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RT Press Release

RT and Metro Chamber Host State of RT Breakfast - Thursday, March 19 - TransitAction Awards Honor Agency, Transit Oriented Development, Transit Advocate and Elected Official of the Year

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT), in partnership with the Sacramento Metro Chamber, will host the inaugural State of RT Breakfast on Thursday, March 19, 2009, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento. The program will feature a transit symposium, presentation of the first RT TransitAction Awards and a keynote address by Christopher B. Leinberger.

RT General Manager/CEO Mike Wiley will introduce TransitAction – the vision that will shape the future of transportation in the Sacramento region over the next 25 to 30 years – and the Transit Master Plan (TMP), which will provide the planning, policy, financial and operational framework for developing and delivering transit projects and programs through 2035.

The TransitAction Awards will honor four outstanding nominees who have made significant and positive impacts in support of public transit in the Sacramento region. RT will present TransitAction Awards to the following recipients.

Agency of the Year – Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District:

The Business/Organization/Agency of the Year recognizes a private sector or public sector agency that performs an outstanding job in offering a transit-friendly environment for its employees and enhancing public transit benefits.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) commitment to improving the region's air quality is evident in the many programs administered by the agency, including the highly successful Spare the Air program. AQMD also provides incentives for employees to commute using public transit.

Transit Oriented Development of the Year – The Globe Mills Development:
 The Transit Oriented Development (TOD) of the Year honors a TOD project that leads the way for future projects by creating innovative designs that push the boundaries of conventional practices.

The Globe Mills Development is a highly successful mixed-use TOD project in downtown Sacramento that offers market rate lofts, affordable housing for seniors and neighborhood-oriented commercial – all in close proximity to the Alkali Flat/La Valentina light rail station.

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Transit Advocate of the Year – Dain Domich:

The Individual/Transit Advocate of the Year honors an individual engaged in outreach benefiting public transit by promoting alternative transportation choices that lessen negative impacts on the environment. The individual is a leader in promoting transit and the benefits that come from using alternative modes of transportation.

Dain Domich has long been recognized as a leader in Transit Oriented Development and a strong advocate for transit for livable communities. The long-standing president of Friends of Light Rail & Transit spearheaded the Catholic Healthcare West development located at the 29th Street light rail station.

Elected Official of the Year – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui:

The Elected Official of the Year is an individual who is seen as a champion of transit and is a constant advocate for the benefits transit provides to the Sacramento region.

Congresswoman Doris Matsui is a long-time champion of RT and has worked tirelessly for public transit in the Sacramento region. Her strong leadership and ardent support for public transit at the national level has resulted in federal funding for significant capital projects, including a second bus maintenance facility at McClellan Business Park and \$22.8 million for the South Line Phase 2 light rail extension.

The keynote address by Christopher B. Leinberger, a land use strategist and developer, will focus on how the Sacramento region could serve as a model for sweeping national transportation, energy and climate change that will provide future infrastructure investment and real estate development across the country. Leinberger is a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution; Professor and Director of the Graduate Real Estate Program at the University of Michigan; a real estate developer; and the author of “The Option of Urbanism, Investing in a New American Dream.”

For more information about the State of RT Breakfast and TransitAction Awards, visit www.sacrt.com and click on the link. For route, schedule and fare information, call 916-321-BUSS (2877) or visit www.sacrt.com.

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