

NEXT STOP NEWS

INSIDE:



RydeFreeRT makes back to school easy!



Federal mask mandate onboard public transportation extended to January 18, 2022



Free rides on SacRT Airport Express through September 4



\$1 single fare to ride light rail in September when you Tap to Ride onboard

SEPTEMBER 2021



RydeFreeRT Makes Back to School Easy!

With RydeFreeRT, youth can ride the entire SacRT transit network, including SacRT buses, light rail, and Smart Ride on-demand microtransit service for FREE during regular service hours.

Students just need a school student ID card or a RydeFreeRT card. No sticker is required to ride. Schools will be issuing new RydeFreeRT cards this month.

Youth who are experiencing homelessness or taking part in foster programs are also allowed to participate in the program, regardless of current residence or school address. For students and youth that do not have a school student ID or RydeFreeRT card, a RydeFreeRT card can be obtained at SacRT's Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street Light Rail Station) or at a local library. Visit rydefreert.com for details.



SacRT Celebrates Contactless Fare Payment With \$1 Fare

Starting Wednesday, September 1, 2021, SacRT riders can simply tap their contactless credit, debit, prepaid card or payment-enabled device (mobile phone, smartwatch or other) on readers installed onboard all SacRT light rail trains for an easy and secure way to ride transit. To celebrate the new contactless fare option, SacRT is offering \$1 fare for single rides on light rail during the month of September 2021.

The new payment option is a collaboration between SacRT, Visa, Caltrans, Cybersource, Littlepay and SC Soft. This effort is part of a statewide initiative to improve and simplify the transit experience through the California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP).

Contactless payment readers have been installed at the front/back of each SacRT light rail train. During the demonstration period, the contactless fare payment option is only available for basic single rides on light rail.

While adding a contactless payment option, SacRT will continue to accept all current forms of payment. Riders who are eligible for a discount fare can still pay the discount fare with cash at the fare vending machine, Connect Card or ZipPass. SacRT is working to enable discounted contactless fares. For more information about tapping to pay, visit sacrt.com/contactless.



New Morrison Creek Light Rail Station Now Open

SacRT officially opened the new Morrison Creek light rail station along the Blue Line between the Meadowview and Franklin stations on Sunday, August 29, 2021.

The Morrison Creek Station includes convenient bicycle and lighted pedestrian access.

Blue Line light rail riders must push the stop request button to request the train to stop at the Morrison Creek station. Learn more at sacrt.com/morrisoncreek.

Rider Alert

Sunday/Holiday Schedule

SacRT bus and light rail will operate on a Sunday/holiday schedule in observance of Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2021. Folsom Stage Line, Rancho CordoVan, Elk Grove transit, Smart Ride and Causeway Connection buses will not operate on Labor Day.

Bus Route 51 Detour

Due to a street closure for the Broadway International Festival, bus route 51 will be temporarily detoured on Sunday, September 5, 2021, from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. between 16th and 19th streets and Broadway. Inbound passengers should use the bus stop at 20th & Broadway. Outbound passengers should use the route 106 bus stop on 16th Street north of Broadway.

This is the inaugural event for the district, and SacRT is providing free rides on bus and light rail to get you there on Sunday, September 5, 2021. The City of Sacramento Office of Innovation & Economic Development and the Greater Broadway Partnership, alongside a diverse, grassroots coalition of local residents and small business owners have teamed up to launch the Festival. Broadway will be transformed into a 3-block long street festival celebrating the international flavors of Broadway and the overall diversity of Sacramento. For more information, visit broadway-festival.com.

Planned Service Disruptions in Downtown Sacramento

On Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 7 p.m. until end of service, Blue Line trains will not operate between the Marconi/Arcade and Cathedral Square light rail stations. Special shuttle buses will transport passengers. Visit sacrt.com/alerts for details.

The inaugural Sacramento Ironman triathlon event will bring thousands of athletes and spectators to the downtown core on Sunday, October 24, 2021. The renowned event includes a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon that will race through the streets between West Sacramento and downtown Sacramento. For the safety of participants, streets will be closed for the duration of the event. The course will also impact light rail service at the 7th & Capitol, and 8th & Capitol light rail stations, and most downtown bus routes.

During the light rail disruption, SacRT will provide special shuttle bus service from noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday, October 24, 2021. On the Blue Line, buses will transport passengers between Alkali Flat/La Valentina and 13th Street light rail stations. On the Gold Line buses will transport passengers between the Sacramento Valley and 13th Street light rail stations. Bus detours will also be in place for the following routes: 11, 30, 38, 51, 62, 86, and 88. Check SacRT's website for additional details about the service disruption in the coming weeks at sacrt.com/alerts.

Join SacRT at the Chalk It Up Festival

The 31st annual Chalk It Up Festival will be held from Saturday, September 4 through Monday, September 6, 2021, at Fremont Park in Sacramento. SacRT is featuring chalk artist creations at the Customer Service Center at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street Station) and at the 16th Street Station. At Fremont Park, visit the SacRT chalk wall to create your own chalk art.

Chalk It Up! aims to empower and support the next generation of Sacramento artists through targeted art grants for young artists and the programs that inspire them. The free Festival celebrates chalk art, music, and community. Learn more at chalkitup.org.

