

**New Grants Secured for MacDonald Avenue and Foothill Boulevard** -The District successfully won two grants under MTC's Transit Performance Initiative program. One grant is for \$1.5 million to prepare a Foothill Boulevard Transit Planning Study in Oakland. A second grant would provide \$3.5 million to build transit improvements along MacDonald Avenue in Richmond, including Transit Signal Priority (TSP) and bus stop improvements.

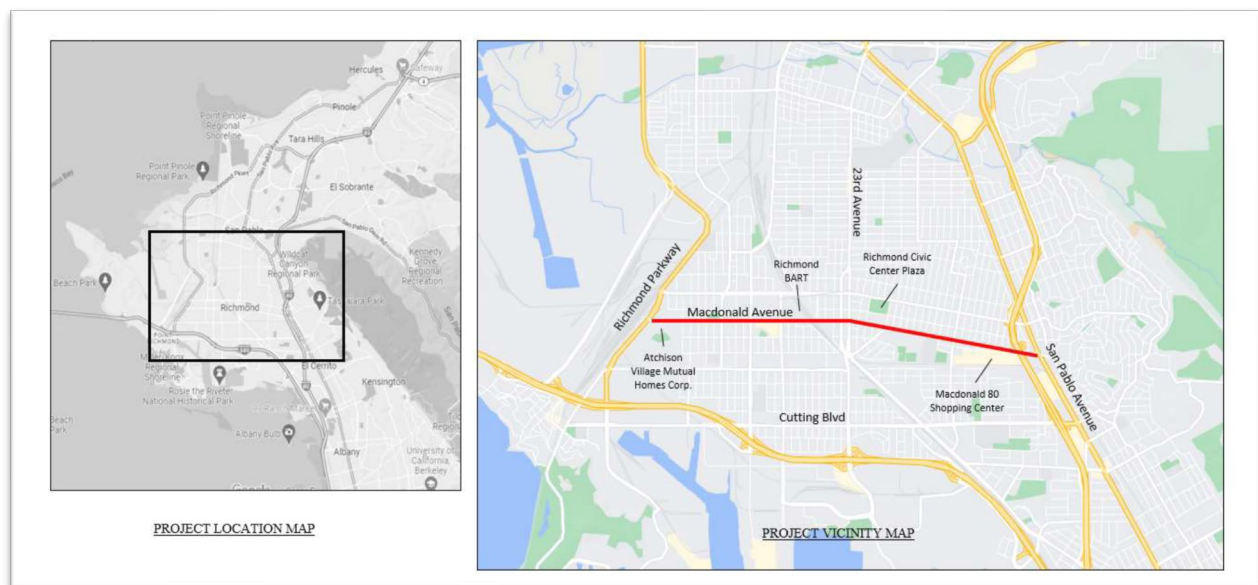
MTC created the TPI Investment program to fund low-cost capital investments that can be implemented rapidly to improve operations and customer experience on major transit corridors and systems. Since 2012, \$104 million has been programmed to 35 projects in the Bay Area. Through this funding program, operators have completed projects that improve transit reliability, speed, and rider experience. MTC recommended awarding a total of approximately \$21.2 million in 2022/2023, including full or partial funding for 12 projects submitted this round. AC Transit received the second largest allocation (\$5 million), and San Francisco Muni received the highest award of \$12.1 million for four projects.

MTC is still working on developing the precise mix of funding for the program, but awards are expected to be made in August 2023.

