



Participation in SacRT Student Program

June 6, 2024

Agenda

Facilities Support Services

Chris Ralston, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Support Services

Building Equity into the Foundation

SCUSD CORE VALUE

We recognize that our system is inequitable by design and we vigilantly work to confront and interrupt inequities that exist to level the playing field and provide opportunities for everyone to learn, grow and reach their greatness.

SCUSD GUIDING PRINCIPLE

All students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options

Transportation Department Service

- Provide transportation to students as required by Federal Statute for Special Education
- Overflow - Enrollment overflow to different school
- Field Trips
- Athletics

Transportation Department Statistics

- 73 Daily Routes
- 6,000 Miles per Day
- 750 Field Trips per year (25,000 Miles)
- 74 Drivers
- 25 routes without daily coverage (contracted routes)

Transportation Department History

- Provided transportation to elementary schools since 1963
- Have not provided transportation to secondary general education dating back to 1979
- Relationship with SacRT on secondary education since 1979
 - 16 current dedicated routes assisting students to get to schools
 - Regular service routes also support students in many schools

Transportation Department Financials

- \$23.3M Annual Budget
 - Special Education Contribution = \$15.4M
 - General Fund Contribution = \$3.7M
 - ESSER III = \$4.2M
- \$6M cost for contracted drivers/routes due to lack of coverage

Transportation Department Local Comparisons (Secondary)

	Sacramento City USD	San Juan USD	Elk Grove USD	Washington USD	Folsom/Cordova USD
Service Style Provided	Special Education Only	Special Education Only	Ride for Fee (\$250/year) offered 4 MS / 5 HS	Full Service - No Fee - 1250 students daily - All Levels	Ride for Fee (\$360/year) 4 MS / 3 HS
Annual Ridership	Special Education only	Special Education Only	1,714 Students + Special Education	1,250 Students + Special Education	1,463 Students + Special Education

RIDE

Grades TK-12th **FREE RT** 



About SacRT's RydeFreeRT Program

- Fare free transit for students (TK-12) and homeless youth living or attending school within SacRT's service boundary.
 - Unlimited access to Light Rail, Fixed Route Bus and SmarT Ride services.
 - Allows for access to transportation 7 days per week throughout the entire year.
- First of its kind program in the nation when launched in 2019.
- SacRT distributes approximately 250,000 RydeFreeRT passes annually to qualified students.

Funding the RydeFreeRT Program

Funding Model

- Annual funding helps to offset lost fare revenues received from students prior to the program's inception (approximately \$1.6 million annually system-wide).
- Funding requests remained flat since inception in 2019 despite increasing ridership.
- Funding by jurisdiction is based on ridership and service availability.
 - The City of Sacramento is the largest funding partner (\$1.0 million annually)
 - The City has proposed an alternative model that would split the cost amongst the City and School Districts for the upcoming FY 24-25.

Program Cost information

- SacRT estimates the FY 23-24 program cost to be near \$10M when accounting for additional transit services and lost fare revenue from increased ridership.

Student Ridership

SacRT system-wide ridership

- Passenger boardings, including students, are recorded by bus operators and automated passengers counters (APC's).
- SacRT estimates FY 2024 student ridership will be nearly 4.2 million boardings across our entire network (2.5x pre-pandemic & pre-RydeFreeRT levels)
- Student boardings now make up nearly 25% of total boardings at SacRT

SCUSD ridership

- Over 35,000 students at SCUSD are currently eligible for RydeFreeRT
- SCUSD students account for over 25% of the annual total number of students and will make up approximately 1.2 million boardings in FY 2024

Why RydeFreeRT?

- RydeFreeRT reduces youth transportation barriers for many activities including:
 - To/from school
 - After-school events
 - Employment and internship opportunities
 - Recreational activities
- It's also multi-jurisdictional:
 - Addresses regional climate goals
 - Reduces congestion and traffic issues
 - Encourages future ridership

Board Investment Options

District Investment in SacRT routes

If district to cover the 16 dedicated routes being provided by SacRT:

- 16 Drivers additional FTEs required
 - \$1.76M annually
- 16 new Transit buses
 - \$8.1m Electric Buses

Total investment needed by August 1, 2024: \$9.86M - General Fund

This does not cover the costs of all students riding SacRT to get to school.

District Investment in SacRT passes

Current Student Passes provided at no cost to district students expire on June 30, 2024 (24 days from now)

- 35, 866 students (Enrollment on March 22, 2024)
- Student RT pass = \$20/month or \$240/year

Total investment needed by July 1, 2024: \$8,607,840 - General Fund

Proposed SacRT investment for FY 25

RydeFreeRT - Annual Cost per Boarding by Funding Partner

Potential Funding Partners	Proposed Financial Contribution	Sponsored Student Boardings	Cost per Boarding
Sac City Unified School District	\$250,000	1,206,556	\$0.21
TRUSD, NUSD, EGUSD combined	\$250,000	660,492	\$0.38
SacRT	\$250,000	946,952	\$0.27
City of Sacramento	\$250,000	N/A	N/A
Grand Total	\$1,000,000	2,814,000	\$ 0.36

**SacRT proposed financial contribution includes the share of independent charters, private schools and students from Robla, SJUSD, and SCOE who reside in the City of Sacramento.*

Total SCUSD investment needed by July 1, 2024: \$250,000 - General Fund

Conference and Questions