



## **ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Board of Directors - Regular Meeting**

5:00 PM Regular Meeting

6:00 PM Listening Session - GM/CEO Recruitment

HYBRID MEETING

AC Transit General Offices

2nd Floor Board Room - 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, California

Phone (669) 900 6833, Webinar ID: 984 8717 5063

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 5:00 PM**

**Accessible agenda linked here <https://bit.ly/41zEw1l>.**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DIANE SHAW, PRESIDENT (WARD 5)**

**MURPHY MCCALLEY, VICE PRESIDENT (WARD 4)**

**H. E. CHRISTIAN PEEPLES (WARD 1)**

**JEAN WALSH (WARD 2)**

**SARAH SYED (WARD 3)**

**ANTHONY C. SILVA (WARD 6)**

**JOEL YOUNG (AT-LARGE)**

#### **BOARD OFFICERS**

**KATHLEEN KELLY, INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**AIMEE L. STEELE, GENERAL COUNSEL/CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**LINDA A. NEMEROFF, BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/DISTRICT SECRETARY**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Board of Directors held a meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

President Shaw called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Director Peeples was noticed to attend the meeting by teleconference, but attended in person.

Director Walsh arrived at 5:15 p.m.

**Present:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED, SILVA, YOUNG

**3. PRESENTATION**

**3.A.** Recognition of Director Joel Young's service as AC Transit Board President for 2023 and 2024. [25-200](#)

Presenter:

President Shaw

President Shaw presented Director Young with a plaque. Member of the Board shared congratulatory remarks in recognition of Director Young's service as a Board President in 2023 and 2024.

**Public Comment:**

**Alex Contreas** commented on Director Young's fitness to receive the recognition of service award.

**Eduardo** expressed disappointment that no action was taken to re-hire AC Transit employees who left the District because they refused a COVID-19 vaccination (off topic).

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Eduardo** commented how the consideration of medical issues will impact upcoming labor negotiations.

**5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

President Shaw announced that Items 7.D. (Retirement Board Appointment) and 10.B. (Request for Consideration) were removed from the agenda.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR (AND CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT ITEMS)**

There was no public comment on the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: McCALLEY/PEEPLS to receive and approve items on the Consent Calendar except item 6.D which was pulled off by Director Walsh for comment. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED, SILVA, YOUNG

- 6.A.** Consider approving Board of Directors meeting minutes of February 26, 2025. [25-043](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda A. Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

MOTION: McCALLEY/PEEPLS to approve Board of Directors meeting minutes of February 26, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED, SILVA, YOUNG

- 6.B.** Consider approving Board of Directors meeting minutes of March 3, 2025. (special meeting) [25-222](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

MOTION: McCALLEY/PEEPLS to approve Board of Directors special meeting minutes of March 3, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED, SILVA, YOUNG

- 6.C.** Consider receiving the General Manager's Access Committee minutes of December 10, 2024. [25-197](#)

Staff Contact:

Ramakrishna Pochiraju, Executive Director of Planning & Engineering

MOTION: McCALLEY/PEEPLS to receive the General Manager's Access Committee minutes of December 10, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED, SILVA, YOUNG

- 6.D.** Consider approving amendments to Board Policy 544 - Service Adjustments to include specific policy language regarding the implementation of major service detours. [Continued from the June 12, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting.] [25-162](#)

Staff Contact:

Ramakrishna Pochiraju, Executive Director of Planning & Engineering

The agenda item was pulled of the Consent Calendar by Director Walsh for a comment. There were no public comments offered.

MOTION: WALSH/McCALLEY approve amendments to Board Policy 544 as recommended. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Ayes:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED, SILVA, YOUNG

## 7. REGULAR CALENDAR

### External Affairs Items - Chair Peeples

- 7.A.** Consider receiving a report on the District's planned polling associated with a potential upcoming revenue measure. [25-191](#)

Staff Contact:

Claudia Burgos, Interim Executive Director of External Affairs,  
Marketing & Communications

Project Manager Michelle Schurig presented the staff report.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Laurel Paget-Seekins**, Public Advocates, requested that calculations to address how much revenue is needed to return service to pre-pandemic levels include calculations for wage increases to, and staffing needs around, bus operators. Paget-Seekins added that regional agencies must act together to avoid competing ballot measures in 2026.

