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**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Zoom meeting was called to order at **2:30 p.m.**

**INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF**

**Present Members:** Charles Johnson, Pam Flohr, Allan Ruzich, Gene Lozano, Hugh Lafler, Frank Trujillo, Jeff Thom, Helen O’Connell, Margie Donovan, German Ayon **SacRT Staff:** Carmen Alba, Sue Bianchi, Priscilla Vargas, Kathy Sachen, Edward Eugene, Charity Oakley, Jamie Adelman, Casey Courtright, Vinit Budhiraja, Craig Norman, Rose Patton, Adrinus Pernell, Evelyn Anderson, Mohammed Shahid, Jamie Poole, Holly Martinez, Gregg Fishman, Devra Selenis, Charity Oakley, Craig Norman, Jessica Gonzalez, Sarah Poe, Jenny Nielo, Laura Ham, James Drake, Anthony Adams, **Guests:** Jeffery Tardaguila, Lisa Capperlari, Jim Kaiser, Jaci Tatro, Regina Brink, Stephanie Watts, Sheri Bates, Amy Parkin, Alicia Brown, Cory dePasquale

**Absent Members: All members present**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION**: Margie Donovan motioned to propose an amendment to the December 1, 2022, minutes Jeff Thom seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as amended. No abstentions. The December 1, 2022, meeting minutes amendment reflects the comment made by Margie Donovan stating that all new signals to be installed in the Central City Mobility Project need to be equipped with an accessible pedestrian signal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Tardaguila discussed the Route 51 bus stop, he would like James Drake from SacRT to address the concern. He also stated that there are bus locations that are not in the bus system, would like those bus stops to be re-examined and determined so that SacRT is reliable to those who use the services. He thanked the RT Accessible Services staff for correcting the website with the correct zoom information for the MAC meetings.

**CHAIR REPORT**

1. **MAC Letter of Support – SacRT Rail Car Replacement Program (Attachment 2)**

MAC received a request for the MAC to support a grant application submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the rail vehicle replacement program. The timeframe for this letter to get submitted was before we had the MAC meeting and per the By-laws, the Executive Committee is permitted to take care of MAC business between meetings. The Executive Committee was in full support and agreement to write a letter of support for this application. This application will help SacRT acquire more light rail cars soon. Gene Lozano motioned to approve and ratify the letter. Pam Flohr seconded the motion.

1. **MAC Handbook Update**

Priscilla Vargas stated the handbook is almost ready to be distributed to the members, there are a few minor edits to finalize. The handbook will be sent to all members in the format they have requested.

1. **Subcommittee Assignments**

MAC members were asked to confirm which committee they would like to serve on. Charles Johnson, Chair explained what each committee does, so each MAC member can make an informed decision about which committee on which to serve.

TC&P Committee members will include, Frank Trujillo, German Ayon, Helen O’Connell, Margie Donovan, Pam Flohr. A&I Committee members will include, Gene Lozano, Hugh Lafler, Jeff Thom, and Alan Ruzich.

1. **Election of Subcommittee Officers at the February 2, 2023, MAC Meeting**

Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair for each subcommittee will be held in February 2023. The MAC meeting will be recessed, so that Gene Lozano can open a meeting of the A&I Subcommittee for the sole purpose of electing chair and vice-chair. After that has been accomplished, Gene Lozano will close the meeting and Frank Trujillo, Acting Chair of TC&P will open the meeting for the sole purpose of electing chair and vice-chair. Once that is done, the general MAC meeting will reconvene. Chair Johnson confirmed that the term of office is two years, and the Committee elections are held on odd years with MAC elections on even years.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **MAC Workplan 2023**

Chair Johnson, spoke about issues reading the WORD and PDF documents that he sent to the Executive Committee members. Gene Lozano noted that the issues vary per individual. Margie Donovan is going to have her IT contact look at the coding in the documents and report back to the group once she has new information. Please send comments and try to get them in by January 17, 2023. The Executive Committee will go over them and bring recommendations to the MAC members at the next meeting.

