

## **Next Stop News August 2019**

- **Major bus service changes will start on Sunday, September 8**
- **SacRT GM/CEO receives 2019 transportation industry honor**
- **Student Fare-Free Program to start on Tuesday, October 1**
- **SacRT's pre-paid ticket and pass exchange ends Saturday, August 31**

### **Rider Alert**

#### **Major Bus Service Changes Effective September 8, 2019**

Are you ready for SacRT's new bus network launching on Sunday, September 8? Check out [sacrt.com/forward](http://sacrt.com/forward) for information about route changes, including those that serve Sacramento City Unified School District schools. Almost every bus route has been adjusted to improve frequency, scheduling, and weekend service. Use the SacRT Forward trip planner to discover your new route on the next generation bus network. Simply enter any date starting from September 8, your starting point and your destination to find out which route or routes you will use on the new bus network.

As part of system improvements, new bus stop signs will start appearing at bus stops throughout SacRT's service area. The new signs not only feature a new look, but also include the bus route number, destination and the bus stop number on the front and back of the sign.

The SacRT Forward outreach team continues to ride the affected routes to talk with riders about the future changes and improvements. Look for the SacRT Forward outreach bus, which is traveling to community events and transit centers to provide information and offer trip planning assistance on the new bus network.

There are adjustments to almost every bus route making the new bus system user-friendly with more direct routes seven days a week. Visit [sacrt.com/forward](http://sacrt.com/forward) to view all the bus route improvements, a fact sheet on the project and to sign up to receive updates on the project.

#### **September Service Changes:**

(Changes effective, Sunday, September 8, 2019)

##### Major Service Improvements

Bus Routes: 1, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 34, 38, 51, 56, 61, 62, 67, 68, 72, 75, 81, 82, 84, 86, 87, 88 and 93

##### All Day Bus Service to Peak Hour

Bus Routes: 2, 5, 6, 34, 113 (new route) and 161 (new route)

##### Discontinued Bus Routes (most service will be covered by new routes)

Bus Routes: 22, 24, 28, 47, 54, 55, 65, 74, 80 and 95

### New Route Numbers

Bus Routes: 3 (103), 7 (107), 29 (129), and 103 (193)

### Minor or No Route Changes

Bus Routes: 30, 33, 109, 170, 171, 172, 174, 175, 176, 177 and 200 series

Once the service changes are implemented, SacRT will continuously monitor each route to optimize and adjust service on a quarterly basis as needed. For more information on the project, visit [sacrt.com/forward](http://sacrt.com/forward) or email [sacrtforward@sacrt.com](mailto:sacrtforward@sacrt.com) or call 916-557-4545.

### **Call Center Hours Expanded**

In order to provide exceptional customer service for current riders and new riders in preparation for the launch of the new bus network, SacRT's Customer Service Call Center hours will be temporarily expanded. Effective Sunday, September 8, the new hours will be:

- Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The expanded hours will be in effect for 90 days and extended if needed.

### **Ride for Clean Air During the 33rd Annual Breathe Bike Trek**

Join staff from SacRT on the annual Breathe Bike Trek, a three-day bicycle ride in support of Breathe California's programs for clean air and healthy lungs. SacRT has been a long-time sponsor of the event, which raise funds that support local programs to prevent youth from smoking, screen for asthma, promote the use of electric vehicles, reduce the pollution from food waste, and more. Breathe also works to coordinate the policy efforts of multiple resource and environmental agencies in the Sacramento region.

From Friday, September 6 through Sunday, September 8, 2019, participating cyclists will camp in Petaluma and ride through the beautiful back roads of Sonoma and Marin counties. Back at camp, riders will be pampered with fully catered meals and beverages, and have the opportunity to participate in contests during the three-day Trek.

To register and learn how to improve the quality of your environment while having fun, check out the Bike Trek at: [sacbreathe.org/events/breathe-bike-trek](http://sacbreathe.org/events/breathe-bike-trek). To learn more about Breathe California's many programs, visit [sacbreathe.org](http://sacbreathe.org).