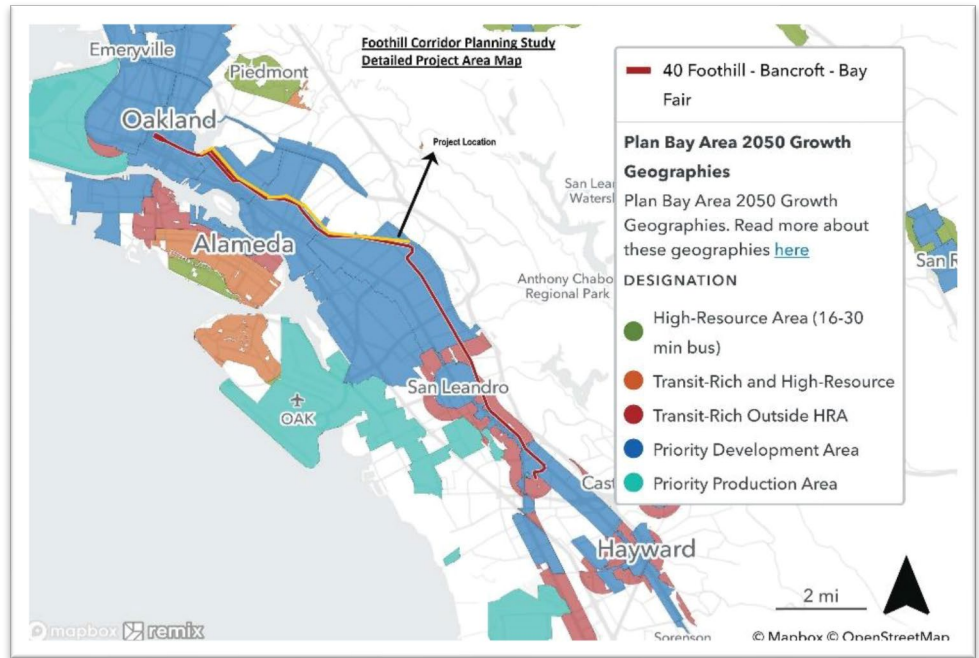
**MacDonald Avenue Transit Priority Project** -The project corridor is 2.71 miles long, extending between San Pablo Avenue and Richmond Parkway. Line 72M, which operates along the entire project corridor, takes approximately 13 minutes to travel from one end of the corridor to the other (including dwell times). The project would shave approximately 1.25 minutes (10%) off the current travel time in each direction. The MacDonald Avenue project is estimated to cost \$5 million and would include the following improvements:

- Transit Signal Priority and Upgraded Traffic Signals
- Bus bulbs
- Longer bus stops and bus stop relocations
- Bus shelter installations
- New and upgraded ADA Ramps and sidewalk repairs adjacent to bus stops

Staff is working to close the funding gap by partnering with the City of Richmond and an affordable housing developer to complete the bus stop work. Developers seeking funds through the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities grant program must include basic transit-supportive elements like bulbs, bus lanes, and TSP, which could be applied to this project. The map below shows the location of the project.



**Foothill Boulevard Transit Planning Study-** The Foothill Boulevard transit study will identify alternatives to improve bus service and reduce congestion delays for buses. Potential improvements include bus lane segments, queue jumps, sidewalk bulb-outs, new traffic signals, or other traffic controls. The study area extends between First Avenue and the Eastmont Transit Center in East Oakland. Completion of the study will position the District for capital funds to improve the transit infrastructure in the corridor. The map below shows the study area.



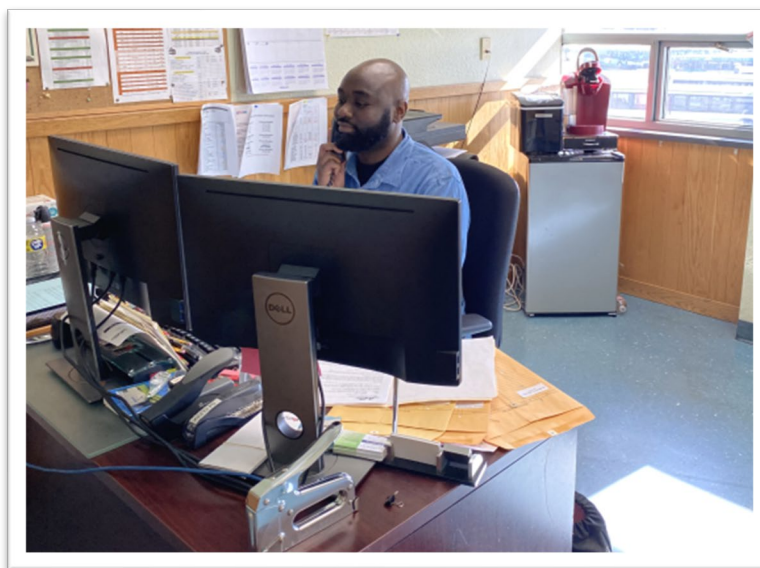
**East Oakland on the Move** – On February 8, 2023, New Bus Operator (NBO) class 128 certified nine new Professional Bus Operators ready for service to East Oakland, Division 4 (D4). Celebrating in harmony with the graduates are General Manager Michael Hursh; Chief Operating Officer Salvador Llamas; Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing, and Communications Beverly Greene; Interim Director of Transportation Dwain Crawley; Transportation Superintendent Arlee Young; Executive Director of Human Resources, Sebron Flenaugh III and Human Resources Manager



