



April 16, 2019

SACOG Transportation Committee
SACOG Board of Directors
James Corless, Executive Director
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Item 9 - 2019 Regional Funding Round Policy Framework

Dear Board of Directors and Mr. Corless:

The Sacramento Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) is writing to express our support for a funding allocation that supports our region's existing backbone transit system through fully funding projects that are completely accessible, reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, and are essential to maintaining a state of good repair. Specifically, our members support fully funding the SacRT Light Rail Modernization Project request of \$20 million additional dollars. Not only is this project shovel ready, it will bring real improvements for our public transit system that help meet the goals of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

While we support innovative solutions for our region's public transit needs and know funding new technology and pilot projects can be tempting, we think such projects need to be coupled with extensive investment in our existing system in order to make significant improvements towards the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Greenhouse Gas reduction goals. Partially investing in pilot projects to solve first-mile/last-mile connection trips is pointless if there is no bus serving a community that can be connected to. Additionally, many of the pilot projects being invested in are not accessible to members of the community with disabilities, who are some of our most public transit dependent citizens. Investing in our existing bus and light rail system, replacing vehicles that have passed their service life, improving public transit infrastructure, and increasing frequent coverage in our system the best way to begin addressing the growing transportation challenges facing our region.

SacTRU believes that SACOG funding should support our regions existing public transit system and provide a well-planned, affordable, and equitable public transportation system that is essential for daily commutes to work, increases mobility for the elderly, reduces pollution and Green House Gas emissions, enables riders to get to medical appointments and grocery stores, and increases our region's economic activity.

We support the proposal to fund projects that have already received partial funding, focus on state of good repair, are shovel ready, and are fully accessible to all members of our communities. Our members urge you to adopt these broader allocation guidelines in this process and advocate for more regional funding for our existing public transportation system. We believe that fully funding public transit projects is imperative in order to ensure that low-income and vulnerable communities have access to jobs, housing, health care, education, grocery stores, and creating inclusive economic growth. Please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,
SacTRU