

Richmond ILC Notes 4/25/24

Attendees:

- AC Transit Board: Director Jovanka Beckles
 - Director Peebles NOT present
- City of Richmond: Mayor Eduardo Martinez, Councilmember Melvin Willis (alternate), Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez
 - It was determined that Councilmember Willis being there does not violate the Brown Act.

Public Comments: None in person or on zoom

2A. Transit Supportive Design Guidelines (TSDG), Presenter: AC Transit

Summary: Michael Eshleman, Manager of Service Planning, gave a presentation on the TSDG. See slides.

Comments:

- Public Comments: none in person or on zoom
- Martinez: Do you have any preference for any of the bus/bike stops?
- Michael: We like to think of this as a toolkit, take into factors the different street factors. For ADA access, stops with the level bike lane behind it can accommodate people using the bus ramp to get on and off the bus.
- Martinez: Are you sharing this with WCCTAC?
- Crystal Wang: Yes, WCCTAC staff will get a copy of the draft document
- Willis: (1) I've noticed the Oakland designs. Has there been any evaluation on the designs on International? (2) Is there a conflict with me and Vice Mayor Jimenez here? (No, not violating the Brown Act)
- Michael: In general, International/Oakland is a separate situation with a larger project.
- Willis: I've personally seen issues along International. We have to go on the honor system for people to not go into the bus only lane. I see issues with it, but get the meaning behind the bus only lane. WCCTAC had a plan for San Pablo Ave.
- Robert: The BRT is center running dedicated transit lane. On San Pablo Ave, side running dedicated transit lanes have lots of activity in this lane (cars parking, making right turns, loading, etc.). Center running works for transit because there aren't those conflicts, but there's also challenges with people driving in it.
- Jimenez: Met with some people at Barrett/Dimm bus stop has benches blocking, along a street where cars are coming really fast, no crosswalk, ADA access.
- Michael: We will discuss with Richmond staff and get back to you about the process

2B. Process and Guiding Principles to update AC Transit Bus Stop Policy, Presenter: AC Transit

Summary: Michael Eshleman, Manager of Service Planning, gave a presentation on the Bus Stop Policy update. See slides.

Comments:

- Public Comment: None in person or zoom
- Martinez: It's good to have these policies, to review them, then there's the issue of implementation. Are you familiar with Carlson Boulevard street design. We need to have conversations with AC Transit to make sure this is more accessible for all.
- Michael: Yes, staff will coordinate with City staff. The policy is meant as a guideline.

- Robert: I'd also like to emphasize that AC Transit does not own any right of way. Overall, it is City jurisdiction.
- Martinez: That's why it's highly important to be part of the conversation. Carlson has had several fatalities this year. We want to have a greener city that's more accessible to peds, bikes, and mass transit. The City needs to know what your needs are so we can plan accordingly.
- Willis: Wondering if there can be one dedicated stop on the other side of Carlson, so it's not just stops going in one direction.
- Martinez: Maybe a median for passengers to wait at
- Robert: We will circle back with staff.

3A. Realign Update

Summary: David Berman and Ryan Lau gave a Realign presentation. See slides.

Comments:

- Public Comment: None in person or zoom
- Willis: I don't know the methodology to get comments for this plan, but make sure to create accessibility to seniors, those without internet access. Ideally a regional town hall meeting where residents can come and go through the plan with staff. Make sure there's buy in.
- Ryan: Yes, I hear you about being accessible to those without digital access. We'll discuss this internally.
- Willis: Making sure different language access
- Jimenez: How did you come up with the proposals.
- David: We started this process in Jan 2023. We did a survey, did extensive outreach.
- Ryan: We've gone to the City Councils to make presentations, variety of CBO pop-ins, advocacy groups, at bus stops. Sometimes we get multiple directions, challenging, we're doing the best to accommodate.
- Martinez: Clarification Q. On the schedule I saw May 15th, but I heard May 25th.
- Ryan: May 6th our website will go live with route proposals. May 15th is when the formal engagement window starts. May 23rd is our virtual workshop. June 5th a ACT Board Hybrid Workshop. September will be public hearings. Many touchpoints.
- Beckles: I appreciate the amount of work that went into getting feedback. I saw staff at every fair, every event.
- Martinez: See you at Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth
- Ryan: Yes, and much more

3B. Macdonald Ave/Cutting Boulevard

Summary: Sean DiestLorgion gave a presentation update on MacDonald and Cutting. See Slides.

Comments:

- Public Comments: None in person or zoom
- No director comments

3C. Service Update

Summary: Carissa Lee gave a verbal update as follows.

The purpose is to give a high-level overview of our service on a quarterly basis.

A table showing all the routes that go in and through the City of Emeryville and information on average daily ridership, on time performance, and other metrics.

Have seen peak weekdays 144,000 riders. In winter months we tend to see a dip in ridership, but already we can see from Jan to Feb 2024, a slight increase in ridership.

Our OTP for the District is 72%. We're continuing to do more reliability fixes to get improved numbers. Sometimes construction projects may impact OTP (i.e. Rumrill Line 71) and as mentioned we're trying to address reliability issues in Realign by addressing OTP for 72M, 74, 72R through fixes such as adding runtime or layover time

Overall, we're continuing to hire and train operators, fix running time, and control the number of runs as well as work with Cities like Richmond to prioritize transit in the right of way. Macdonald, Cutting for example.

The amount of service operated, in other words how much we're putting on the road for most routes is 95% of higher and has remained steady over the past year.

Comments:

No public comments in person or zoom

No Director comments

4. Future Agenda Items

- Jimenez: I would like follow up on Barrett and Dimm
- Willis: Curious about bus fares, potential assistance to low income riders to encourage people to get on the bus; also Federal assistance for inflation impacts/getting people on the bus.
 - Rob: we can give a presentation on this Clipper Start

5. Committee Member Comments

- Martinez: Very informative and how we're cooperating with City staff
- Jimenez: Thank you for the presentation, to advocate for residents and tackle climate change. More lines and services open up.
- Martinez: Thumbs up emoji
- Beckles: Wishing Director Peeple a speedy recovery.

6. Next Date

- Next meeting is on July 25, 2024, at 9:00am