

**MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE AC TRANSIT
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
JULY 14, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL and Introduction of Members and Guests

AAC members present:

Janet Abelson	Erika Bruhns
Chonita Chew	Mary Clutts
Jonathan Elkus	Pamela Fadem, Chair
Shawn Fong	Melissa Getz
Sandra Johnson	Don Queen
James Robson	Tanya Washington
Barbara Williams, Vice Chair (1:10)	Hale Zukas

New members gave a brief introduction of themselves to the Committee.

AAC members absent:

None.

Staff:

Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator
Kimberly Ridgeway, Senior Program Specialist
Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager
Robert del Rosario, Director of Service Development and Planning
Michael Eshleman, Service Planning Manager
Michael Flocchini, Training & Education Manager
Derik Calhoun, Director of Transportation
Graham Carey, BRT Implementation Engineer

Guests:

Diane Shaw, Board of Directors
H. E. Christian Peeples, Board of Directors
Sharon White
Warren Cushman
Sheela Gunn-Cushman

3. ORDER OF AGENDA

The order of agenda was approved.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Williams/Washington approved the February 11, 2020 AAC meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 9: Bruhns, Chew, Clutts, Fadem, Johnson, Queen, Robson, Williams, Washington

ABSTENTIONS – 5: Abelson, Elkus, Fong, Getz, Zukas

ABSENT – 0

5. REGULAR UPDATES

5.A. AC Transit Service Update Related to COVID-19

Robert del Rosario, Director of Service Development and Planning, reported on AC Transit's response to the pandemic:

- Financial update with revenue overview showing Farebox less than half, and the addition of the CARES Act.
- Immediately reduced service to Sunday schedule levels, removed almost all Transbay and school service. Increased service levels in August and more in the March sign-up.
- Uncertain factors impacting recovery:
 - Social Distancing on buses; 10 passengers on a 40-foot bus
 - Re-opening of schools
 - Commuter ridership demand
 - Traffic conditions
 - Long lead time to implement service changes
- Resuming Fare Collection
 - Dependent on installation of operator shields on fleet
 - Reduce homeless ridership who are using transit as a form of shelter
 - Investigating All-Door Boarding Pilot
 - Preparing for Mobile Ticketing Pilot
- Transit Priority Infrastructure
 - Seeking partnerships to implement “quick build” projects, items we can do to speed up the bus, such as:
 - Advancing Bay Bridge Forward through MTC
 - Pilot projects in conjunction with Alameda CTC and local jurisdictions
 - Transit lane projects with local jurisdictions
- Health and Safety
 - Physical distancing on buses
 - Mask wearing enforcement
 - PPE distribution to operators and staff
 - Frequency of bus sanitizing
 - Operator polycarbonate shields

5.B. BRT Update

Derik Calhoun, Director of Transportation, updated the committee on the BRT. The BRT project, or TEMPO, is almost complete, and the service will run from downtown Oakland and San Leandro along International Boulevard and East 14th Street. Mr. Calhoun thanked the Committee and the communities for their support on this long-standing project.

Graham Carey, Implementation Engineer for the BRT Project, shared some items that were completed on the project:

- New curb ramps were installed at all intersections
- Replaced road surface, to make it easier to cross the street
- Installed a mix between median stations and curbside stations
- Installed new traffic signals and new pedestrian signals to access the platforms
- Platforms are raised so there is level boarding to get on the bus
- Sloped walkways with a shallower grade less than 5 degrees for easier access

- New fare collection system on platforms, including 2 Clipper card readers and one Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) per station
- New passenger information signage displays next time arrivals, also a push button for verbal readout
- A tactile strip along the edge of the platform to warn people that there is a drop off

Mr. Carey also mentioned that there will be no fare collection on TEMPO for the 1st 90 days of service.

Michael Flocchini, Training & Education Manager, shared that there is a bridge plate that will be extended on the middle door, which will bridge the gap between the bus and the platform for mobility device users. Mr. Flocchini also informed the Committee that securements will be attached upon request. Mr. Calhoun reported that Platform Agents, at the platform and riding the buses, will be available to assist with customer service.

5.C. Review of Lift/Ramp Road Call Report

The Committee reviewed the Road Call report for June 1 – June 30, 2020. There was a total of seven (7) road calls; six (6) were chargeable.

6. STANDING REPORTS

6.A. Chair's Report

Chair Fadem thanked everyone for being patient stating that this is not business as usual and were not going to be having business as usual for a while. She also stated that if anyone rides the bus, make sure you are wearing a mask. She thanked AC Transit for all of the work it is doing to try and keep both riders and operators stay safe. Finally, she thanked the Accessible Services Staff for working hard to keep everyone functioning as a community.

6.B. Board Liaison Report

None.

6.C. Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) PAPCO Report

None.

6.D. Service Review Advisory Committee (SRAC) Report

Janet Abelson commented that SRAC has not held a meeting but would like to personally thank East Bay Paratransit for reaching out to her during this difficult time, asking if she needed anything, and bringing her food as she was unable to get out and get groceries herself.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sheela Gunn-Cushman stated that she is very concerned about getting out again during the pandemic. She also stated that Paratransit needs to accept non-essential trips and they also need to accept Clipper Cards.

Sharon White stated that she is concerned about the unreliability of bus service due to the “Drop Off Only” head signs. She stated that her son has adjusted his schedule to accommodate for some pass ups, but he relies on the bus to get to work and to his doctor’s appointments. Due to the Drop Off Only signs, he has been passed up many times on lines 90, 90 and 1 and have been more than 30 minutes late for appointments on more than one occasion. She asked AC Transit to consider priority boarding for those who have doctor’s appointment and those who are essential workers.

Warren Cushman stated that there are about a half a dozen blind individuals who are currently living in the East Bay that are organizing around transportation. He would like to offer himself to the chair as well as to the staff in terms of finding solutions around COVID-19. He also encouraged working with organizations like the California Council of the Blind, to problem solve some of these issues.

8. MEMBER/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chonita Chew announced that Healthy Living Festival will be Virtual this year. The date is September 17, 2020. Tammy will forward the details to the committee.

Chonita Chew also announced that a virtual roundtable on travel training will be held on Friday, July 17 at 12:30pm. Tammy will forward more information to the committee.

Kim Ridgeway, Senior Program Specialist, announced that staff will do an email survey with the member of the Committee on whether or not to have an August 2020 meeting.

Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator, announced that the virtual joint meeting with the Board of Directors will be on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 1:00pm. The regular meeting of the AAC for September will be cancelled.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & NEXT MEETING DATE

The next AAC Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13, 2020. This will be a virtual meeting.

Future Agenda Items:

- FASTER Bay Area
- AAC Programs/Projects to increase Senior Ridership

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.