**George Spies** appreciated the commitment and approach towards a regional measure taken by the District.

**Warren** expressed concerns of any AC Transit "Go-it-Alone" strategy and favored a plan where AC Transit and BART worked more closely together on a plan.

**Anthony** noted appreciation for the District seeking a parcel tax strategy towards restoring 100 percent service and commented on the need for State legislative support for these funding measures.

**Carter Lavin**, Transbay Coalition, expressed agreement with previous speakers' views for the District to restore 100 percent service and added that transit workers deserve better wages, respect, and efforts to both attract more workers and retain the existing workforce.

**Alex Contreras** asked how wages can be improved while improving service, frequency and reliability. Contreras advocated for coordination and communication between transit agencies to negotiate the best funding agreement that addresses rider needs.

**Erin** agreed with the other commenters, emphasizing that a strong regional measure is necessary for the District's plans to restore full service.

MOTION: YOUNG/SHAW to receive a report on the District's planned polling associated with a potential upcoming revenue measure. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED, SILVA, YOUNG

### Planning Items - Chair Young

- 7.B.** Consider adopting AC Transit's Transit-Supportive Design Guidelines. [24-268a](#)

Staff Contact:

Ramakrishna Pochiraju, Executive Director of Planning & Engineering

*[Written comment received prior to the meeting is incorporated into the file by reference.]*

Senior Transportation Planner Crystal Wang presented the staff report.

**Public Comment:**

**Brian Culbertson**, Traffic Violence Rapid Response, requested the Board defer adoption of the Design Guidelines until after full and more comprehensive guidelines are adopted and made available from City VPACS and Disability Commissions.

**George Spies**, Traffic Violence Rapid Response, clarified the work of safety advocates regarding the guidelines is the reduction of conflicts between vehicle traffic and pedestrians.

**Anthony**, Traffic Violence Rapid Response, noted the letter sent to the Board requesting the Board defer adoption of the guidelines until full outreach has been completed.

**Carter Lavin**, Transbay Coalition, highlighted the urgent need to address complete streets and reduce fatalities caused by car accidents and urged the Board to postpone the adoption of the new guidelines. Lavin emphasized the importance of focusing on transit times rather than bus speed, as it directly impacts travel times and reduces fatalities, and the need for timely action to ensure the issue is addressed.

**Warren Cushman** supported a delay of Board approval of the guidelines until after other municipal disability commissions have more meetings to discuss safety issues addressing curb ramps and other ADA-related safety design matters.

**Andrea Horbinski** commented that design guidelines need to be created with the passenger experience in mind. Horbinski added that greater emphasis should be given to bus stop design rather than bus speeds.

MOTION: WALSH/PEEPLES to continue the item, provide stakeholder groups a final opportunity to review the document and provide feedback, and direct staff to bring a final proposal to the Board reflecting any changes resulting from the feedback provided. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Ayes:** WALSH, PEEPLES, SYED

**Noes:** SHAW, SILVA

**Abstain:** McCALLEY, YOUNG

MOTION: SHAW/YOUNG to adopt AC Transit's Transit-Supportive Design Guidelines as presented, circulate the document to stakeholders for feedback and return to the Board in two months with a summary of the feedback any applicable changes. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SILVA, YOUNG

**Abstained:** SYED

**Board Administrative Matters - President Shaw**

- 7.C.** Consider approving the draft agenda for the April 30, 2025 Board of Directors/Board Officers Retreat. [25-198](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary Linda Nemeroff presented an overview of the draft agenda and recommended the replacement of Item 4.D. (annual report from the Department of Innovation and Technology) with an overview of Rosenberg's Rules of Order. There were no public comments offered.

MOTION: YOUNG/McCALLEY to approve the revised draft agenda for the April 30, 2025 Board of Directors/Board Officers Retreat as recommended by staff and authorize the Board President to make adjustments if necessary. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** SHAW, McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED, SILVA, YOUNG

- 7.D.** Consider adoption of Resolution No. 25-013 appointing one public member to fill the term expiring on March 31, 2025, and a two-year term commencing on April 1, 2025 until March 31, 2027. [This item has been agendized in the event a decision on appointment is deferred to the regular Board meeting.] **24-462c**

Staff Contact:

Linda A. Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

The agenda item was removed from the agenda and will be considered at a future meeting.

