

**Next Stop News
June 2016**

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RT to Implement Fare Increase on July 1, 2016

Effective Friday, July 1, 2016, RT will implement a fare increase. RT fiscal projections show that the modest increase across all fare types, in addition to planned streamlining efforts, will enable RT to have a balanced budget.

RT has not increased fares since 2009. While inflation has increased over the years, RT has kept operating and maintenance costs below the rate of inflation.

Lower gas prices have resulted in RT receiving less money from a state tax on diesel fuels dedicated to fund public transit operations. In addition, RT receives one-sixth of a cent in funding from local taxes, while other large California transit agencies receive a half-cent, full-cent or more to fund their transit operations.

In November 2015, the RT board of directors adopted four fiscal policies focused on ensuring that RT remains financially sustainable. The Comprehensive Reserve Policy formalizes a fiscally responsible strategy for establishing, maintaining, and building reserves to address RT's needs. The Fiscal Sustainability Policy establishes sustainability and cost control as clear and strategic priorities for RT. The Farebox Recovery Policy establishes guidelines for determining and realizing the role of fares in meeting RT's financial obligations. The Fare Change Policy establishes guidelines for planning and implementing fare changes.

RT is committed to these policies to improve the quality of service and to create a better passenger experience. RT is working to upgrade light rail stations; increase fare inspection by hiring up to 30 transit agents (fare checkers); improve station, bus stop and vehicle cleanliness through community partnerships and additional cleaning staff; and offer new technology for customer convenience.

New fare media with a June 30, 2017 expiration date is available for purchase (at the new fare rate).

Rider Alert

Route 54: Center Parkway (Weekday Route and Schedule Changes)

Service on Gerber Road, east of Power Inn Road, to the Elk Grove Adult Education Center will be discontinued at the request of the Elk Grove Unified School District. Route 54 will be modified to serve Gerber Road, Palmer House Drive and Scottsdale Drive back to Power Inn Road to the Florin light rail station.

Weekday trips traveling to the Florin Station will depart Gerber Road and Power Inn Road at 5:27 a.m., 5:55 a.m., 6:25 a.m., 6:55 a.m., 7:56 a.m., 8:56 a.m., 9:56 a.m., 10:56 a.m., 11:55 a.m., 12:55 p.m., 1:55 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:55 p.m., 4:56 p.m. and 5:56 p.m. Arrival times at the Florin Station will not change.

Weekday trips departing the Florin Station will arrive at Gerber Road and Power Inn Road at 6:50 a.m., 7:20 a.m., 7:50 a.m., 8:20 a.m., 9:20 a.m., 10:20 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 12:20 p.m., 1:21 p.m., 2:21 p.m., 3:21 p.m., 4:21 p.m., 5:21 p.m., 5:51 p.m., 6:49 p.m. and 7:49 p.m. No other trip times will be affected.

New RT Board of Directors Meeting Time

Effective May 23, all regularly scheduled RT Board of Directors meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. (previously board meetings began at 6 p.m.). This time change was approved during the April 25 meeting, when the RT Board of Directors amended and restated Title III, the Board's Rules of Procedures.

Additionally, as part of the restated Title III, the RT Board of Directors will allow a maximum of 30 minutes of public testimony at the beginning of the agenda under the item "Public Addresses Board on Matters Not on the Agenda." Once 30 minutes has been reached, there will be no more testimony until the end of the agenda if there are people still signed up to speak. However, if all testimony at the beginning of the agenda is received within the 30 minutes, no further testimony will be allowed at the end of the agenda.

If you would like to give testimony during RT board meetings, be sure to arrive on time to sign up. RT's Board of Directors encourages public participation at its meetings.

RT Extends Mobile Fare App Pilot Program

To improve the convenience of buying tickets and passes, RT launched a new “RideSacRT” mobile fare app in January 2016. The mobile fare app allows customers to purchase, save and use fare for RT bus and light rail trips directly from a smartphone.

The six-month pilot program, developed by mobile payment provider Passport, has been extended until December 31, 2016. After the conclusion of the pilot program, RT will transition RideSacRT to a permanent mobile app with additional features.

The mobile fare app currently offers Basic and Discount single ride tickets and daily passes. An added benefit to using the mobile fare app is that single ride fare is valid for up to 90 minutes once activated, which means that an RT mobile ticket can be used to ride both bus and light rail. However, the ticket must be valid for the duration of a light rail trip.

Tickets and passes can be purchased now and stored on the mobile fare app for use until June 30, 2016. Tickets and passes purchased on or after July 1, 2016, will be at the new rate and valid until December 31, 2016.

The mobile app is available for download at the App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android). For more information, visit sacrt.com or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

Pre-Paid Ticket and Pass Exchange

(June 1 through August 31)

Effective June 30, 2016, RT buses and light rail fare vending machines will not accept pre-paid tickets and passes with a June 30, 2016 expiration date.

RT previously announced that pre-paid tickets and passes with a June 30, 2016 expiration date would not be exchanged for new fare media. The current pre-paid tickets and passes were set to expire with the expected implementation of the Sacramento region's Connect Card electronic fare payment system. Regional partners continue to prepare for the implementation of the Connect Card; however, RT will now need to conduct a pre-paid ticket and pass exchange.

From June 1 through August 31, 2016, customers may exchange current, unvalidated Basic and Discount single fare tickets or daily passes (June 30, 2016 expiration date) for new fare media (June 30, 2017 expiration date) at the RT Customer Service and Sales Center. Additional payment for new fare media may be required due to the RT fare increase effective July 1, 2016.

RT Customer Service and Sales Center

1225 R Street

(adjacent to the 13th Street light rail station)
Weekdays: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Customer Service and Sales Center will be closed on Monday, July 4 and weekends except for the dates listed.

Extended Weekday Hours:

- June 1 through June 10 – 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- June 27 through July 8 – 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Special Saturday Hours:

- Saturday, June 25 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Saturday, August 27 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Important Dates:

- Wednesday, June 1 – Pre-paid ticket and pass exchange begins
- Thursday, June 30 – Current pre-paid tickets and passes expire
- Friday, July 1 – New pre-paid tickets and passes in effect
- Wednesday, August 31 – Pre-paid ticket and pass exchange ends

RT to Consider January 2017 Service Changes

RT is currently developing a plan for potential service changes effective January 1, 2017, that will address routes that do not meet minimum productivity standards, and streamline bus and light rail service systemwide.

The service changes may include, but are not limited to, the reduction, realignment or discontinuation of the following routes: Green Line, 2, 5, 6, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 34, 38, 47, 54, 62, 65, 74, 75, 80, 85, 95, Citrus Heights City Ride and Granite Park Shuttle.

The draft plan was released online at sacrt.com on Friday, May 13 and is available for a 30-day public review period until Monday, June 13.

RT staff presented the draft plan to the RT Board of Directors on May 23 and will present a revised plan for approval on Monday, June 27. The RT Board of Directors meetings will be held in the RT Auditorium at 1400 29th Street (at N Street) at 5:30 p.m.

RT held four open houses in May to discuss proposed service changes and receive public comments. One additional open house will be held in June. The public can also provide comments by email, mail or phone.

Open House:

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tsakapolous Library Galleria
828 I Street, Sacramento

Accessible by light rail to the 8th & K Station, 8th & H/County Center Station and St. Rose of Lima Park (9th & K) Station, and Routes 2, 6, 11, 15, 30, 34, 38, 51, 62, 86 and 88

To request language interpretation services, call 916-557-4545 no later than three business days in advance of the open house.

Email:

customeradvocacy@sacrt.com

Mail:

Customer Advocacy Department
Sacramento Regional Transit District
P.O. Box 2110
Sacramento, CA 95812-2110

Phone:

Comments: 916-557-4545

Language Assistance: 916-557-4545

Get Your RT Student Photo ID Card Now

Why wait until the school year begins – get your RT Student photo ID card now and ride at a discounted rate all summer!

RT Student photo ID cards are available for only \$2 during the months of June, July and August (regularly \$3). Students (age 5 to 18) must show proof of school enrollment or be accompanied by a parent or guardian to receive the RT Student photo ID card. To purchase your RT Student photo ID card, stop by the Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street light rail station) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Extended Weekday Hours:

- June 1 through June 10 – 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- June 27 through July 8 – 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Special Saturday Hours:

- Saturday, June 25 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Saturday, August 27 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

With a Student photo ID card, customers may purchase monthly and semi-monthly Student stickers (fare) at retail outlets throughout the Sacramento region (valid sticker must be affixed to a valid RT Student photo ID card).

Celebrate 4th of July in Rancho Cordova

If you are looking for some family fun this Independence Day, look no further than Rancho Cordova's 4th of July Celebration! The celebration spans from Sunday, July 3 to Monday, July 4 and will be held at Hagan Community Park. Activities include a 5k walk/run, hometown parade, carnival, BMX shows, live music, fireworks and much more!

This event is easily accessible riding RT. Take light rail (Gold Line) to the Mather Field/Mills Station, or take Route 21 to Hagan Community Park (Coloma Road).

For more information about the event, visit ranchocordovajuly4th.com. For route and schedule information, visit sacrt.com or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).