



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT

MINUTES

Board of Directors - Regular Meeting

CLOSED SESSION 4:15 PM (see item 8 for details)

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 13, 2024 at 5:00 PM

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOEL YOUNG, PRESIDENT (AT-LARGE)

DIANE SHAW, VICE PRESIDENT (WARD 5)

JOVANKA BECKLES (WARD 1)

JEAN WALSH (WARD 2)

SARAH SYED (WARD 3)

MURPHY MCCALLEY (WARD 4)

H. E. CHRISTIAN PEEPLES (AT-LARGE)

BOARD OFFICERS

MICHAEL A. HURSH, GENERAL MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SHAYNA VAN HOFTEN, INTERIM 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 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. for the purpose of Closed Session. All Board members were present with the exception of Director Peeples who arrived at 4:20 p.m. The Board convened in Closed Session to discuss Items 8A-8C as listed on the agenda. Closed Session concluded at 4:50 p.m.

President Young called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

3. PRESENTATION**3.A. Recognition of Bus Operators with 20 years or more of Safe Driving:** [24-192](#)

Lorraine Ursula Shaw, 20 Years (Division 2)
Russell Wiltshire, 20 Years (Division 2)
Regina Shaw, 20 Years, (Division 4)
Dwayne Gettridge, 20 Years (Division 6)
Ramos Alberto De Leon, 20 Years (Division 6)
Wallace Robert, 20 Years (Division 6)
Manjit Gill, 25 Years (Division 6)

Presenters:

Joel Young, President
Michael Hursh, General Manager
Salvador Llamas, Chief Operating Officer
Dwain Crawley, Director of Transportation

Director of Transportation Dwain Crawley made a presentation in recognition of AC Transit Bus Operators with 20 years or more of safe driving. Mr. Crawley was joined by President Young, General Manager Hursh and Chief Operating Officer Llamas in recognizing award recipients and in offering congratulatory remarks. There was no public comment offered.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eddie Sanchez commented on personal views about Covid-19 vaccinations.

Maria Ducey commented on the importance of retaining Line 51A and asked the Board to comment on any planned alterations or elimination/cancellation of this bus line.

Carter Lavin, Transbay Coalition, thanked the Board, especially Directors Syed and Walsh, for their efforts to return weekend evening bus service to Broadway and commented on the

continued circulation of a letter calling on the development of a long-term solution which leverages transit and pedestrian safety in the Broadway corridor.

Meryl Siegel thanked everyone who helped West Berkeley residents by assigning less heavy, lower emission buses to Line 52. Siegel hoped the Board continues to be attentive to environmental and noise concerns in this neighborhood.

Latrina Meridith, President of Local 192, presented instances of unsafe working conditions at the D2 Maintenance department, commented on management communication issues, and asked for workers to be given the necessary tools to do their jobs.

Luanda West, Division 3 Dispatcher, expressed concern about the lack of attention being made towards harassment and hiring practices.

Darryl Brown, Division 3 Bus Operator, asked the Board to address the numerous safety issues at the Division 3 yard, specifically poor lighting at pedestrian and vehicle entry/exit points.

Robert Bulatao, President, Garfield Elementary School (San Leandro), brought safety concerns about the narrow roads shared by parents picking up/dropping off their children and the Line 35 bus.

Jesse Gunn, Teacher, Madison High School (Hayward) thanked AC Transit for attending its career fare and informing its students about career pathways and fare discounts.

5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no modifications to the agenda announced.