**8. LISTENING SESSION - 6:00 PM**

- 8.A.** Hold a Public Listening Session regarding the desirable characteristics and attributes the Board of Directors might consider in the selection of a new General Manager/Chief Executive Officer. [25-192](#)

Presenter:

Gregg Moser, Krauthamer & Associates

President Shaw opened the Listening Session.

The following individuals spoke during the listening session:

- **Martha Bonnet**

- **Lupin Miller**
- **Warren Cushman**
- **Carter Lavin**
- **Tommaso Boggia**

The listening session highlighted key qualities desired in AC Transit's future General Manager/CEO:

- Favors the continuation of a hybrid work-from-home policy
- Strong motivational and inspirational skills
- Strategic Thinker who can anticipate challenges and think long term
- Adaptable to changing circumstances
- Effective communicator & relationship builder with Unions and the public
- Identifies with riders and drivers
- Knowledge of budgeting
- Works well with other agencies
- Outside-the-box thinker who sees the 'big picture'
- Facilitator who brings people together
- Understands that bus riders are our allies
- Appreciates the needs of riders with disabilities
- Focused on drastically growing ridership
- Vision and focus for meeting California's goals for emission reductions
- Solution-focus towards addressing climate change

The item was presented for information only.

## **9. REGULAR CALENDAR - CONTINUED**

### **Finance and Audit Items - Chair McCalley**

- 9.A.** Consider the adoption of Resolution 25-011 to implement on July 1, 2025, all previously postponed Local and Transbay fare increases that are scheduled to be effective on July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026; and receive an update on a re-evaluation of fare pricing.

[21-163d](#)

Staff Contact:

Chris Andrichak, Chief Financial Officer

Claudia Burgos, Interim Executive Director of External Affairs,  
Marketing and Communications

*[Written comment received prior to the meeting is incorporated into the file by reference.]*

Chief Financial Officer Chris Andrichak and the Interim Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing and Communications Claudia Burgos presented the staff report.

**Public Comment:**

**Igor Tregub**, City of Berkeley Councilmember, expressed concerns about the proposed fare increase, which would make AC Transit's bus fare one of the highest in the nation. Tregub offered support to the Board in seeking assistance from the State or through ballot measures and called for further exploration into ways to reduce or limit the fare hike.

**Bryan Culbertson** commented that a 20% fare increase is excessive, especially when compared to fare increases from other agencies, which typically range from 3% to 6%. Culbertson stated that such an increase could negatively impact ridership and suggested efforts should be directed toward growing ridership instead. It was also mentioned that other transit agencies have explored alternative revenue-raising methods that AC Transit should consider, noting that the subsidy for the Salesforce Transit Center should be provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, not East Bay transit riders.

**Cecilia Lunaparra**, City of Berkeley Councilmember, expressed opposition to the proposed fare increase, raising concerns that declining ridership could result in reduced service and push people away from AC Transit. The Board was urged to find alternative solutions that would not disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

**Laurel Paget-Seekins**, Public Advocates, called on the Board to consider alternatives to the fare increase and include the public in the discussion to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable riders are heard and that the impact is equitable.

**Jessie Gunn** urged the Board to reject the fare increase and prioritize keeping transit accessible to all. Gunn recognized the need for fiscal responsibility but encouraged the Board to focus on regional transit measures rather than implementing fare hikes based on outdated reports from six years ago.

**Andrea Horbinski** criticized the fare increase, arguing that it was proposed with little warning and based on outdated data. Horbinski stressed that raising fares could drive down ridership and worsen fiscal hardships and suggested delaying any large fare increases until an equity analysis could be done, outreach to current riders conducted, and Clipper 2 implementation considered.

**Lupin Miller**, a bus operator, shared that fare increases lead to more stress for operators due to increased altercations with outraged riders. Miller asked the Board to delay the fare increase until a strategy to support bus operators is better developed, along with a plan for equitable passenger service.

**Emily Wheeler** requested the Board reconsider the fare increase, particularly noting concerns about the eligibility limits for Clipper Start and the need for free transfers. Wheeler suggested delaying the fare increase until Clipper 2 is implemented and exploring alternative revenue sources, such as renegotiating the Transbay Terminal contract.

**Carter Lavin**, Transbay Coalition, referenced an earlier letter delivered to the Board, signed by multiple local agencies and organizations opposing the fare increase. Lavin stated that higher fares are counterproductive and could push AC Transit into a downward spiral of reduced ridership, less revenue, and decreased service.