## **SacRT GM/CEO Receives Transportation Industry Honor**

Henry Li, SacRT's General Manager/CEO, received the 2019 Outstanding Public Transportation Manager Award from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). This prestigious and highly competitive award, described by APTA as the equivalent of an Oscar award to the industry, is presented to a manager who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of public transportation in North America.

Li was honored with the award based on his vision, dedication and leadership in taking SacRT to the next level in becoming a world-class mobility provider. SacRT has made historic improvements over the last three years with a strong focus on Customers First and Business Optimization initiatives that include: safety, security, cleanliness, fiscal health, rail system modernization, service reliability, customer satisfaction and ridership improvements. Humbled and grateful to receive the award, Li however attributes much of the transformational success to the leadership and support from SacRT's Board, the hard work and dedication of employees, and the collaboration and support from riders, community stakeholders and advocates.

## **Students Ride Free Starting October 1**

SacRT has partnered with the City of Sacramento to offer fare-free transit for students in grades TK through 12 to ride SacRT buses and light rail vehicles. Students who either go to school within the city limits of Sacramento or reside within the city limits, but attend a school outside the city's boundaries are eligible. SacRT is actively working with the cities of Folsom, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento County to expand the program district-wide.

If all jurisdictions choose to participate, the SacYOUthGo program will provide over 200,000 students the opportunity to ride any of SacRT's fixed-route, SmART Ride microtransit shuttles or light rail trains at any time free of charge. The program will last one year and run from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. The participating jurisdictions are providing the fare revenue to SacRT that would normally be paid by the students, so there is very little financial impact to SacRT.

The student fare-free passes will be made available in the form of a sticker to be placed directly on the student's school identification (ID) card, allowing schools to print and issue ID cards with the transit pass sticker already affixed to them.

The SacYOUthGo program is expected to grow school attendance, provide transit for extracurricular activities and part-time jobs, all while leading to additional education funding from the state, reducing congestion and helping to build future transit riders for life.

More information on the program is available at [SacYOUthGo.com](http://SacYOUthGo.com).

### **SacRT Job Applications Now Available Online**

Applying for a job at SacRT just got easier. SacRT has joined more than 1,500 organizations nationally who use NEOGOV Human Resources management software. NEOGOV's software will streamline the job search and application process for interested job seekers. Candidates will be able to create a user profile to submit applications electronically, instead of manually applying for multiple job openings. For a listing of current openings and to create an account on NEOGOV, visit [sacrt.com/careers](http://sacrt.com/careers).

### **Pre-paid Ticket and Pass Exchange Ends August 31**

As a reminder, effective July 1, 2019, SacRT buses and light rail fare vending machines no longer accept pre-paid tickets and passes with a June 30, 2019 expiration date. Customers have the option to exchange current, unvalidated Basic and Discount single fare paper tickets or daily passes (June 30, 2019 expiration date) for the fare equivalent value only on electronic media (Connect Card or ZipPass) or paper fare media.

To exchange pre-paid tickets and passes, visit the SacRT Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street Station). To make it more convenient, the sales center will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through Friday, August 30, and open on Saturday, August 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit [sacrt.com](http://sacrt.com) for a list of exchange locations at key light rail stations.

### **Ride SacRT to the 9th Annual Banana Festival**

Celebrate one of America's favorite fruits by attending the 9th annual Banana Festival on Saturday, August 10, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., or Sunday, August 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will take place at William Land Park in the Green Village area at the corner of Freeport Boulevard and Sutterville Road.

Showcasing the beautiful countries of the world where bananas are grown, the Banana Festival is a great family-friendly, multi-cultural event. Festival highlights include music, dancing, exhibits, "Best Banana" costume contest, cooking demonstrations and more ... all featuring bananas, of course!

The Banana Festival is hosted by the National Academic Youth Corps, a non-profit youth services agency, which provides art and educational programs for over 15,000 people every year. Adult general admission is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the gate and free for children age 5 and under.

Take light rail to the City College Station (Saturday or Sunday) or bus route 62 (Saturday only) to South Land Park Drive, both are just a short walk to William Land Park. For route and schedule information, visit [sacrt.com](http://sacrt.com) or call 916-321-BUSS (2877). For more information about the festival, visit [sacbananafestival.com](http://sacbananafestival.com).