

KEEPING PASSENGERS SAFE AND HEALTHY

SacRT outlines precautions to combat COVID-19

by Debbie Arrington

Clean, safe and convenient; that's the experience customers will find as they're welcomed back to light rail and bus service by the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT).

With cleaner buses and trains plus other safety precautions in place, SacRT has restored about 80% of its pre-COVID-19 service. In addition, the district has expanded three of its nine Smart Ride zones, the district's on-demand microtransit service areas.

As state and county restrictions accelerate to reopen, SacRT is restoring service. However, the safety, health and well being of SacRT customers and employees continues to be a top priority, say SacRT officials. In addition to following best safety practices set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, SacRT also is exploring new technologies and procedures to provide a healthier environment for its riders and staff.



Sacramento Regional Transit District workers thoroughly clean and sanitize any potential touch points on buses and trains.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SACRT

Some of the health and safety measures already implemented by SacRT:

- Buses, light rail trains and facilities are **fogged** and **disinfected** daily.
- All touchpoints are **cleaned** and **sanitized**.
- New seating policies encourage **social distancing with fewer riders per bus or train** and more **space between riders**; some seats will be blocked off.
- **More light rail train cars have been added during peak commute hours** to allow more room between passengers.
- **Protective plexiglass barriers** have been installed near the driver's seat of each bus.
- SacRT employees will make personal **protective equipment including face masks and gloves** part of their daily uniform.
- Riders are **required to wear masks or other face coverings**.
- By downloading **ZipPass**, the free mobile fare app, riders can **reduce touchpoints**.
- Light rail fare inspectors **sanitize the portable Connect Card tap device** after every validation.
- **Adding buses** to busier routes.

For more information on SacRT's best safety practices, visit [SacRT.com/COVID19](https://www.sacrt.com/COVID19).



Need a mask?

SacRT is handing out free masks to customers, available at the SacRT Customer Service and Sales Center at 1225 R St. (13th Street Light Rail Station).



Report a problem

While riding SacRT buses or trains, if you need to report any sanitation or cleaning issue, download the free "Alert SacRT App." Or call Customer Service at 916-321-BUSS (2877).

SACRT TRAINS TO GET LOW-PROFILE UPGRADE

Sacramento-built light rail vehicles part of system-wide modernization

by Debbie Arrington

Light rail service in the Sacramento region will soon get a major upgrade, making riding the train easier and more accessible than ever. At the same time, this modernization supports local jobs: The new light rail vehicles will be built in Sacramento, too.

Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) recently announced the purchase of 20 low-floor light rail vehicles, with the option to purchase up to 76, from local manufacturer Siemens Mobility, Inc. Valued at about \$100 million, that deal marked the first time in 20 years that SacRT had bought new vehicles for its aging light rail fleet.

Funding for that purchase came from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capitol Program (TIRCP) and Proposition 1A to modernize the light rail fleet. The first cars from that deal are expected to be delivered in 2022.

Shortly after the late April announcement of this 20-vehicle purchase, SacRT received more money to buy more new light rail vehicles. Through TIRCP, the California State Transportation

Agency awarded SacRT \$23.6 million towards purchase of another eight low-floor vehicles and station improvements to accommodate the new cars.

As a first step, SacRT will convert 29 stations, with a plan to convert all stations as funding becomes available, for the new low-floor cars. Along with the vehicle purchases, these renovations represent the beginning of SacRT's system-wide modernization.

“The new modern low-floor cars will also help reduce traffic congestion and inspire new riders to get onboard.”

Steve Hansen
Board chairman, Sacramento Regional Transit District

Electric-powered and emissions-free, Siemens' S700 light rail trains feature low-level boarding at every doorway, wider aisles, spacious seating and larger windows for better light and a better view. Besides being wheelchair and stroller friendly, the new cars also



Siemens Mobility of Sacramento will build new low-floor light rail vehicles to replace aging cars in Sacramento Regional Transit District's system. What will it look like? Here's an example of the S700 low-floor light rail vehicle by Siemens Mobility of Sacramento.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SACRT

offer more storage for bicycles and luggage. With improved reliability, the new cars will be quieter and more spacious, offering a smoother and more comfortable ride.

“These new light rail cars

Hansen, SacRT board chairman and Sacramento city councilman. “(For our) growing region, the new modern low-floor cars will also help reduce traffic congestion and inspire new riders to get onboard.”

With no emissions, the light rail cars also help cut greenhouse gases and reduce air pollution. That's a plus for communities in the Sacramento region; commuting is made easier while also helping the environment.

“Our region needs good news amid this COVID-19 crisis,” said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. “This investment by SacRT in modernized infrastructure to serve our economy and meet our carbon neutral goals is most welcome.”

For more details and routes, visit www.SacRT.com.

MORE BUSES, MORE TRAINS

SacRT service ramps back up as people get back to work

by Debbie Arrington

As businesses and offices reopen after COVID-19 restrictions, Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is welcoming back customers and helping them get where they want to go, safely.

SacRT recently added more weekday bus service, improved weekday light rail service and expanded its SmaRT Ride microtransit service.

Overall, SacRT service now is at about 80% of its pre-COVID level. Customers will find earlier start times for most weekday bus routes, additional trips at the end of routes plus greater frequency of buses and

trains during peak hours. That increased frequency allows for more passenger room on each bus and light rail car.

These service improvements are in addition to SacRT's overall effort to provide a better experience for each customer while keeping them safe.

"I like the comfortable seats, helping relieving traffic, improving air quality and the convenience."

*Chris Houlemard
SacRT rider for 30 years*



Sacramento Regional Transit District light rail and bus service makes it easy to get downtown.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SACRT

Chris Houlemard, a SacRT regular rider for 30 years, has noticed recent improvements.

"It's improved a lot," he said. "Much cleaner, more reliable, more customer focused. I really like the new signage and the easy to use app on my phone that gives me updates."

A state worker, Houlemard had been a daily downtown commuter, riding SacRT's light rail service to the 13th Street Station. "I also take various bus routes during the day to go to meetings around Sacramento," he added.

Although he's been working from home during the COVID pandemic, Houlemard continues to use SacRT on a regular basis, especially when he needs to travel downtown.

"I like the comfortable seats, helping relieving traffic, improving air quality and the convenience," he said. "Generally, it saves times as the freeways are usually parking lots — at least prior to the pandemic."

Houlemard said he's been impressed by SacRT staff, too.

"They're very much a team organization," he said. "Everybody works together."



SCHEDULE UPDATE

SacRT continues to operate most of its peak commuter/express service Monday through Friday. This includes bus routes 102, 103, 106, 107, 109, 113, 129, 134, 161 and 193 plus the Folsom Stage Line bus service (routes 10 and 30).

The Causeway Connection (Route 138) will continue operating with a modified schedule; see causewayconnection.com for details.

SacRT will continue to operate all nine SmaRT Ride on-demand microtransit service area with expanded service in three zones:

FRANKLIN-SOUTH SACRAMENTO:

Adding service to cover areas of Oak Park, switching to corner-to-corner service and adding zero emission electric shuttles.

NORTH SACRAMENTO:

Adding service to Natomas area shopping centers.

RANCHO CORDOVA:

Expanded service area now includes Lincoln Village; switching to corner-to-corner service.

For schedules and route information, visit sacrt.com or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).