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

There was no public comment offered on the items on the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: PEEPLES/SYED to receive or approve items on Consent Calendar except item 6.G. which was pulled off the consent calendar by Director Walsh. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

- 6.A.** Consider approving Board of Directors meeting minutes of February 14, 2024. [24-023](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

MOTION: PEEPLES/SYED to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes of February 14, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

- 6.B.** Consider approving Board of Directors special meeting minutes of February 28, 2024. [24-191](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

MOTION: PEEPLES/SYED to approve the Board of Directors special meeting minutes of February 28, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

- 6.C.** Confirm and ratify the appointment of the District's Chief Financial Officer, Chris Andrichak, as an Employer Trustee on the ATU Local 192 Retiree Medical Trust Board of Trustees. [24-187](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda A. Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

MOTION: PEEPLES/SYED to confirm and ratify the appointment of the District's Chief Financial Officer, Chris Andrichak, as an Employer Trustee on the ATU Local 192 Retiree Medical Trust Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

- 6.D.** Consider receiving the General Manager's Access Committee minutes of January 9, 2024. [24-185](#)

Staff Contact:

Ramakrishna Pochiraju, Executive Director of Planning & Engineering

MOTION: PEEPLES/SYED to receive the General Manager's Access Committee minutes of January 9, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

- 6.E.** Consider receiving the Semi-Annual Report on the Status of Active Contracts and Spending Amounts over \$250,000 for the first half of Fiscal Year 2023-24. [24-111](#)

Staff Contact:

Chris Andrichak, Chief Financial Officer

MOTION: PEEPLES/SYED to receive the Semi-Annual Report on the Status of Active Contracts and Spending Amounts over \$250,000 for the first half of Fiscal Year 2023-24. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

- 6.F.** Consider receiving the Semi-Annual FY 2023-24, 1st and 2nd Quarter Employee and Non-Employee Out-of-State Travel Report. [24-124](#)

Staff Contact:

Chris Andrichak, Chief Financial Officer

MOTION: PEEPLES/SYED to receive the Semi-Annual FY 2023-24, 1st and 2nd Quarter Employee and Non-Employee Out-of-State Travel Report. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

- 6.G.** Consider receiving an update on FY 2023-24 2nd Quarter Customer Services Metrics. [24-143](#)

Staff Contact:

Beverly Greene, Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing & Communications

Item 6.G. was pulled off the Consent Calendar by Director for comments and questions that were addressed by staff. There was no public comment offered.

MOTION: PEEPLES/WALSH to receive an update on FY 2023-24 2nd Quarter Customer Services Metrics. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

7. REGULAR CALENDAR

Finance and Audit Items - Chair McCalley

- 7.A.** Consider receiving an overview of staff's proposed FY 2024-25 Budget Goals and Objectives. [23-513a](#)

Staff Contact:

Chris Andrichak, Chief Financial Officer

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

Director of Management and Budget Richard Oslund presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

Anthony noted that the budget goals lacked several necessary points from the previous years', including increasing speed and frequency of service, controlling department costs and reviewing District initiatives to maximize the impact of budget dollars, promoting increased ridership, improving the quality of service by increasing the availability of (and working to recruit more) operators and mechanics.

MOTION: YOUNG/SHAW to receive an overview of staff's proposed FY 2024-25 Budget Goals and Objectives. Staff is to take the feedback received from the Board and incorporate changes to the goals into a future budget presentation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

Planning Items - Chair Syed

- 7.B.** Consider receiving updates on project timeline changes and strategic [23-250g](#)

options associated with Realign, setting a special Board meeting focusing on Realign plan revisions and draft Service Standards on June 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m., and directing staff to incorporate the staff recommended strategies provided in the staff report in future plan revisions.

Staff Contact:

Ramakrishna Pochiraju, Executive Director of Planning & Engineering
Beverly Greene, Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing & Communications

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

Transportation Planner David Berman and External Affairs Representative Diann Castleberry presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

Laurel Paget-Seekins, Public Advocates, thanked the Board for pausing Realign to allow additional considerations by the public and expressed disappointment with several staff-proposed decisions on the investment of run and recovery time. Paget-Seekins commented on the need for a better evaluation of what routes need more recovery runtime.

Alyssa Mainhart noted the importance of Line 51 to riders and commented that the 'Realign' name for the program does not communicate the purpose of the program to the average rider, which affects route changes. Mainhart recommended more real-world language be used to inform bus riders about these route changes.

