

From: H. E. Christian (Chris) Peeples <CPeeples@actransit.org>

Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 2:14 PM

To: Linda Nemeroff <LNemeroff@actransit.org>

Cc: Salvador Llamas <sllamas@actransit.org>; Claudia Burgos <cburgos@actransit.org>; Chris Andrichak <candrichak@actransit.org>; Robert Del Rosario <RDelRosa@actransit.org>

Subject: Proposed Amendments To SB63

Linda:

Please forward this to the Board and put it in the red folder so that it is available to the public as well.

Thank you.

- Chris Peeples —
- 510-851-0968

Colleagues:

I support staff recommendation to change our position on SP 63 from “watch” to “supportive amended.”.

I would propose to amendments: (1) That the funding be sufficient to return service for all agencies to the 2019 level (I believe for AC that would require \$90 million a year, but Chris a needs to confirm), (1). That the funding source be more progressive than a sales tax or parcel tax.

The Reason for the amendment as to the amount should be clear. I think Planning did a good job of rationalizing the 85% service level with the first trench of realign, but it is still inadequate to fully serve our existing riders, and certainly inadequate to attract new riders. Given all the demands on the state budget and the craziness coming out of Washington, I don't know whether we can get it, but at least we should ask

The funding source amendment is a slightly larger story. For decades, the Right has been trying to replace the income tax (which can be progressive if properly structured) with some kind of consumption tax -- a sales tax, a value added tax (VAT), Or, in the latest iteration, tariffs. At the local, regional, and state level We have been there for a long time. It benefits the wealthiest parts of society and disadvantages the poorest.

From its pre-COVID beginning Voices for Public Transportation(VPT) has focused on two issues: (1) funding operations and (2) Having that funding come from a progressive funding source. I understand that a consortium of unions has funded a poll showing that a gross receipt tax holds better than an additional sales tax – – not enough to get over 2/3, but better than a sales tax. My understanding is that they are planning to release that poll sometime next week.

The cities of Richmond, Berkeley,, and WCCTAC have Passed resolutions in support of SC 63 that request a more progressive funding source. Those resolutions are attached, along with the Sacramento “leave behind“ from VPT on that issue. We should join them.

- Chris Peeples —

=====
H. E. Christian (Chris) Peeples
Elected Board Member
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District
1600 Franklin Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California. 94612-2800
510-891-7151
Cpeeples@actransit.org
[Www.actransit.org](http://www.actransit.org)
=====