

STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 27, 2026
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Laura Ham, Senior VP, Planning, Grants and Procurement
SUBJ: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT AWARD FOR THE GREEN LINE BUS RAPID TRANSIT TO SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT STUDY

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolution.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of this action will authorize the General Manager/CEO, or his designee, to execute all Restricted Grant Agreements (RGA) and any amendments with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant (STPG) award for the Green Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to Sacramento International Airport Project (the "Project").

FISCAL IMPACT

Allows Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) to receive \$500,000 in FY2026–27 STPG Strategic Partnerships (FTA 5304) funds to conduct a feasibility study and conceptual design for a Green Line BRT service connecting Downtown Sacramento and Sacramento International Airport.

DISCUSSION

The STPG Program supports Caltrans' mission to improve lives and communities by funding planning efforts that promote sustainable, safe, and accessible transportation across California. This Grant Program includes:

- Sustainable Communities Grants – Encourage local/regional planning that supports State goals, implement Regional Transportation Plan Sustainable Communities Strategies, and ultimately help achieve the State's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction targets.
- Strategic Partnership Grants – Identify and address statewide, interregional, or regional transportation deficiencies on the State Highway System in partnership with Caltrans.

On September 17, 2025, Caltrans released the FY 2026-27 STPG Calls for Application, making \$34.5 million available statewide for transportation planning projects. Working in partnership with the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, and the Sacramento Transportation Authority, SacRT submitted an application under the Strategic Partnerships category and was awarded \$500,000 on May 26, 2026, for the Green Line BRT to Sacramento International Airport Study Project.

The Project will deliver a feasibility study and conceptual design for a Green Line BRT service connecting Downtown Sacramento to Sacramento International Airport. This initiative responds to the growing transit needs of North/South Natomas and surrounding communities, supporting expanded services to meet the demands of rapid growth and airport expansion. Deliverables include existing conditions analysis, alignment scenarios, ridership projections, traffic modeling, public outreach, cost-benefit analysis, and identification of a Locally Preferred Alternative. The Project is aligned with local, regional, and state transportation plans, advancing goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled and GHG emissions.

For more than three decades, SacRT and its regional partners have planned for a high-capacity transit connection between downtown Sacramento, North Natomas, and Sacramento International Airport. Beginning with the 1991 System Planning Study, followed by the 1993 Transit Master Plan, the 2001 Multi-Corridor Study, the 2003 Alternatives Analysis, the 2007–2008 Program Environmental Impact Report, and the 2010 Transitional Analysis, each planning effort consistently identified light rail as the preferred long-term transit investment. These studies evaluated multiple alignments, technologies, costs, ridership, and environmental impacts, ultimately selecting the Green Line light rail alignment generally following 7th Street and Truxel Road to the airport.

BRT was not incorporated into these earlier studies as the preferred alternative because the planning objective at the time was to identify the region's ultimate fixed-guideway investment capable of meeting long-term travel demand and the federal New Starts evaluation criteria. While the Green Line remains a long-standing regional priority, the estimated cost of the full extension has grown to approximately \$2 billion, reflecting the need for a new American River crossing and other major infrastructure. In response, SacRT is evaluating a phased implementation strategy that could introduce BRT along much of the planned Green Line corridor to provide near-term mobility benefits, support transit-oriented development, and build ridership. Evaluating or implementing BRT does not replace or preclude the future Green Line. Instead, it provides an opportunity to deliver improved transit sooner while preserving the long-term vision of extending light rail to Sacramento International Airport as funding becomes available.

To secure the STPG award and participate in the program, SacRT must execute an RGA. Caltrans requires a Board-approved resolution by August 14, 2026, delegating authority to execute these agreements and any amendments for the Project.

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager/CEO, or his designee, to execute all RGAs and any subsequent amendments necessary or appropriate to ensure timely implementation of the Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-07-096

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:

July 27, 2026

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WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT AWARD FOR THE GREEN
LINE BUS RAPID TRANSIT TO SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT STUDY**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District is eligible to receive federal and/or state funding for certain transportation planning related plans, through the California Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, a Restricted Grant Agreement must be executed with the California Department of Transportation before the funds can be reimbursed through the Transportation Planning Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Regional Transit District wishes to delegate authorization to execute these agreements and any amendments thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, the Board authorizes the General Manager/CEO, or his designee, to execute the Restricted Grant Agreement and any amendments thereto and any related forms, applications, and documents with the California Department of Transportation to obtain FY2026-2027 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funding for the Green Line Bus Rapid Transit Project.

BOBBIE SINGH-ALLEN, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: _____
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary