

## City of Hayward/AC Transit ILC Notes – September 6, 2024

## 1. Opening

- a. Roll Call/Welcome and Introduction
  - i. Present: Councilmember Zermeno, Councilmember Syrop, Director McCalley, Director Shaw, as well as additional AC Transit and City of Hayward employees
- b. Announcements/ Public Comments
  - i. Lucy Lopez, Hayward Chamber of Commerce, commented on Realign changes including the extension of line 86 being helpful to the industrial businesses. She expressed support for the new line 10 and increased frequency on several lines from 60 minutes to 40 minutes. She also asked about the possibility of bringing back line S.
- c. Notes from Previous Meeting

## 2. New Discussion Items

- a. AC Transit Realign Update
  - i. Shareen Ram: We've come a long way from launching the project, taking notes from the public, bus operators, the board, and advocates about the draft plan. We've had some engagement highlights including over 23 thousand website views. Community members were generally grateful for the realign project and the efforts being made but there was also recognition of the resource constraints and trade-offs that result from difficult decisions. There was support for better transit connections, more direct routes, and increased frequency on certain routes and concerns about frequency reductions on certain other lines.
  - ii. Mike Eshleman: This is the fifth iteration of this plan and each time we've gotten a lot of feedback and made adjustments. For Hayward and Central Alameda County we are going to extend the 10 to Union city to reduce transfers, improve weekday frequency on 28, 34, 35, 41, 56. One of the biggest things we want to achieve with this plan is improving the frequent network. So this means a 35.5% increase of the population with access to 15 minute service, 22.9% more zero-vehicle households will have access to 15-minute service, and more jobs will have access to 15-minute service. There are 3 elements of realign: realign, realign+, and the vision plan which is a long term plan of a service area that can do anything anytime. We'll be holding 4 public hearings next week to discuss the scope of realign with the public and we're encouraging folks to submit all comments they have. Following this public hearing we will be making more edits and later presenting the board with our service standards and asking for approval on October 9.
  - iii. Councilmember Syrop: I'm curious about the student line, it looks like it has decreased frequency, why is that?
  - iv. Mike Eshleman: We are not seeing as high of ridership as we'd like to see on this line but we are working with Cal State East Bay.

- v. Councilmember Zermeno: I want to emphasize the student experience with transit.
- b. Transit Access for Students
- i. Sean DiestLorgion: I'll be presenting an overview of supplementary service in Hayward, this is school routes in Hayward USD middle and high schools. Most of the local service is dedicated to major arterials. There are four HUSD high schools and all are served by a local service route, it's a similar situation with middle schools. In addition to local service, we operate supplemental bus service to accommodate school bell times. Students can benefit from having a student clipper card which allows you to get a 31 day pass for \$34 a month for unlimited rides.
  - ii. Councilmember Zermeno: I'd like to request to include catholic schools and charter schools in the future.
  - iii. Director Shaw: How many schools in Hayward are applicable for the Student Pass program out of ACTC?
  - iv. Sean DiestLorgion: All the schools from Junior High, Middle, and High school are a part of it.
- c. Student Transit Pass Program
- i. Michael Consunji (ACTC): Eligible middle and high school students in Alameda County can receive a student transit pass which includes free and unlimited trips. Eligibility is for grades 6-12 and for those who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Once you get a pass it is valid until you graduate high school. Some benefits of the program: it provides better access to schools, higher transit use, financial benefit. Hayward has been in the student transit pass program since the pilot program and its expanded a lot since then.
  - ii. Councilmember Syrop: I'm curious as to how the eligibility requirements were decided on.
  - iii. Michael Consunji: These requirements were established during the pilot program. In Hayward, the means-based fee is used. This is determined by calculating the district wide FRPM percentage and if 75% of the student population is eligible then they were given the free and universal program model, but Hayward was under that threshold.
  - iv. Director Shaw: What is the future of this program?
  - v. Michael Consunji: So this is the last year of expansion, meaning we've reached all the eligible schools and following that we will continue as we have been with the same level of the service.
- d. Easy Pass
- i. Andy Nern: Easy Pass is a program that provides employers, residential communities, and colleges annual discounted transit cards for groups of at least 100 people. These cards can be used for unlimited rides on AC Transit, including transbay service. There are clients, which are the organizations or groups, and the participants, who are the individual card holders who make up that group. The clients are the ones who set up and pay for the pass for the group. Easy pass is loaded on a clipper card so it provides them reduced

cost AC Transit and participants can add cash value to use on other Bay Area transit services. The client pays an annual fee and the participants get unlimited free rides. We will continue to engage with CSUEB and have reached out to Chabot but not heard anything from them.

- ii. Director Shaw: Easy Pass can also be seen as a gateway to the Bay Pass which grants free transit on all Bay Area services so we need to show how impactful Easy Pass is.

### 3. Update on Past Items

#### a. Bus Stop Benches and Assessments

- i. Assistant Transportation Engineer, Hayward: There was a survey relating to the Simme Seat pilot program. 63 percent of respondents said the Simme Seats have encouraged them to take more transit. Out of 362 stops total in Hayward we've narrowed it down to 283 stops without identified site constraints. Were looking at 20-45 new locations for simme seats.
- ii. Councilmember Syrop: For every location that can have one, we want one!
- iii. Director Shaw: What is the price per seat? And are these being updated internally in our stop database.
- iv. 12,000 for 12 seats plus installation costs. And Yes.

#### b. AC Transit Service Planning and Performance

- i. Robert DelRosario: Since we are running short on time we can take questions on this item but if there are none we can move on.

#### c. Roadway and Streetscaping Projects Update

#### d. New Development Update

#### e. Board Policy 501 Update

- i. Samah Itani: We went to the board in July and got some great feedback from the Board and the public about our Board Policy 501, which is our Bus Stop Policy. We're hoping to go back to the board at the end of October with the final draft with changes like adding more clarifying language about existing bus stops, adding flexibility with placing mid-block stops, and adding ridership criteria.

#### f. Transit Supportive Design Guidelines

- i. Crystal Wang: The Transit Supportive Design Guidelines covers AC Transit's operational needs for transit and paratransit and lists things for cities to keep in mind when designing streets where buses run along. It talks about what infrastructure and design work or does not work with transit.

#### g. Mission Blvd. TSP Project

- i. Crystal Wang: This project includes two elements: installation of transit signal priority technology along the corridor and upgrading or reconfiguring equipment at locations where there is existing TSP. The construction work in Hayward was completed about a month ago; there were just a few intersections where antennas needed to be installed and some electrical cabinets that needed to be modified. There will be a before and after study completed later on.

### 4. Future Agenda Items

- a. Update on Near and Long-Term Projects – ACTC
  - b. Update on East Bay Greenway Project – ACTC/City of Hayward
  - c. Grant Opportunities – City of Hayward/AC Transit
  - d. City Transit Passes – City of Hayward/AC Transit
  - e. Clipper 2.0 Update – MTC/AC Transit
5. Committee Member Comments
  6. Next meeting: December 13, 2024 at 10am
  7. Adjourned: 11:39