

Next Stop News June 2020

INSIDE:

- SacRT implements best practices to create a safer transit environment
- June 2020 service improvements includes more bus service and three expanded SmaRT Ride zones
- SacRT GO Paratransit Services is getting ready to launch on June 28
- Help reduce touchpoints by purchasing SacRT fare via ZipPass mobile fare app or Connect Card

SacRT Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Available for Comment

SacRT is seeking public comment on SacRT's Fiscal Year 2021 Operating and Capital Budget. A hearing took place online on May 11 during the regularly scheduled SacRT Board of Directors 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 are expected to adopt the budget on Monday,

June 8. To review the preliminary budget, visit sacrt.com or call 916-556-0449 to request to review a printed copy. The public is encouraged to comment by:

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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 for details.

June 2020 Service Improvements Provide More Bus Service

SacRT is adding additional weekday bus service and expanding three SmarT Ride service zones to help essential employees get to work and allow customers to travel to other vital destinations around the region. This change will partially restore bus service levels to approximately 80 percent of SacRT's regular service levels (pre-COVID-19). The new bus schedules will take effect on Sunday, June 14 and the new SmarT Ride zone expansions will begin on Monday, June 15.

The June 2020 service improvements will include earlier start times for most weekday bus routes, additional trips at the end of the route, and/or added frequency during peak hours to better serve riders. Weekend bus service will not be affected. In addition, SacRT will continue to operate a Sunday/holiday schedule on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays (except for bus routes 78 and 142).

Weekday bus departure and arrival times will change for most routes. Please visit sacrt.com/juneservice for a summary of the changes and to view the new timetables, or look for a printed June 2020 Service and Safety Improvement brochure placed on all bus and light rail vehicles.

SacRT's WiFi Buses Connect Communities

SacRT has teamed up with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and the City of Sacramento to equip buses with free wireless hotspots in communities with limited high-speed internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are 10 WiFi Buses that are stationed at two locations each day, seven days a week; 8:30 a.m. to noon, and 3 p.m. to 6:30 pm. These Wi-Fi super hotspots are outfitted with combinations of equipment provided free of charge by project partners: Aruba, AT&T, Cradlepoint, Sierra Wireless, T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless to offer free high-speed connectivity with a range of up to 1,800 feet.

High-need locations are selected with input from local school districts, community organizations and digital divide research, as well as the ability for users to maintain physical distancing and follow public health guidelines. The Sacramento Public Library is providing bus parking at its branches and robust online resources for students to access when connected to the WiFi Bus network. We ask everyone to make sure they maintain a distance of at least six feet if standing near the WiFi Bus. Get the WiFi Bus schedule and learn more about how it works, including a new free WiFi Bus locator mobile app, at www.thewifibus.com.

Causeway Connection Electric Bus Service Continues with Modified Schedule

Due to impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the new Causeway Connection (Route 138) zero emission bus service between Davis and Sacramento launched with a modified schedule on May 4. The modified Route 138 Causeway Connection bus operates Monday through Friday with three morning trips and two afternoon trips between Davis and the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

SacRT and Yolobus are operating the bus service in tandem and are monitoring ridership to determine when additional trips need to be added. Masks or face coverings are required on Causeway Connection buses. View the map and schedule at causewayconnection.com.

Get Your Transit Questions Answered During “Transit Talk”

Join SacRT’s General Manager/CEO Henry Li on Friday, June 5, to get your SacRT questions answered during the Transit Talk monthly chat. To participate, submit your questions online on Friday, June 5 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. They will be answered during the chat from noon to 1 p.m. Visit sacrt.com/onlinechat to participate. In the meantime, if you have any SacRT questions, please call Customer Service at 916-321-BUSS (2877).

SacRT GO Paratransit Services Launches June 28

Starting on Sunday, June 28, SacRT will bring the operation of its ADA paratransit service in house. The only change to the future ADA paratransit service is that SacRT will operate the service directly instead of contracting it out. The new service will be called SacRT GO Paratransit Services. The new SacRT GO team will include many of the same drivers and reservationists that are currently operating the service. Current service levels (ADA and non-ADA service) will not change and fares will not increase.

SacRT’s number one priority is the safety and well-being of its customers and employees especially those that are most vulnerable, by taking all necessary precautions against the spread of COVID-19. This includes providing personal protective equipment (PPEs) to SacRT employees and requiring that masks or face coverings be worn in the workplace. In addition, SacRT is regularly sanitizing all vehicles and facilities.

For more information, visit sacrtgo.com or contact SacRT’s Accessible Services department at 916-557-4685 or paratransit@sacrt.com. SacRT GO staff will begin taking ride reservations on Friday, June 26. The reservation phone number will be 916-321-BUSS (2877), select option 2.

SacRT Implementing Best Safety Practices as Riders Return

As state and county restrictions start to ease, SacRT is committed to making the riding experience as safe as possible. Right from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, SacRT's number one priority has been and continues to be the health, safety and well-being of its customers and employees. In response, SacRT has implemented and/or increased the following best practices to create a safer transit environment:

- Blocking off certain seats in buses and light rail trains to provide physical distancing
- Installing protective plexi-glass barriers on each bus by the driver's seat to reduce risk when paying fare
- Requiring all employees and riders to wear a face covering or mask*
- Fogging and disinfecting buses, light rail trains and facilities
- Cleaning and sanitizing all touch points
- Providing employees with personal protective equipment (PPE) such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, disposable gloves, masks and safety glasses
- Reminding riders to maintain social distancing at stations/stops and onboard vehicles
- Urging riders to download ZipPass the free mobile fare app to reduce touchpoints
- Light rail fare inspectors sanitizing the portable Connect Card tap device after each validation
- Asking customers to not ride transit if they are sick

How you can help:

- Practice social distancing by keeping at least six feet between you and other riders, including our operators
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw that tissue in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, use your elbow
- Stay home if you're not feeling well

Even if you are not riding with SacRT just yet, rest assured when the time is right, SacRT is preparing for your return. For more information, visit sacrt.com/covid19.

Three SmaRT Ride Zones Expanding This Month

SacRT is expanding three popular SmaRT Ride microtransit service zones, Franklin-South Sacramento, North Sacramento and Rancho Cordova, on Monday, June 15. The Franklin-South Sacramento and Rancho Cordova zones will also transition to corner-to-corner service, which means passengers are picked up and dropped off at the nearest corner or 'virtual bus stop,' which is usually within a block or two of their pickup or drop-off location.

SmaRT Ride is similar to other ride-share services where customers can use a smartphone app to request a ride that will pick up and drop off passengers within the service boundaries. The expansions to these zones will better serve riders in these communities, and allow increased access to grocery stores and other essential services. Visit sacrt.com/smartride for maps and details.