### **MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP**

# Tackling the Ridership Challenge Through Bold and Innovative Leadership

CALIFORNIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION'S 54TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE & EXPO



# Tackling the Ridership Challenge

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### Where in the world is MST?



AREA SERVICE **MST** 

### What doesn't work





### The experiment

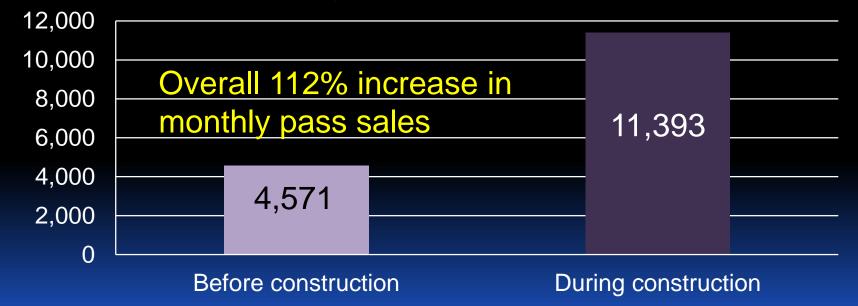




### The result: cash to pass

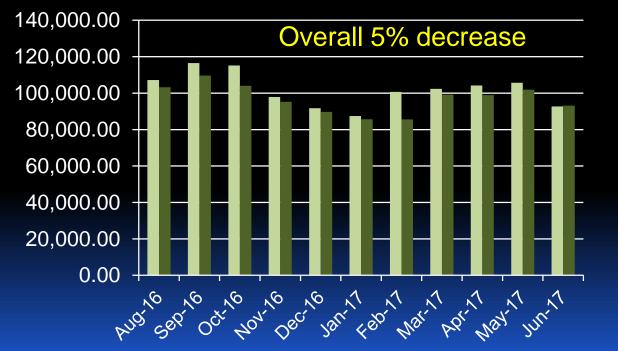


### **Total Monthly Pass Sales**



### **Overall decrease in ridership**

**Ridership Comparison by Month** 



 Ridership Prior Year: August 2015-June 2016

 Ridership During Roundabout Construction: August 2016-June 2017

### MST "Free" Services

Service	Who Pays Fare?	FY 2014 Riders	FY 2018 Riders	Change
Total Boardings	Mix of free and passengers	4,392,764	4,576,286	4.2%
MST Trolley	City Parking Fees and Aquarium	177,397	219,130	23.5%
CSU Monterey Bay	Student Fees and University Funds	209,149	281,604	34.6%
Military	Federal Transit Benefit	680,062	863,732	27.0%
Regular Fixed Route	Passenger	3,154,627	3,028,298	-4.1%

### What happened to "regular" riders?







# Lower vs "free" fares: which are better at increasing ridership?



## Let's try that again with a twist



# Introducing 'Ride the 40s on Us!'



Ride the 40's 41 on us! 42 45 49

#### It's Free! Weekends & Holidays

New through August 31, 2019

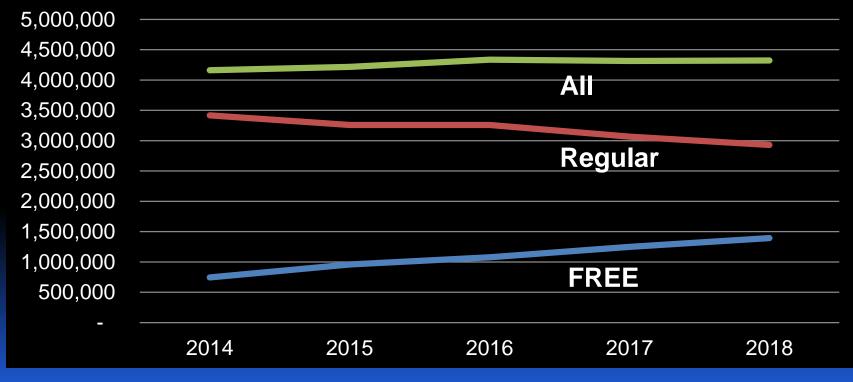
Funding provided by California Climate Investment Grants



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### **Ridership increases on FREE lines!**

#### **FREE vs Regular Ridership**



### When it's free, perceived value increases



### Key takeaways?

- Making transit look free = ridership increase!
- Increased ridership may increase formula funds offsetting farebox losses
- Impacts to ADA services

### Contact info

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