**Rebecca Mirvish** expressed agreement with other speakers, urging the Board not to implement the fare increase.



**Claudine Tong**, Genesis Transit and Disability Justice Task Force, shared a personal experience with bus rides and asked the Board to consider alternatives to a fare increase that would not disproportionately affect people already financially strained.

**Erin** voiced strong opposition to the fare hike, agreeing with many previous speakers. Erin highlighted that the fare increase would unfairly impact low-income riders and suggested the Board focus on finding funding elsewhere, particularly through regional measures, and possibly delay the fare increase until Clipper 2 service is available.

**Mara Schechter** expressed agreement with other public speakers and shared a personal story about the importance of affordable public transit for disabled riders. Schechter noted that those who need buses most are often unable to afford cars and cannot bear the burden of fare increases. The Board was urged to consider these riders when deciding on the fare increase.

**Warren Cushman** opposed the fare increases, particularly due to their strong impact on people with disabilities. Cushman noted that people with disabilities face high unemployment rates and other challenges and that a fare increase would exacerbate these issues. The Board was urged to conduct extensive outreach to ensure the needs of these riders are addressed.

**Anthony** emphasized the need for high-quality, cost-effective service for patrons and recommended that the fare increase be delayed until Clipper 2 free transfer policies are implemented, along with conducting a new study to update outdated data.

**Alex Contreras** suggested that increasing ridership is better achieved by improving service frequency, rather than raising fares. Contreras argued that a fare increase would disproportionately affect marginalized communities in Alameda County and could lead to a loss in ridership.

**Tommaso Boggia** commented that a fare increase would drive riders away, leading them to seek alternative modes of transportation, potentially cars. It was recommended that bus services be expanded to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Sam Greenberg**, Walk Bike Berkeley, opposed the fare increase, citing its potential harm to transit use and its disproportionate impact on low-income riders. Greenberg urged the Board to prioritize equity and not place additional financial burdens on transit-dependent, low-income riders.

MAIN MOTION: SHAW/YOUNG to adopt Resolution 25-011 to implement all previously postponed Local and Transbay fare increases effective on July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026, as recommended by staff.

Director Syed intervened with a motion to postpone the action to a future date, which was seconded by Director Peeples. The motion to postpone failed by a vote of 2-5 (Directors Walsh, McCalley, Silva, Young, Shaw - Nays).

Director Walsh then introduced a motion to amend by substitution:

MOTION TO AMEND BY SUBSTITUTION: WALSH/SYED to adopt Resolution 25-011 approving a staggered fare increase of \$0.25 on July 1, 2025, and \$0.25 on July 1, 2026,

as outlined in Alternate Exhibit A to Resolution 25-011.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT: SYED/PEEPLES to implement a \$0.25 increase on July 1, 2025, and reevaluate the fare plan before the second increase in 2026. The motion failed by a vote of 3-4 (Directors McCalley, Silva, Shaw, Young - Naves).

Following the defeat of the Motion to Amend the Amendment, the Board took action on the Motion to Amend by Substitution offered by Director Walsh.

MOTION TO AMEND BY SUBSTITUTION: WALSH/SYED to adopt Resolution 25-011 approving a staggered fare increase of \$0.25 on July 1, 2025, and \$0.25 on July 1, 2026, as outlined in Alternate Exhibit A to Resolution 25-011. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** McCALLEY, PEEPLES, WALSH, SYED

**Naves:** SHAW, SILVA, YOUNG

## 10. AGENDA PLANNING

- 10.A.** Review of Agenda Planning Pending List and Agenda Planning Request Forms. [25-015d](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

Director Young's Agenda Planning Request was removed from the agenda. No new items were added to the Agenda Planning Pending List.

- 10.B.** REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION [25-228](#)  
Reconsideration of a potential conflict of interest involving a Board member [Previously considered and acted upon by the Board on March 3, 2025]. ITEM HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.

The item was removed from the agenda.

## 11. BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS

(Government Code Section 54954.2)

There were no comments offered on meetings and events attended since the last meeting.

- 11.A.** Written reports from Board members on travel to District-related conferences occurring in the last 30 days. [25-038d](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

There were no travel reports entered into the record.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 26, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Linda A. Nemeroff  
Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary