Year 2021 Operating and Capital Budget was released on April 8 for a 60-day public review period. The SacRT Board of Directors is expected to adopt the budget on Monday, June 8. To review the preliminary budget, visit [sacrt.com](http://sacrt.com) or call 916-556-0449 to request a printed copy. The public is encouraged to comment by:

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Language Assistance: 916-557-4545

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 8. To request language interpretation services, call 916-556-0449 no later than three business days in advance of the public hearing. Visit [sacrt.com](http://sacrt.com) for details.

### **June 2020 Service Changes**

Beginning Sunday, June 14, SacRT will modify approximately 25 bus routes to add service frequency to better assist with social distancing and essential travel around the Sacramento region. For detailed information about each route, visit [sacrt.com](http://sacrt.com) and click on the June 2020 Service Changes link or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

In addition, SacRT is modifying Route 75. To improve operational efficiencies, the current bus route will be amended to create two routes: Route 75 and a new Route 78. See details below:

Route 75: Mather (7 days a week)

The new Route 75 will operate hourly and continue to serve the areas east of the Mather Field/Mills light rail station. The new route will include four additional morning trips to provide an earlier start time.

Route 78: Butterfield (7 days a week)

The new Route 78 will operate hourly and serve the portion of the current Route 75 that operates on Folsom Boulevard between Butterfield and Mather Field/Mills light rail stations.

As a reminder, SacRT is currently operating on a modified schedule due to ridership impacts related to COVID-19. For details, visit [sacrt.com/schedules](https://sacrt.com/schedules).