



PRESS RELEASE

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San Joaquin Regional Transit District Appoints Eric Williams as Chief Executive Officer

Williams to Lead RTD Into a New Era Focused on Collaboration, Accountability, Innovation and the Future of Mobility in San Joaquin County

Stockton, CA September 21, 2026 — The San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) Board of Directors has appointed Eric Williams as Chief Executive Officer, effective September 18, 2026, entrusting him with leading the District into its next chapter of organizational stability, regional collaboration, and transportation innovation. Williams had been serving as RTD's Acting Chief Executive Officer after previously being appointed Chief Operating Officer. During his time in executive leadership, he has focused on strengthening internal operations, rebuilding relationships with regional partners, addressing organizational and financial challenges, enhancing public safety and security, and creating a culture of greater accountability and collaboration throughout the District.

As CEO, Williams will lead RTD with a long-term vision focused not simply on where public transportation is today, but on what mobility must become over the next 30 to 40 years as communities throughout San Joaquin County continue to grow and change. "I'm deeply grateful to the Board of Directors for placing its confidence in me to lead RTD," Williams said. "I accept this responsibility with humility and with a clear understanding that this position is ultimately about service to our employees, our riders, our communities, and the people of San Joaquin County."

Williams said the future of public transportation will require transit agencies to think beyond traditional fixed-route service. "Transportation is changing, and RTD must be willing to evolve with the communities we serve," Williams said. "The transportation needs of Stockton may be different from those of Mountain House, Lathrop, Ripon, Escalon, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, and other communities throughout our region. Our responsibility is to listen and develop mobility solutions that meet those communities where they are." That future could include traditional fixed-route service alongside commuter transportation, microtransit and on-demand mobility, stronger regional connections, employer partnerships, transit-oriented development, and other innovative approaches connecting people with employment, education, housing, health care, and economic opportunities.

Rebuilding Regional Partnerships

One of Williams' early priorities has been rebuilding relationships between RTD and cities, transit providers, regional agencies, and community partners throughout San Joaquin County. Williams has personally met with local leaders to listen to concerns, address relationships that had become strained, and recommit RTD to collaboration, communication, fairness, and mutual respect. Those discussions are already creating opportunities for expanded cooperation, including conversations regarding mobility services, maintenance partnerships, regional funding,

service coordination, and emerging transportation needs associated with economic and population growth. "We cannot serve this region effectively by operating in isolation," Williams said. "RTD must be a trusted regional partner. That means showing up, listening, communicating openly, following through on our commitments, and working collaboratively to find transportation solutions that benefit the entire region."

Strengthening RTD From Within

Williams' leadership priorities also include strengthening RTD's financial position and internal operations, completing outstanding audits and corrective actions, improving organizational accountability, recruiting and retaining talented employees, strengthening safety and security, and ensuring the District provides reliable and efficient service. He has emphasized a culture in which employees and leaders work across departments rather than in silos and where accuracy, professionalism, responsiveness, accountability, and quality are expected throughout the organization. "Before we can become the transit agency we envision for the future, we must make sure our foundation is strong," Williams said. "That means being financially responsible, operating efficiently, taking care of our employees, strengthening safety, holding ourselves accountable, and providing quality service to the public every day."

Building RTD for the Next Generation

Williams said his long-term vision is to position RTD to respond to the significant growth and changing transportation demands occurring throughout San Joaquin County. That includes examining how transit can work alongside housing and economic development, strengthening connections between communities, exploring new mobility models, and making better use of RTD assets to support the District's transportation mission and long-term financial sustainability. "As CEO, I am not simply thinking about what RTD needs to look like next year," Williams said. "I am thinking about the RTD we need to build for the next 30 or 40 years."

An alumnus of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, Williams draws upon the institution's rich and longstanding tradition of developing men committed to leadership, service, and strengthening the communities around them. For generations, Morehouse men have carried that tradition into public service, business, education, civil rights, and community leadership demonstrating that leadership is measured not simply by the position one holds, but by the impact one makes on the lives of others.

Williams said that principle will guide his leadership of RTD. "When people look back decades from now, I want them to see this as a period when RTD did more than operate buses. I want them to see that we connected communities, created opportunities, built meaningful partnerships, and positioned public transportation to serve the next generation of San Joaquin County."

San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) is the regional transit provider for San Joaquin County. RTD's mission is to provide a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system for the region. For more information visit sjRTD.com, follow RTD on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or call (209) 943-1111.