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**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT**

**MOBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 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, Chris Flores**,** Staly Chin, Sue Bianchi, Priscilla Vargas, Kathy Sachen, Kevin Schroeder, Sarah Poe, Laura Ham, Jenny Nielo, Charity Oakley, Vinit Budhiraja, Craig Norman, Mohammed Shahid, Katrina Powell, Holly Martinez, Blanca Salcedo, James Drake, Lisa Hinz **Guests:** Jeffery Tardaguila, Kathryn Canepa, Lisa Capperlari, Jim Kaiser, Barbara Stanton, Tiffany Manosh, Stephanie Watts, Regina Brink **Absent Members: All members present.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION**: Margie Donovan motioned to approve minutes from the February 2, 2023, meeting.

Helen O’Connell seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote with one abstention from Gene Lozano.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Tardaguila requested more clarification from RT Staff about the location of the 2200 series bus manual release for the ramp.

Ms. Regina Brink would like to know if a courtesy call can be given to riders when a GO ride is being switched from UZURV to a SacRT GO vehicle. Priscilla Vargas confirmed that SacRT GO staff do contact all riders to alert them of any changes as soon as they occur.

**CHAIR REPORT**

**Election of Officers (TC&P and A&I Committees)**

TC&P Committee – Chair Nominations & Vote – Helen O’Connell and Margie Donovan were nominated to run for Chair of the Committee. They both gave a brief synopsis of their experience, and why they feel they would be the best person for the Chair position. The members of the TC&P voted to elect Helen O’Connell as the new Chair of the TC&P Committee.

TC&P Committee - Vice-Chair Nomination & Vote – Margie Donovan nominated herself as a candidate for the Vice-Chair position of the TC&P Committee. The TC&P members voted and elected Ms. Donovan as the new Vice-Chair of the TC&P Committee. The Acting Chair, Frank Trujillo adjourned the election meeting.

Gene Lozano, Chair of the A&I Committee, opened the meeting to elect the new committee Chair and Vice Chair. Gene Lozano nominated himself to remain Chair of the A&I Committee. The current members voted to retain Mr. Lozano as the TC&P Chair. Gene Lozano opened the floor to elect a new Vice-Chair for the committee. Jeff Thom nominated Allan Ruzich for Vice-Chair. The members voted to elect Alan Ruzich as Vice-Chair of the A&I Committee. Chair Lozano adjourned the election meeting. Chair Johnson reconvened the MAC meeting.

**SacRT GO 2023 Open Houses**

Priscilla Vargas stated that there will be 3 open houses this year for SacRT GO. The open houses are scheduled to be held on April 29, 2023, August 19, 2023, and December 9, 2023. The open houses are scheduled for Saturday’s and will be held in the SacRT Auditorium. Staff will be involved along with members from UZURV to answer any questions guests may have from 1-3 pm. Priscilla encouraged the group to attend the upcoming open house events if they are able. Chair Johnson stated he is looking forward to the discussions.

**MAC Meetings – Proposing Hybrid (In-person and Virtual) meetings beginning April 1, 2023**

Chair Johnson reminded everyone that the MAC Meetings starting April 6, 2023, will convene in person at the SacRT Auditorium and encouraged MAC members and RT Staff to attend in person. These meetings will also be virtual for those who may not be able to attend in person. Members of the public are invited to attend in person or virtually.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Bus Stop Improvement Plan (Kathryn Canepa, Civic Thread and Staly Chin, SacRT Student Intern)**

