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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 will be available for purchase (at the new fare rate) beginning on Friday, May 20, 2016.

(The RT Fares chart goes here)

'Paid Fare Zone' Pilot Program Activated

In an effort to reduce fare evasion on light rail, RT has implemented a Paid Fare Zone pilot program at six light rail stations. Only passengers with a ticket or pass, or who are approaching the fare vending machine to purchase one, are permitted to be in the Paid Fare Zone.

The stations included in the pilot program are:

- Arden/Del Paso
- Alkali Flat/La Valentina
- St. Rose of Lima Park (9th & K)
- 16th Street
- Broadway
- Mather Field/Mills

RT Police Services staff may ask riders at the station to show a ticket or pass. If any person in the Paid Fare Zone does not have a valid ticket or pass, he or she will be directed to purchase one or leave the area. Violation of the Paid Fare Zone rules may result in a written citation.

The purpose of the Paid Fare Zone pilot program is to reduce fare evasion, decrease loitering at stations, and improve the riding experience for paying customers.

Rider Alert

Phase 1 Construction of RT Station Improvements to Start

RT will begin Phase 1 of a systemwide station improvement project on Monday, May 9, when construction begins to revitalize three light rail stations in downtown Sacramento.

The stations slated for improvements are the 7th & Capitol, 8th & K, and St. Rose of Lima Park (9th & K) stations. The construction is scheduled to be complete in September 2016.

The 7th & Capitol Station will be closed for approximately four months before a grand re-opening in September 2016. Passengers are encouraged to use the St. Rose of Lima Park (7th & K) or 8th & O light rail stations as alternatives.

The 7th & Capitol Station is planned as the flagship station for Golden 1 Center light rail service. A complete station renovation is planned, with the addition of two new shelters, new station furniture, improved lighting and additional signage highlighting the work.

New shelters, lighting and signage are planned for the 8th & K Station. The St. Rose of Lima Park (9th & K) Station will feature new lighting and signage. These two stations will remain open during construction.

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 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).

RT to Hold Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

RT is seeking public comment on RT’s Fiscal Year 2017 Operating and Capital Budget. The Preliminary Fiscal Year 2017 Operating and Capital Budget was released on April 25, 2016, for a 60-day public review period. The RT Board of Directors is expected to adopt the budget on Monday, June 27, 2016.

Comments will be accepted during the public hearing on Monday, May 23, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the RT Auditorium (1400 29th Street, Sacramento).

The public is encouraged to comment at the public hearing, or by:

Email:
hli@sacrt.com

Mail:
Henry Li, Assistant General Manager of Administration
Sacramento Regional Transit District
P.O. Box 2110
Sacramento, CA 95812-2110

Phone:
Comments: 916-557-4688
Language Assistance: 916-557-4688

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2016. To request language interpretation services, call 916-557-4688 no later than three business days in advance of the public hearing.

Visit sacrt.com for details

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, 51, 54, 62, 65, 74, 75, 85, 95 and the Citrus Heights City Ride.

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

RT staff will present the draft plan to the RT Board of Directors on Monday, 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 will hold five open houses to discuss proposed service changes and receive public comments. The public can also provide comments via email, mail or phone.

Open Houses:

Tuesday, May 17, 2016
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

RT Auditorium
1400 29th Street, Sacramento
Accessible by light rail to the 29th Street Station, and Routes 38, 67 and 68

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Mills Building - Mather Field/Mills Station
2900 Mather Field Road, Rancho Cordova
Accessible by light rail to the Mather Field/Mills Station, and Routes 21, 28, 72, 74 and 75

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Citrus Heights Community Center
6300 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights
Accessible by Routes 1, 23 and 95

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sam & Bonnie Pannell Community Center
2450 Meadowview Road, Sacramento
Accessible by Routes 47 and 56

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 6, 7, 11, 15, 30, 38, 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

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.

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

12th Annual Multicultural Family Festival

On Saturday, May 28 (Memorial Day weekend), stop by the 12th annual Multicultural Family Festival for free, family-friendly entertainment at William Land Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will include a variety of fun activities, including pony rides, jumbo inflatables, rock climbing wall, miniature train rides, trampolines, face painting and more. Guests can also enjoy food from local food trucks and watch stage entertainment by

professional dancers, gymnasts and athletes. The festival promotes sustainability, encourages healthy living and embraces inclusion.

Remember to stop by RT's booth. William Land Park is served by Route 62. For route and schedule information, visit sact.com or call 916-321-BUSS (2877). For more information about the festival, call 916-470-2256.