Tony Lewis commented on the importance of getting information from the public on prospective changes to their bus service. Lewis noted that one possible change will affect the bus service around Oakland Kaiser Hospital if Line 51 is redirected from Broadway to Telegraph Avenue, requiring a long walk to the hospital or a bus transfer. Lewis also noted that getting information about Realign meetings is difficult and suggested having announcements provided on buses.

Alfred Twu thanked the Board for taking more time to consider its decision with Realign. Twu agreed with the previous speaker that the average riders do not know that Realign will affect their bus line and feels better advertising of Realign is needed. Twu commented on the need to focus more focus on service reliability, runtime, and recovery time, and a greater investment in bus operators to combat the bus operator shortage.

Meryl Siegal commented on realignment suggestions submitted by her West Berkeley community. Siegal noted additional suggestions in anticipation of Berkeley Southside construction.

Valarie Lancey expressed surprise that Realign discussion has not provided improvement on runtime speeds and reliability through transit priority measures. Lancey noted that making buses run faster and reducing their variability while maintaining headways is a huge win for riders and helps protect operators.

Lisa Foster, Acting Transportation Planning Manager, City of Alameda, commented that Transbay service is an important part of the Alameda citizens' commute. Foster noted that an elimination of Transbay service would require additional time for outreach. Foster added that Line 51A is important for the community with so many riders utilizing this trunk line.

Linda Benson commented on a preference of the older motor coaches than the new coaches.

Steven Cooper commented on plan actions affecting bus driver numbers, operator layovers, overtime, and work conditions, and noted future adjustments to be made in the future.

James Jackson, ATU Assistant Business Agent for transportation, commented on the unclear direction on the purpose of Realign and degree of opposition to it. Jackson noted that attention and consideration for bus operator safety and retention needs to be included with any ongoing discussion.

Brian Culbertson recommended that Realign considers a graduated service level based on operator staffing with a directive to hire more operators, which would provide more reliable service with schedules that work for operators now and then return to frequencies needed for bus riders. Culbertson added that the District needs to increase the bus operator salaries to meet the salary levels of neighboring transit operator salaries. Culbertson noted that Transbay service needs to be reevaluated to better manage the transit system's bus operator staffing.

Richard Marcantonio, Public Advocates, noted concern of staff's Realign proposal walking back the investment in runtime and recovery time and reducing it to just a quarter of the resources proposed in December. Marcantonio commented that better working conditions and adequate recovery time as well as bus operator retention are matters required for continued consideration moving forward.

Emily Loper, Director, Bay Area Council, noted opposition to any recommendation of further service cuts to Transbay service and advocated for service expansion.

John Courtney, Former President, ATU Local 265, noted that an effective Realign plan starts with the bus operators, whose compensation and workplace needs must be prioritized. Courtney added that it is from the workers that management can learn about the job they do.

Andy Katz noted that the Realign proposal must be well thought out before being brought to the Board for public discussion, as staff discussion will include extensive input from the public and advocacy groups.

Anthony noted that Realign should ensure the hiring of additional operators, improve bus speeds and not exclude Transbay service. Anthony added that bus lines 10, 18, and 57 are important bus lines and it would be unacceptable for them to drop below 15-minute frequency in service.

Connie McFarland, ATU Recording Secretary and Scheduler, noted that the problems with bus operator retention is linked to inadequate runtimes and recovery times and must be addressed. McFarland commented on the correlation between bus operator satisfaction with bus passenger satisfaction.

Tyler Dragoni noted confusion whether the Line 99 would be discontinued and replaced by line 10 on Mission Boulevard in Union City and commented that such a

change would be beneficial by freeing up operators and reducing transfers.

David Sorrell commented on the impact of the Transbay program on UC Berkeley students and EasyPass riders. Sorrell noted that the plan could be implemented incrementally, especially in the non-controversial options. Sorrell commented on the need for scrutiny to the Transbay service is in the decision-making process.