James Drake reported that as of Tuesday, February 28, 2023, the department posted their final Bus Stop Improvement Plan to SacRT.com website and this final posting has wrapped up the project. Mr. Drake introduced key SacRT staff members who are on the planning team as well as Kathryn Canepa from Civic Thread who was the project manager with whom they partnered with. Kathryn Canepa briefly stated this project started in June 2022; they received over 280 responses on a community survey which helped guide the remainder of the project. Civic Thread hired interns to assess over 780 bus stops on the Sacramento system. The priority corridors were chosen by looking at Sacramento County Justice areas and confirming where SacRT’s bus system overlapped due to significant underinvestment in the past due to the financial demographics of the area. Civic Thread also met with Sacramento County Department of Transportation as well as the Cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights to identify their priority project areas so that they could add those into the scope or avoid project improvement duplication existing spending efforts. After a year of work, the draft plan was published on January 9, 2023, and was circulated to the public for about 28 days, the public comment period wrapped up on February 3, 2023, and the final plan was published on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. Staly Chin reported that SacRT is proposing approximately 170 shelters across the system. With the help from Civic Thread, Mr. Chin stated that they were able to identify areas where the sidewalk isn’t wide enough for a wheelchair to wait for a bus. There are many places where there are no benches for people to sit nor adequate lighting. Through this plan 60 corridors and 600 bus stops will be improved for passenger experience. Next steps are to look for funding to bring the plan to life. James Drake will keep the MAC posted on any new updates.

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

Sue Bianchi reported that the prototype construction at the 59th street location was successful. The contractor was able to construct the entire raised platform to accommodate a 2 car, low floor train. The detectable warning tiles have been installed. The contractor still has the handrail and railings to install and will do so at the end of the month. In the last month, the raised platform was constructed at the 48th Street station on February 18, 2023. The contractor was able to place two audible information devices during the weekend closure. A bus bridge will be in place during the service disruption, and that will return to normal train service by the following Monday. The Marketing department will continue to post future updates onto various digital media outlets. There will be A-frames at the light rail stations affected by the construction as well as A-frames at bus bridge pickups and drop off locations. For the month of March 2023, she stated that construction is scheduled for 39th and 25th Street Stations. In April construction will begin at 23rd Street Station, 16th Street Station, 8th & O Station, and 8th & Capitol stations.

1. **SacRT GO Paratransit Services Operation Update (Kathy Sachen, Paratransit Manager and Charity Oakley, Transportation Superintendent)**

Charity Oakley discussed the SacRT GO Ridership for the month of January. SacRT GO had 17,295 riders, UZURV had 4,889 riders for a total of 22,184 riders for the month of January 2023, with the FY 2022-2023 total rides at 123,769. FY 2022-2023 for USURV was 33,987 rides for a total of 157,756 for FY 2022 -2023. Kathy Sachen gave a report on the on-time reports for SacRT GO and USURV. SacRT Go on time performance for January 2023 was 87 percent, UZURV on time performance was 85 percent, combined performance for both services were 87 percent. SacRT will have more hiring events to recruit for bus operators including Paratransit Operators. The hiring events are scheduled in June, September and December 2023. Chair Johnson requested to have a report on trips that are not on time at the next meeting and asked Kathy Sachen to provide a definition for on time performance at the April MAC meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **TC&P Meeting Update – December 8, 2022, Acting Chair Report (Frank Trujillo)**

Frank Trujillo stated that UZURV services have improved tremendously over the last 3 months since the Ecolane and UZURV API integration. He stated that now UZURV drivers have special notes on the App informing them on where exactly to pick up and drop off passengers, resulting in the experience using UZURV being much better. Margie Donovan asked how much information a USURV driver can see in advance of accepting a trip about the passengers, specifically with passengers who request a ride but did not inform the app that a service animal will be accompanying the passenger on the trip but decides to bring a service animal along for the trip. Priscilla Vargas stated that if a passenger has a service animal, USURV drivers are aware of this in advance. Ms. Donovan also asked a question about driver’s refusing rides to passengers who have service animals and was advised to discuss this item at the SacRT GO Open House where UZURV representatives will be in attendance.

1. **Local Transportation Funding Efforts and Measure A Update (Chris Flores, Chief of Staff and Laura Ham, VP Engineering and Planning)**

Chris Flores gave a presentation on local transportation funding efforts including the recent failure of Measure A. He discussed SacRT funding sources and stated that SacRT receives about 1/6 cent on the dollar from local sales tax verses some of the larger transit agencies. Los Angeles County receives 1 ½ cent on the dollar, and the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid receives 1 cent on the dollar on the local sales tax. Mr. Flores spoke about SacRT maintenance, operations, and transformative system improvements Measure A would have provided, including, but not limited to, bus and light rail vehicle zero emission replacement, RydeFree RT K-12th Fare Assistance, Senior/Disabled/Low Income Fare Assistance, Smart Ride and Safety and Security. ADA Senior Disabled transportation would have received approximately $250 million, 80 percent to SacRT and 20 percent to eligible transportation agencies to meet the increased demand for ADA paratransit service. There was study conducted that showed if Measure A passed, it would have created more than 121,000 jobs over the life of the program. The analysis also estimated that the expenditure plan would be able to leverage the new local funds to secure more than $13 billion in state and federal funding. He concluded his presentation by stating that SacRT can leverage a lot of funding, but without the local match, SacRT is not as competitive as it otherwise would be.

1. **Morrison Creek Station Modification Update (Kevin Schroeder, Senior Planner)**

Mr. Schroeder gave an update on the Morrison Creek Station Modification. He presented an aerial map of Morrison Creek. He stated that there is a bike and walking route there currently. The station is planned to have forty-foot buses in the future, and in doing so they designed the station it originally had a different developer’s street connection plans. SacRT met with a new developer to review street connection plans. The new plans show how the intersections will have a perfect 90-degree angle. The developer has asked SacRT if modification to our existing station would be allowable to best conform to their street design that has been almost fully approved by the city, and SacRT Planning has come to the MAC today with two parking lot perspective drawings. One option is keeping but modifying a crossing and the second option is removing one crossing. The first option requires the removal of one parking space and multiple phase approach to crossing into and out of the parking lot. He asked the question if the MAC would rather have two crossings into the station, or have one with potential connection through the parking lot but there is some southward movement to reconnect into a horizontal crossing into the station, or would the MAC rather have a solo entrance ADH Standard that is located on the south side of the intersection and understand this single entrance is acceptable for the patrons. He would like to get the MAC’s perspective and take this information back to the developers. He would like the MAC to get back to him as soon as possible. Chair Johnson stated that due to the geometry and logistics of the situation, MAC would not be able to provide him with an answer at today’s meeting and that they would need more time to really be able to review, discuss and decide which option would be best suitable.

1. **Title VI Report Update (Sarah Poe, Planner)**

Sarah Poe updated the MAC on the SacRT 2023 Title VI program. The document was posted online February 28, 2023, and SacRT currently has a 30-day public comment period on the program. This program is required every 3 years by the Federal Transit Administration as part of the Title VI program. Sarah noted that one important topic of discussion was that the service monitoring report for 2023 did not identify any disparities among minority and low-income routes. After the 30-day public comment period, SacRT will make any edits, and consider comments received. The report will be presented to the SacRT Board of Directors on April 24, 2023, for adoption.

1. **Reinstatement of Service Animal Ad-Hoc Committee (W. Charles Johnson, Chair)**

Chair Johnson requested that Jeff Thom reconvene the Service Animal Ad-Hoc Committee.

1. **SacRT GO Safety Strategy – SacRT Alerts App (Lisa Hinz, VP Safety, Security & Customer Satisfaction)**

Tabled for next meeting of April 6, 2023.

1. **SacRT TSA Gold Standard Award (Lisa Hinz, VP Safety, Security & Customer Service Satisfaction)**

Tabled for next meeting of April 6, 2023.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Pam Flohr acknowledged and congratulated Lisa Hinz on receiving the Gold Standard award.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Mobility Advisory Council is scheduled for April 6, 2023, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**