



Travel Report

Date: June 9, 2025

From: Jean Walsh, AC Transit Board Director, Ward 2

To: AC Transit Board and staff and members of the public

Re: National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)

Designing Cities Conference, Washington, DC, May 28-31, 2025

Conference Sessions

- Opening Plenary: Randy Clark, GM/CEO of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), urged transit officials to “*walk the talk*” and **take transit**, use the system, and talk to operators and front line staff in order to really understand the work.
- Transit signal priority (TSP): Presenters from cities and transit agencies shared stories about implementing Next Generation TSP, which is more effective than the older TSP that AC Transit is currently using.
- Your Bus Stop Called--It Wants an Upgrade! This session discussed what makes a good bus stop - real time arrival displays, places to sit, shelter from the elements, etc.
- Convincing the Masses to Make Mass Transit Better: This session covered how to get residents, policymakers, and elected officials on board to put necessary resources into public transit systems. We heard from cities across North America about how they're building political support for transit funding and programs.
- Better Together: Continuing Bike Lanes at Bus Stops: This session covered how and why cities have implemented and adopted standards for bus boarding islands and shared bus/boarding areas.

Walkshops

- “Bus and Bikes, Friends Forever”: This was a seven-mile bike ride to tour shared bus/bike infrastructure. Several variations of bus/bike shared stops were on display on recently completed projects.
- “Bus Priority: Rolling out the Red Carpet”. This tour showcased how WMATA and DDOT partnered to deliver better bus service through infrastructure and technology.

In conclusion

- The annual NACTO Designing Cities conference is a powerful convening of city planners and engineers, transit officials, elected officials, advocates and consultants who work on urban transportation. The “walkshops” are held on foot, transit, and bike, and offer a chance to see up front what other cities are doing and learn from their experiences. It's also an opportunity to make connections with others in the field. I urge AC Transit staff and Board members to attend this highly relevant conference. It will be held in Minneapolis next year.

Photos



Shared bus stop and bike lane



Shared bus and bike lanes



Throne bathrooms for public use



Metro is launching their bus network redesign on 6/29/25

Transit Agency Affiliate Members

AC Transit

Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)

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King County Metro Transit

LA Metro

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)

Miami-Dade County

Minneapolis / St Paul Metro Transit

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)

AC Transit joins many other large transit agencies across the country as members of NACTO. Unfortunately, membership has been proposed for elimination in the current budget.