

City of Oakland/AC Transit ILC Meeting Notes

April 15, 2026

Oakland Representatives: Wang, Houston, Gallo (Chair)

AC Transit Representatives: Syed, Walsh, McCalley

Quick Recap

The Oakland/AC Transit Inter-agency Liaison (ILC) meeting focuses on updates and discussions regarding transit services, safety, and infrastructure in Oakland. Key topics for this meeting included AC Transit's Supplementary Service to schools, potential service reductions due to budget constraints, and efforts to secure stable funding through a ballot measure. The committee reviewed updates on bus shelter improvements, with plans to install new shelters and remove damaged ones, emphasizing an equity-focused approach to locations. Public safety initiatives were discussed, including video sharing for law enforcement and addressing human trafficking concerns. Legislative updates highlighted ongoing efforts to secure state and federal funding for transit and safety improvements. The meeting also addressed concerns about maintenance and cleanliness of bus stops and shelters, with discussions on potential solutions like seating alternatives and improved maintenance programs.

Summary

Transportation Demand Management Project Planning

The meeting focused on a new transportation demand management (TDM) project that recently launched with a grant. Plan is due in June 2027. The team discussed various TDM options including EasyPass requirements, with particular attention to Samuel Merritt University's new facility and whether transit requirements were applied to that development. The discussion addressed challenges with existing developments like Brooklyn Basin, where a private shuttle operates instead of public transit, and explored how to balance TDM requirements with economic development and housing generation. The team plans to conduct outreach this summer and complete parking code revisions and TDM components in winter 2027, with developer input being a key component of the process.

AC Transit Supplementary Service Program and ACTC Student Transit Pass Program

The discussion item focused on AC Transit's Supplementary Service program for Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) schools. Sean Diest Lorgion, Acting Service Planning Manager, presented details on service operations, including 27 morning trips and 34 afternoon trips serving 6 OUSD sites, carrying approximately 1,500 passengers daily. The presentation outlined the annual coordination process with schools, highlighting the key role of Kim Rainey at OUSD as the single point of contact for bell schedule information, with information on the upcoming school year due by the first Friday in March. The discussion also briefly touched on the EasyPass program, with costs estimated at \$100-\$200 per year per household.

Staff also presented an overview of the ACTC Student Transit Pass Program, which provides free local rides to qualified students in AC Transit, LAVTA, or Union City Transit service areas. The program is funded by Measure BB and began in 2017, with all 6th through 12th graders in OUSD eligible for free rides, differing from other districts where eligibility is based on means-based qualifications. Staff explained that service has been reduced over time due to budget constraints and discussed how service is focused on areas with high student populations and limited local service. The discussion included questions about bell schedule coordination with schools and the operational efficiency of the program, with staff noting that a comprehensive operational assessment of the student transit pass program is in development.

AC Transit Service Reduction Framework and Outreach

This item focused on AC Transit's financial challenges and potential service reductions. Robert Del Rosario and Maria Henderson presented a framework for reducing service by either 11.4% (\$36.75M) or 16.4% (\$53M), with most reductions affecting weekday local services. The board approved this framework in March, and the team plans to present specific service plans in June, aiming for final approval by year-end to implement in 2027 if the November ballot measure fails. The presentation also covered current financial constraints, including a \$50M deficit starting in fiscal year 2028, and various cost-saving measures being implemented across AC Transit departments.

Maria Henderson from AC Transit presented a comprehensive outreach plan to inform the public about potential service reductions and seek feedback before the June 10th board meeting. The plan includes community presentations, social media outreach, and open houses, with four phases of implementation from now through June 2027. The proposed service cuts would reduce staff by either 200 or 300 employees depending on the scenario, and would impact bus service and connections with BART. The board has already approved fare increases up to \$3.25, and staff are exploring alternative options like voluntary furloughs and hiring freezes before implementing service cuts.

Legislative Update

Maria Henderson provided a legislative update on behalf of AC Transit, highlighting key state and federal priorities. On the state level, she discussed recent revenue trends, budget priorities including \$230 million in greenhouse gas reduction funds, and updates on several bills including AB 1837 on camera enforcement technology and AB 1944 on zero-emission bus weight restrictions. On the federal level, she reported that the President's budget proposal would eliminate 23% in public transit funding and 47% in bus and bus facilities funding, and AC Transit staff are advocating for transit funding through the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill and transit representation on metropolitan planning organizations.

There was follow-up discussion on two topics: legislation affecting bus lane ticketing and a safety working group update. Regarding AB 1837, the speaker questioned whether bike lane ticketing would remain legal if the bill passes, and suggested AC Transit encourage the inclusion of bike lane ticketing in the legislation.

Joint Safety Working Group Update

Ron Erb provided an update on the Joint Safety Working Group, which focused on human trafficking response, video sharing protocols for law enforcement, detour management, and parking enforcement coordination. The discussion highlighted that while the current video sharing policy allows for emergency access to platform footage for violent crimes, it may not adequately address human trafficking issues.

With regards to public safety responsibilities on transit and transit infrastructure. Ron clarified that the Alameda County Sheriff's Department is responsible for public safety inside buses and along bus routes, while the Oakland Police Department handles bus lane enforcement, with both agencies sharing access to surveillance camera footage from 68 bus stations on International Boulevard.

Oakland Bus Shelter Update

Megan Weir from OakDOT provided an update on the Next Generation bus shelter program, outlining plans for new canopy shelters across multiple locations including 14th Street, Broadway, and other areas, with approximately 8-10 additional shelters to be installed using a \$400K city budget line item. The shelter locations will be determined based on factors including ridership levels and equity areas in East and West Oakland, with District Works handling maintenance and removal of damaged shelters.

OakDOT staff also discussed the removal of 56 existing shelters and the installation of new ones, with approximately 45 legacy shelters still in service. The city received \$400,000 in funding for installing 8-10 new bus shelters, with priority given to cost-effectiveness and maintenance sustainability. Director Syed raised concerns about the removal of a busy shelter at MacArthur and Fruitvale, which served around 400 riders daily, and requested its replacement with a bench in the interim. The group also discussed the need for an equity lens in shelter placement and the potential for semi-seats as an alternative solution in areas with narrow sidewalks.

Future Agenda Items

- Update on International Corridor maintenance, clean-up and crime prevention
- Update on the Oakland Alameda Access Project
- Keep bus shelters as an ongoing agenda item
- Move Legislative Update to a written update

Next Meeting

- July 15, 2026
- November 4, 2026