1. **Electronic Fare Systems Update**

Casey Courtright, Director, Grants & Capital Programming, gave an update on the procurement for some hardware to do an electronic fares demonstration on the SacRT Tap to Ride fare system. He stated that it is still a work in progress and that they are making updates to the Zip pass application. They will add the SacRT 60 pass to the zip pass. He will continue to work with Kathy Sachen’s team and will provide an update soon as to when they will launch the changes to the zip pass application.

1. **Bus Stop Improvement Plan Update**

James Drake, Principal Planner, gave an update on the Bus Stop Improvement Plan. He stated that the Draft Plan release target date is on Monday, January 9, 2023. The project has a tight deadline, it is grant funded and ultimately, they would like to wrap up all work by February 28, 2023. Civic Thread and SacRT have hosted a series of open houses to obtain public input, including work from their partners at Civic Thread. If you would like to learn more about the Bus Stop Improvement plan, you can go to SacRT’s website and search bus stop improvement plan to learn more about this project. Jeff Tardaguila asked if any of the provisions are on Broadway and/or Stockton Blvd? James Drake responded by stating that Broadway and Stockton are not included in the bus stop improvement plan because the City of Sacramento has an ongoing project on those streets. Specifically, regarding the cemetery stop, he stated the city plans to relocate the Route 51 bus stop 150 feet west to a better location. Chair Johnson confirmed that the group received an update on the City of Sacramento’s Broadway project last month.

1. **SacRT Rebranding Survey Feedback**

Jessica Gonzalez, Director, Marketing, Communications & Public Information, gave an overview of SacRT brand logo. The goal is to modernize SacRT’s brand and increase the visibility by helping the riders and community members better identify SacRT vehicles and all the services that SacRT provides through consistent imagery. This is especially important as we are preparing to receive the delivery of our new low floor light rail trains, so as part of this project, we are working with Seibert Perkins Design, who conducted a survey interview to get community feedback on brand perception and the knowledge of security. Sheri Bates and Corey dePasquale from Seibert Perkins Design conducted an audit to analyze all the existing communications. She discussed the 3 project phases, which consist of Research & Discovery, Brand Design, and Brand Guidelines & Training. The Seibert Perkins team was able to outline how many different improvements they could make across these communications. She displayed and discussed the survey, where they collected 440 responses from riders. Some of the highlights from the survey include, 56% of respondents ride with SacRT three or more days per week, 87% of respondents were able to recall the current brand. 54% of respondents plan their trip with SacRT’s website and 44% of respondents rated SacRT’s overall experience above a 7 out of 10. The findings suggest that all parties are interested in an evolved brand for the SacRT transit system. Gene Lozano requested that the logo be more descriptive so that the screen reading software captures the logo. He is pleased to hear about the yellow and blue color, it is a good color combination for people with low vision. He recommended they look into color options for people who have color blindness. Helen O’Connell requested that the logo be mid-level on the trains, so it is easier to view and/read. There will be a second survey in the next few weeks to vote on the logo options. Jessica Gonzalez will inform the MAC members in advance when the survey is ready to be distributed.

1. **Low Floor 1 – Prototype Construction Update (Sue Bianchi, Senior Civil Engineer)**

Sue Bianchi, Senior Civil Engineer gave a brief overview of the low floor prototype construction. She stated that the low floor construction at the 59th Street Station is currently ready to start on Friday, February 3, 2023. The station will be closed for 30 days, and it will return to normal service on Saturday, March 4, 2023. A bus bridge will be in place during the station closure for customers needing to board or get off the train at the 59th Street Station. There will be some preparatory construction work prior to the station closure. Marketing is working on getting the station closure information out to the public as soon as possible. She spoke to the contractor about the audible information devices; they are looking into these devices for this project. SacRT Management will need to decide on the devices. Gene Lozano would like to know when the decision will be made on the audible signs from management. Carmen Alba stated that there have been a few meetings internally to discuss the audible devices and will discuss the outcome with MAC.

1. **Siemens S700 Site Visit Update – Site Visit scheduled on January 19, 2023 (Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer)**

Priscilla Vargas, ADA Compliance Officer, confirmed that the site visit will be at 2 pm on January 19, 2023, to focus on the bridge plate. The SacRT engineering department as well as staff from the FTA will be in attendance. She will be working on getting more information about the site visit and will keep everyone informed in advance.

1. **SacRT Web Support and Administrative Services Procurement Update (Vinit Budhiraja, Senior Manager, Information Technology)**

Vinit Budhiraja, Senior Manager, Information Technology, confirmed that they have completed the internal review and the RFQ as a package is with legal procurement for final review and release. The proposed changes will be WCAG 2.1 compliant. He stated that they noted that there are some forms that were complex, and even though they are making them accessible, they’re still not easy or comfortable with all the tools available. They will be adding another element to simplify the forms and PDFs to make sure they are easily readable.

1. **SacRT GO Paratransit Services Operation Update (Ed Eugene, Transportation Superintendent)**

Ed Eugene, Transportation Superintendent, reported the ridership numbers for November 2022. For SacRT Go Ridership, there were 17,740 rides. UZURV ridership for the same month was 5,197 rides. The total rides for November 2022 totaled 22,937. Fiscal Year to date for SacRT GO rides were 89,422 and for UZURV it was 23,978. Chair Johnson asked how the API is working between UZURV and SacRT GO. Ed Eugene confirmed that there are a few minor details to work out but overall, the API is working as intended. Jeff Thom stated he has noticed within the last month that SacRT ‘s on time performance has improved and they are adjusting times when they use UZURV rides. Stephanie Watts requested that SacRT consider providing riders with safety options when using UZURV and how passengers can reach out for help when there are safety issues or concerns. Priscilla Vargas responded to Stephanie Watts and confirmed that safety is at the forefront and will continue to work with UZURV on safety protocols for passengers using the service.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Proposed MAC 2023 Calendar (Attachment 3\*)**

Chair Johnson pointed out that the meeting in July has been scheduled for July 13, 2023, so it doesn’t interfere with the July 4 holiday. All other dates for the remainder of the year will continue to be on the first Thursday of each month.

1. **Proposed Service Changes (James Drake, Principal Planner)**

James Drake, Senior Manager of Service Planning, stated that the proposed service changes are out now for public review. The effective date is April 2023. There are no changes. As a matter of our own policies and compliance with our federal grants, we are required to conduct public review. He spoke about service rollback on several bus routes over a year ago. That roll back was about 3% of bus service and was done on an emergency basis without a full group review under our policies and under Federal rules that govern SacRT. Temporary changes of no more than 12 months after those changes were put into effect in April 2022. Follow-up occurred in May 2022 with a traditional 30-day public review and analysis, and a plan to restore all those reductions in September that were reviewed and approved. Restoration was not implemented on 5 routes because operator availability was limited in September 2022. April 2023 will mark the end of that one-year period where those changes can be in effect without board approval and public review. They are hoping to restore the routes by the end of 2023. Jeff Thom requested that the summaries be written to make it clear to the reader of what the starting points mean.

1. **TC&P Meeting held on December 8, 2022, Update (Frank Trujillo, Chair)**

Chair Johnson stated this agenda item is tabled for this meeting, and will be discussed on February 2, 2023, MAC meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENT/COUNCIL MEMBERS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Margie Donovan stated she heard back from Steve Clark regarding the language tag in the documents. She stated that although the documents appear in English, for people using Jaws, you can turn off the language detector in jaws. If anyone is still having problems, they can call Freedom to fix.

For the February MAC Meeting, Gene Lozano would like an update on the status of the two elevators at Watt/I80 light rail station. The eastside elevator has not been operating for quite some time. The westbound elevator has worked off and on for the last few months. He also stated he would like the MAC to discuss with SacRT staff the possibility of the MAC having input on RFPs. He stated that MAC has had input in the past but has not seen actual text. He would like for MAC to be able to review and advise on RFPs. Lastly, he would like to have a discussion on advising SacRT on hiring an ADA contractor to do an ADA self-evaluation and Transition Plan.

Jeff Tardaguila expressed his concern with the bench seating area in the 2200 buses. He would like to see bucket seating on both sides rather than bench seating.

 Helen O’Connell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Margie Donovan seconded the motion.

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.**

The next Mobility Advisory Council meeting is on February 2, 2023, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

\*\*absence excused