



Berkeley City Councilmembers

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2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor

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Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Board of Directors

1600 Franklin St

Oakland, CA 94612

October 3, 2024

RE: AC Transit Realign and proposed service changes affecting Berkeley

Dear AC Transit Board of Directors,

We greatly appreciate all the work and community engagement that have gone into crafting the AC Transit Realign proposal. We believe the plan contains many changes that will be mutually beneficial for riders and bus operators. Nevertheless, there are a number of components of the current Realign proposal that we urge further changes to:

51B route connectivity: We recognize that the full 51 line, from Alameda to the Berkeley Marina, was unwieldy and frequently resulted in bus bunching and delays. However, having a direct connection to Kaiser Permanente medical facilities in Oakland was a huge benefit for residents of both Berkeley and Alameda. We urge the Board and staff to explore options for recombining the 51A and 51B lines and using other strategies, such as bus bulb-outs, signal priority, and transit lanes to manage bus timing. Alternatively or in addition, we ask AC Transit to explore having the 51A and 51B meet/terminate at Kaiser Permanente's Broadway facilities, which would also serve to make the lengths of the 51A/B more even.

Berkeley hills weekend service: We strongly urge the Board not to eliminate weekend service for the Berkeley Hills. Eliminating this critical life-line transit service on weekends would further discourage residents in these areas from transit use overall and reduce access to regional recreational opportunities in Tilden Park.

Line 7 service levels: We strongly urge the Board to maintain Line 7 service at its current level, rather than reducing it to once-per-hour service. Hourly service is barely usable for local transit, and is likely to send this line into a "death spiral" whereby would-be riders give up on it and permanently seek other means of transportation.

We urge you to prioritize good service for high-ridership areas like Berkeley as you balance competing needs and financial constraints. Thank you for considering these requests.

Respectfully,

Mark Humbert, Berkeley City Councilmember, District 8

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