Join SacRT's Transit Academy

SacRT's Transit Academy is a four-class course designed to educate and engage residents, business, and community leaders about SacRT's planning process and how transit shapes our communities. Classes will be held once a week over a four-week period. Classes will take place Tuesday evenings, October 5 through October 26, 2021.

SacRT's free Academy includes presentations about public mass transit benefits; SacRT's operations, budget and governance, and service improvements; Q & A; interactive discussions; individual action plan; and a behind-the-scenes field trips to Siemens Mobility to see new light rail car manufacturing; a transit-oriented development project; and SacRT's bus facilities. Presenters and speakers include SacRT management and staff, ridership advocates, and local transit leaders.

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, September 17, 2021 for this year's Academy. Applications may be submitted online or dropped off/mailed to:

Sacramento Regional Transit District
Attention: Glenda Marsh
1400 29th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Visit sacrt.com/transitacademy for more information.



Share Your Travel Behavior with UC Davis

UC Davis is conducting a daily travel behavior survey to help improve SacRT SmaRT Ride, paratransit and bus services. Your opinions are important even if you have not used public transit.

This survey is part of research UC Davis is conducting at the Institute of Transportation Studies, funded by Caltrans in partnership with the National Center for Sustainable Transportation. The motivations for the study are to better understand the use of on-demand microtransit services and how travelers make decisions about choosing various means of transportation.

In appreciation for your time, you have a chance to win a gift card ranging with up to a \$100 value! Please take the time to fill out the online survey and submit it by Friday, October 1, 2021.

Please type the URL (web address) into your internet browser:
bit.ly/microtransit_survey or scan the QR code:



SacRT on the Move, Short-Range Transit Plan

SacRT's Planning staff has spent the summer months continuing to develop the framework for the Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP), bringing many important elements into a unified plan, including current system information, and service planning projects and processes. Staff has also been raising awareness about the plan, meeting internally with the Mobility Advisory Council, and coordinating with the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (SACOG) and local jurisdictions, including the Cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova.

Now, we take a look at where SacRT stands after implementing SacRT Forward, and our task is to develop a service improvement plan for the next five years. This plan will consider a number of topics such as:

- Span of Service and Frequency
- Network Integration Plan
- COVID Restoration
- Major/Minor Developments
- Other Agency Initiatives
- Complaints and Unmet Transit Needs

Staff is preparing for community involvement in fall 2021. A schedule of participation events will be made available at sacrt.com and our social media channels. Visit sacrt.com/srtp for more information. For questions, please contact Sarah Poe, SacRT Planner, at spoe@sacrt.com.



Mask Mandate on Public Transportation Extended

The Transportation Security Administration announced it will extend its travel mask mandate through Tuesday, January 18, 2022, to minimize the spread of COVID-19 on public transportation. Whether a person is fully vaccinated or not, riders must wear masks that cover both the mouth and nose when awaiting, boarding, traveling on, or disembarking public transportation. To request a reasonable modification of this mandate, call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

As a reminder, you should avoid public transit if you are sick, positive for COVID-19, or if you think or know you have been exposed to COVID-19. Visit sacrt.com/covid19 to learn more.

SacRT is Hiring!

Looking for a career in transit? In addition to bus operators, SacRT has a variety of positions available such as administrative assistant, bus operator, civil engineer, attorney, mechanic, senior programmer, service worker and more. Check out all current SacRT job opportunities at sacrt.com/careers. All applications must be submitted via the online job portal.

When applying, be sure you provide good, detailed information and upload any required documents. If you don't see the perfect job for you, don't worry. You can sign up for job notifications and receive emails when new job opportunities become available. For additional information, contact Human Resources at 916-556-0298.

Ride SacRT FREE to the 2021 Farm-to-Fork Festival

SacRT teamed up with Visit Sacramento to offer FREE Rides to the Farm-to-Fork Festival on Friday, September 17 and Saturday, September 18, 2021, with the free ride flyer available at sacrt.com/farmtofork. To ride free, present the flyer to the bus operator or light rail fare inspection staff upon request. Only one flyer needed per group.

The free ride offer is only valid on Friday, September 17, 2021 from 2 p.m. until the end of service, and on Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 9 a.m. until the end of service. On Friday, free rides are available on light rail, bus, and SmaRT Ride. On Saturday, free rides are available on light rail and bus (SmaRT Ride doesn't operate on weekends). For details about the event, visit farmtofork.com/, for SacRT service, visit sacrt.com/schedules.



SacRT Relaunches the Airport Express Bus

SacRT is celebrating the launch of the Airport Express Bus (route 142) service with free rides through Saturday, September 4, 2021. The Route 142 Airport Express operates every 30 minutes, seven days a week between downtown Sacramento and the Sacramento International Airport with new electric battery powered zero-emission buses.

SacRT initially launched the Airport Express Bus service in January 2020, but it was temporarily suspended in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more at sacrtairport.com.

Next Stop News is produced monthly by the Sacramento Regional Transit District to keep passengers informed about current SacRT news and community events.

Email questions or comments about Next Stop News to nextstopnews@sacrt.com