**California Highway Patrol Annual Terminal Inspection** – With great joy, I congratulate Division 4 for earning a “Satisfactory” rating on the annual California Highway Patrol (CHP) Motor Carrier Group Safety Compliance Terminal Inspection. In February, the CHP completed its annual terminal inspection at Division 4. The Division received a “Satisfactory” rating, which is the highest rating awarded by the agency. These are commendable results that speak volumes of the professionalism, dedication, and attention to detail from the Division Team and the support network at the District. Congratulations, and thank you for a Job Well Done!



**Division Transit Office Managers (TOMs)** – Transit Office Managers are an integral part of the Transportation leadership team and play a critical role in the success of District operations. TOMs have direct oversight responsibility for Transportation Division Chief Dispatchers, Dispatchers, Timekeepers, and Clerks. Transit Office Managers perform routine work: putting together and holding Division annual operator service sign-ups, the annual operator vacation sign-up, processing of District performance letters, and other administrative processes to help operators. Directly related to service delivery is performing a daily review of the dispatcher run sheets and operator availability to help mitigate the loss of service. TOMs and Chief Dispatchers work diligently to utilize very limited resources with extremely short notice to maximize service delivery. It's a very busy desk, but our TOMs are up for the challenge! Pictured above is the Division 4 Transit Office Manager Thomas Russell, hard at work! Thank you, Mr. Russell and all other TOMs, for your incredible work.



**Ongoing Advocacy in Sacramento** - On Feb. 1, General Manager Hursh joined representatives from MTC, VTA, SFMTA, BART, and Caltrain in Sacramento to present to the members of the Bay Area Caucus their agencies' respective operating deficits and ongoing COVID-related impacts. This invitation-only event was coordinated by Senator Scott Weiner and provided an important opportunity to elevate public transit's request for operating assistance among policymakers, including several who sit on key budget committees.

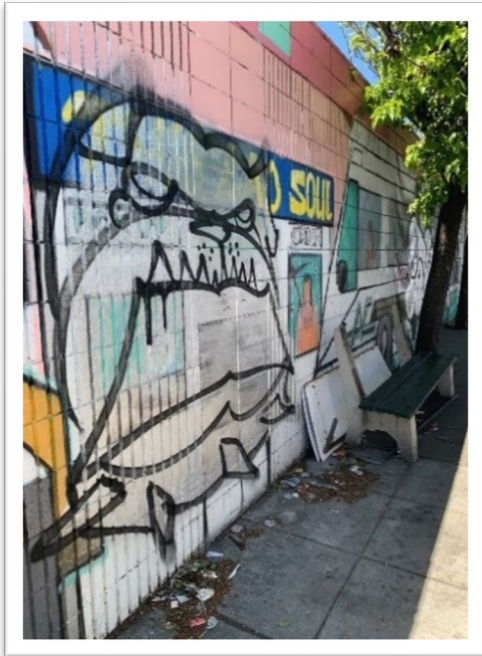
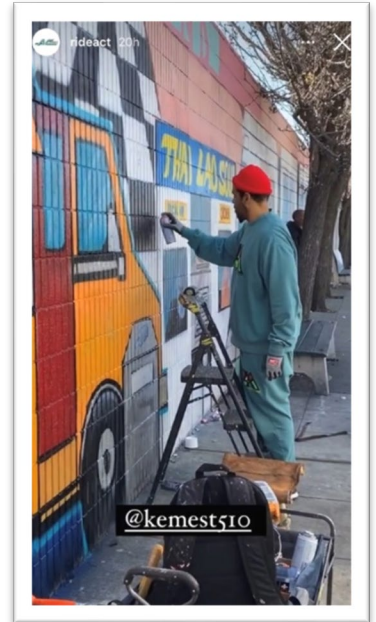
The District's priority legislation for 2023 has been introduced in the state legislature. On February 6, Santa Barbara Assemblymember Gregg Hart introduced **AB 463**, which would provide transit agencies with uninterrupted access to electricity during power grid disruptions (e.g., public safety power shutoffs, rolling blackouts, and disasters). AC Transit is co-sponsoring this legislation with CTA. During power curtailments, only first responders, health and communication infrastructure, and residential customers who depend on power for certain medical needs are currently guaranteed an uninterrupted supply of electricity. Prioritizing transit agencies to receive an uninterrupted supply of electricity ensures that California's transit riders, many dependent on public transportation, continue to receive the reliable service they need. It also supports the industry's efforts to achieve 100 percent zero emissions by 2040, per the ICT mandate.

