

Los Rios Transportation Connections

Chapter 6 – Los Rios Community College District

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The Los Rios Community College District's enrollment area encompasses all of Sacramento County and portions of El Dorado and Yolo Counties. The District is governed by a seven member elected Board of Trustees and directed by an appointed chancellor. The District sets the framework in which the four colleges operate; defines the policies and the budgets for the four colleges; and adopts the long-term facilities plans for the District and the four colleges.

Concern about the high cost of education has led the Board of Trustees and Chancellor to take actions to minimize student expenses and expenditures. To minimize student transportation costs, the District Board has supported the transit pass access program, kept parking prices at a minimum, and most recently has partnered with the Sacramento Regional Transit District to support locating new outreach centers adjacent to Light Rail stations.

In 2004 the District partnered with WALKSacramento and the Sacramento County of Transportation to apply for a Caltrans Community Planning Grant to develop a plan to support better pedestrian, bicycle and transit access to the colleges. The Los Rios Transportation Connections Plan with its recommendations for the four colleges is the product of that collaboration.

This chapter offers recommendations to expand the District's role in expanding multi-modal transportation access for students through adopting and refining policies related to:

- Transportation access
- Campus organization and governance
- Campus planning
- Community Partnerships
- Academic affairs
- Environmental sustainability
- Assessment

Transportation Access Recommendations:

- That the District adopt an overarching policy that makes explicit its intention to provide good pedestrian, transit and bicycle access to its colleges.
- That the District review the Los Rios Transportation Connections Plan and adopt those recommendations related to the Los Rios Community College District and the four colleges.

Campus Organization and Governance Recommendations:

- That the District outline the key responsibilities of the District and campus organizational bodies to achieve multi-modal transportation access,
- That the District define who at the District and at each campus shall be responsible for dealing with transportation issues and transportation information, and
- That the District define the timeframe for achieving specific actions.

Campus Planning Recommendation:

- That the District define a set of transportation principles to be incorporated in updates of campus master plans and ongoing operating plans. These can include:
 - Integration of convenient pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the campuses and connecting to the adjacent communities.
 - Integration of transit access by incorporating transit into campus design with optimum locations for transit waiting areas.
 - Location and design of buildings to encourage walking through provision of well lighted, convenient entrances and with windows providing “eyes on the street” to provide visibility of surrounding pedestrian activity.
 - Parking management that provides incentives to minimize parking demand through such management tools as daily rather than semester parking fees.
 - Community involvement to assure that neighborhood and community concerns are addressed and to maximize support for walking, bicycling and transit ridership in communities adjacent to the colleges.
- That the District establish a process for the review of physical infrastructure plans, projects in order to integrate these principles into the design of new buildings and other campus infrastructure.

Community Partnership Recommendations:

- That the District partner with other agencies and organizations to build multi-modal transportation capacity. The District's successful partnership with the Sacramento Regional Transit District is an example. The District can partner with local and regional transportation and planning agencies, parks and recreation agencies, the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, transit agencies and with other community organizations.
- That the District and the Colleges participate in community planning endeavors to support integration of multi-modal transportation access to the Colleges. Such planning endeavors include: Sacramento Regional Transit Plan Update, update of the Sacramento County Bikeway Master Plan, SMUD – Systems Enhancements Program, and the City of Sacramento General Plan Update
- That the District participate in transportation management associations (TMA's) working with community employers to implement multi-modal transportation strategies. Specific associations in the vicinity of the District and colleges include: Sacramento Transportation Management Association, Highway 50 Transportation Management Association, and the North Natomas Transportation Management Association

Academic and Professional Involvement Recommendations:

- That the Board of Trustees encourage the college academic communities to integrate concern for transportation sustainability into their academic endeavors.
- That the District support such endeavors through sponsorship of such things as faculty stipends, symposia and recognition awards.
- That the District support and encourage involvement of the professional and classified staff in contributing to transportation sustainability.

Environmental Sustainability Recommendation:

- That the District integrate a commitment to multi-modal transportation into the District's environmental sustainability policies.

Assessment Recommendations:

- That the Board of Trustees receive and review annual reports from the Chancellor on progress improving multi-modal transportation access through the implementation of measures in this plan;
- That the Board of Trustees receive annual reports from the Chancellor on changes in college travel behavior; and
- That based on these assessments, that the Board of Trustees take actions to effect changes.