

**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 22-039**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING HEARTFELT APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES TO ELSA ORTIZ FOR
16 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE AC TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REPRESENTING WARD 3**

WHEREAS, Elsa Ortiz was elected to the AC Transit Board of Directors in November 2006, and was re-elected three more times to represent the City of Alameda and portions of Oakland and San Leandro and is the longest serving woman of color to have ever been elected to the Board; and

WHEREAS, Elsa Ortiz was elected by her fellow Board members to serve as Vice President of the Board five times and as President an unprecedented six times in 2011, 2012, 2017, 2018, 2021, and 2022. Ms. Ortiz has served on the Transbay Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors, currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Alameda County Transportation Commission where she has been AC Transit's primary representative for 10 years, and has served on numerous committees both internal and external to the District, including the Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee which, under her policy and political leadership, helped deliver the \$232 million public investment for the East Bay's first bus rapid transit service now known as Tempo; and

WHEREAS, Elsa Ortiz is a recipient of the 2018 Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) NorCal Chapter "Pioneer Award", the 2019 COMTO National "Women Who Move the Nation Award", the 2018 Genesis "Equity Award", the 2022 "Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award" from the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) San Francisco – Bay Area Chapter; and was selected as the San Francisco Business Times' "Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business" for 2022; and

WHEREAS, Elsa Ortiz, with over 40 years of public policy experience in local and state government, spearheaded the development and adoption of the District's Buy American Goods policy; advocated for fiscal responsibility and reform; led the development of the Project Labor Agreement for the Bus Rapid Transit Project which provided a framework that benefited local workers and supported local economies through the creation of 196 jobs for local resident construction workers from Oakland and San Leandro; pushed for increased small and local business participation; was a staunch advocate for diversity, inclusion, and multi-cultural awareness within the District; led the adoption of a policy banning travel to states with anti-LGBTQ+ laws; championed improvements in the customer service experience that modeled courtesy and respect for riders as well as multilanguage communications for all published materials; and worked tirelessly to ensure buses are a key element in the construction of a Bay Area transportation network for the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, Elsa Ortiz, over the course of her 16 years on the Board, maintained lasting and productive working relationships with union officials and members of the labor force represented by ATU Local 192, AFSCME Local 3916 and IBEW Local 1245; and

WHEREAS, Elsa Ortiz, with passion and vocal leadership, elevated the stature of AC Transit at the regional, state and federal level and lobbied hard to ensure that AC Transit received its fair share of funding which benefited the District to the tune of nearly a billion dollars during her tenure on the Board; and

WHEREAS, Elsa Ortiz, as an elected official, was never satisfied with the thought of being a potted plant or a rubber-stamp. She challenged the status quo and over the years developed her own unique brand of leadership on the bedrock of honesty (that was sometimes brutal!), integrity, ethics, and purpose, which has garnered the respect of past and present members of the Board of Directors, countless local and state elected leaders, District staff and employees, and most importantly, the constituency who chose her to represent them for 16 years; and

WHEREAS, In the instance of Elsa Ortiz, 'enduring' is a descriptor that has embodied her public service for the past 16 years. Ms. Ortiz is someone who understood the transformative impact of public transit and fearlessly took to the dais in the protection and preservation of transit as a right for the people of AC Transit's Ward 3 and throughout the District. She is a passionate ally who created a template for public servants here and beyond.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District does resolve as follows:

Section 1. The Board expresses its deepest heartfelt appreciation and sincerest best wishes to Elsa Ortiz for 16 years of dedication in furtherance of AC Transit's mission to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable bus service as Director, Ward 3, and for her abiding concern for the progress of this District and the communities it serves. Elsa Ortiz has left an indelible mark that time cannot erase and her contributions to AC Transit will never be forgotten. Thank you for leading with wisdom, strength, laughter, humility, and most of all - passion. Although you may be leaving the AC Transit Board, you will always be a beloved member of the AC Transit family.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by four affirmative votes of the Board of Directors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of November 2022.

Joel Young, Vice President

Attest:

Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

I, Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary for the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 9th day of November, 2022, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

Approved as to Form and Content:

Jill A. Sprague, General Counsel