**D3 Mural Restoration** - In 2011, the AC Transit Board of Directors made the difficult decision to close the Richmond operating division due to financial challenges arising from the Great Recession. Once the economy got back onto its feet, and after the division had been rehabilitated, it reopened in 2017.

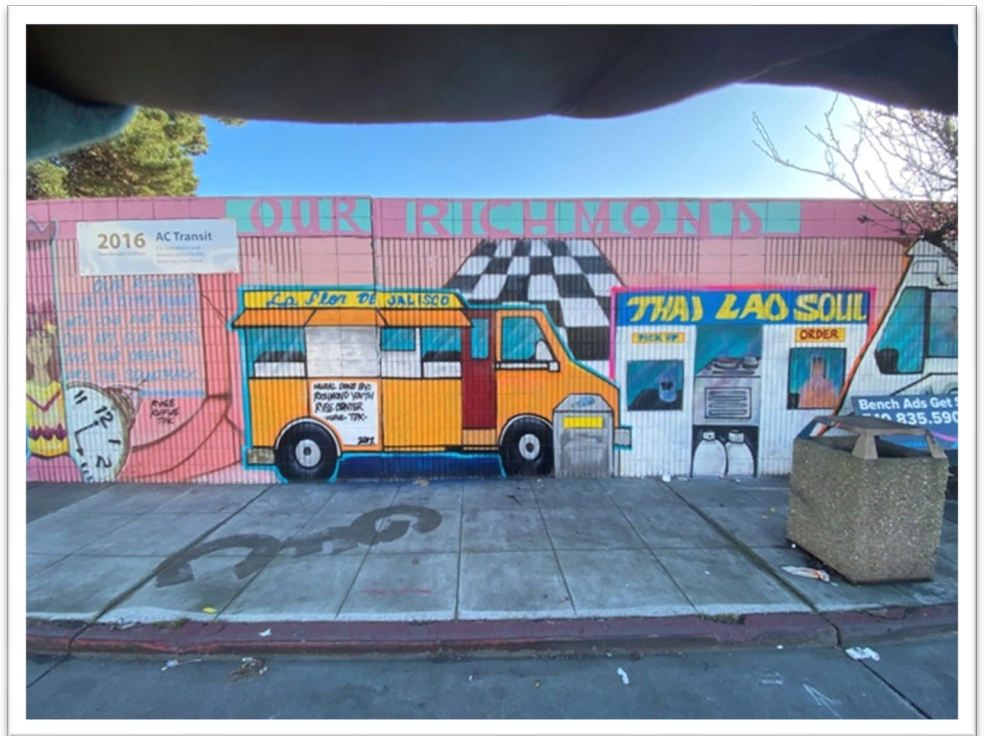
To celebrate the division's reopening, AC Transit commissioned a mural in partnership with the Ryse Youth Center in Richmond to have a professional muralist work with a group of youth to not only develop the concept for the mural but also produce the mural, painting alongside the muralist.

The mural, which was installed along the north-facing wall on Macdonald Ave, between streets 19th Street and 21st Street, incorporated themes from the community and the importance of public transit serving Richmond.

The mural was recently damaged by extensive graffiti. Rather than paint over the mural, the District decided to restore it to preserve this important cultural asset. External Affairs Representative, Ryan Lau, worked with the artist to restore the original piece of art. The restoration work was recently completed, and the mural is back to its former luster. The social media team was able to capture the work in progress and posted an Instagram Story to document the restoration.



*D3 Mural before restoration*



*D3 Mural After Restoration*

**Valentine's Day Card Promotion** - The Marketing, Communications, and Customer Services department launched AC Transit branded Valentine's Day cards for Valentine's Day. The Social Media team created the concept, the Creative team developed the designs, and the in-house Print Shop expedited the printing. Paper cards were delivered to all District worksites (Divisions, GO, TEC, and CMF) for staff to enjoy and distribute. Multilingual (Spanish, Chinese, and English) versions of the cards have been placed on our buses for riders, and other stakeholders can download the cards digitally from our website.