MOTION: SHAW/YOUNG to receive the staff report to include looking at the lines that have less than 70% on-time performance; looking at the frequency ensuring we have frequency for high ridership lines and in our EPC areas; approve the Special Board meeting on June 5th; approve the timeline and include a detailed report on operational runtimes to get a better understanding of the operational time issues. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: SHAW, YOUNG, BECKLES, WALSH, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

Noes: SYED

MOTION: SYED/BECKLES to direct staff to include in the Special Board meeting on June 5th, in addition to discussion of service standards for Realign, a report back on the status of obtaining a waiver for the March 2025 general sign-up; report back on what we've learned from the August 2023 service changes in terms of reliability improvements; and a report on the feasibility of a phased implementation of Realign should the waiver not be obtained. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY

Nayes: YOUNG, SHAW, PEEPLES

- 7.C.** Consider authorizing the General Manager to execute an amendment to Contract 2020-1446 with Kittelson & Associates in support of the District's Realign initiative, adding \$450,000 to the contract, bringing the total contract amount to \$2,141,197.23, and extending the term through June 30, 2025.

[22-502a](#)

Staff Contact:

Ramakrishna Pochiraju, Executive Director of Planning & Engineering
Beverly Greene, Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing & Communications

Transportation Planner David Bermann presented the staff report. There were no public comments offered.

MOTION: PEEPLES/McCALLEY to authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to Contract 2020-1446 with Kittelson & Associates in support of the District's Realign initiative, adding \$450,000 to the contract, bringing the total contract amount to \$2,141,197.23, and extending the term through June 30, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

Nays: SYED

Board Administrative Matters - President Young

- 7.D.** Consider approving the creation of a limited-purpose Board Policy 160 Review Committee. [24-172](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda A. Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

There was no public comment offered.

MOTION: PEEPLES/SHAW to approve the creation of a limited-purpose Board Policy 160 Review Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: YOUNG, SHAW, BECKLES, WALSH, SYED, McCALLEY, PEEPLES

- 7.E.** Announcement of appointments to the Limited-Purpose Board Policy 160 Review Committee. [24-172a](#)

Presenter:

President Young

President Young announced the appointment of Vice President Shaw, Director McCalley and himself as the members the Limited-Purpose Board Policy 160 Review Committee. There were no public comments offered.

- 7.F.** Consider whether to cancel the regular Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024. [24-209](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

Board Administrative Officer Linda Nemeroff withdrew the request for meeting cancellation from consideration.

8. CLOSED SESSION/REPORT OUT

There was nothing to report out of closed session.

8.A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9: (two cases)

8.B. Conference with Labor Negotiators

(Government Code Section 54957.6):

Agency Designated Representative:

- General Manager Michael Hursh;

- Labor and Employee Relations Representative;

Employee Organizations: ATU Local 192, AFSCME Local 3916, IBEW Local 1245,

Unrepresented Employees

8.C. Public Employee Appointment

(Government Code Section 54957(c))

Title: General Counsel

9. AGENDA PLANNING

- 9.A.** Review of Agenda Planning Pending List and Agenda Planning Request Forms submitted by Vice President Shaw (2), Director Walsh (2) and Director Syed (1). [24-061c](#)

Staff Contact:

Linda Nemeroff, Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

With concurrence by President Young and Directors Peeples, Vice President Shaw's requests were accepted.

With concurrence by Vice President Shaw and Director Peeples, Director Walsh's requests were accepted.

With concurrence by Directors Walsh and Beckles, Director Syed's request was accepted.

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- 10.A.** General Manager's Report for March 13, 2024. [24-016c](#)

The report was presented for information only.

11. BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS

(Government Code Section 54954.2)

Members of the Board commented on meetings, conferences, and events they attended since the last Board meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Linda A. Nemeroff

Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary