June 22, 2020

Commitments in Support of Mayors’ Climate Commission Recommendations

I am writing on behalf of the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) to express our support of the final recommendations put forth by the Mayor’s Commission on Climate Change, “Achieving Carbon Zero in Sacramento and West Sacramento by 2045.”

While the nation and our community continue to grapple with the impacts of COVID-19, we also must continue to be vigilant in pursuing our shared goals of addressing the impacts of climate change in our region. The climate polices put forth in this final report are bold and audacious, recognizing the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while promoting our shared goals for equitable mobility and sustainable communities.

SacRT recognizes the important role of public transit in addressing climate change, now, and in the future. We must breakaway from the status quo and the final report, with extensive input from three sector-based Technical Assistance Committees (Built Environment, Mobility, and Community Health and Resiliency), provide a roadmap for reaching carbon neutral future.

As we transition to the implementation phases, SacRT is a committed partner and will doing everything we can to further that cause. To that end, SacRT anticipates taking the following actions in the near future that will support the Commission’s work:

- We commit to extend RydeFreeRT (students and youth in grades K-12 ride fare-free systemwide) for another year. Prior to COVID student ridership was up approximately 125% over the prior year.
- SacRT has deployed zero-emission electric bus service for SacRT’s Franklin-South Sacramento SmarT ride zone, and our new Causeway Connection express bus route.
- SacRT commits to operating the new Airport Express Bus (Route 142) service with electric buses as soon as vehicles can be procured to showcase the region’s commitment to sustainability.
- Over the next year, SacRT will finalize a Comprehensive Zero Emission Strategy for converting the entire fleet of over 500 revenue and non-revenue vehicles to zero emission, an estimated cost of over $500 million.
- SacRT will prioritize joint development of surplus property to facilitate smart growth, transit-oriented development (TOD) and sustainable vibrant communities. SacRT, in partnership with SACOG will finalize a TOD Toolkit to assist with additional development.
• SacRT will aggressively pursue light rail modernization that will make the system more accessible and the rider experience more pleasurable. Modernization includes the replacement of SacRT’s entire fleet of 97 light rail vehicles, station upgrades and conversion and additional track to allow for 15-minute headways. SacRT is also committed to providing limited express service on the Gold Line in July 2025.

• Over the next year, SacRT will finalize a High Capacity Bus/Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study that will identify several corridors throughout our region. With assistance from our partners, SacRT will pursue federal Small Starts grant funding to implement a regional BRT network.

• SacRT is committed to ensuring sustainable transportation access to seniors and the ADA community through the launch of SacRT GO paratransit services. By utilizing microtransit on-demand technology and an eventual transition to a ZEV fleet, SacRT is providing cleaner mobility options and equitable transportation access to those who are most in need.

• We will continue to promote sustainable living and identify partnerships with micro-mobility providers to ensure that car-free lifestyles are viable.

SacRT applauds the work of the Commission and is enthusiastic to assist which reaching our ambitious goals. We are at a critical juncture in protecting the environment, and the aggressive recommendations underscore the urgent actions that need to be taken. SacRT has long been at the forefront of tackling climate change and we look forward to playing our role moving forward.

With gratitude,

[Signature]

Henry Li
General Manager/CEO
Sacramento Regional Transit District