

City of Berkeley/AC Transit ILC Meeting Notes – June 6, 2025

1. Opening

a. Roll Call/Welcome and Introductions

- i. Present: Director Jean Walsh, Director Christian Peeples, Councilmember Terry Taplin, additional AC Transit Staff and City of Berkeley Staff

b. Announcements/Public Comments

- i. Michai Freeman: Regarding improved paratransit services and better communication with paratransit users before making changes to service.

c. Previous ILC Meeting Notes

- i. No comments

2. New Discussion Items

a. AC Transit Realign Service Change

- i. **David Berman:** After 2 years of community planning, Realign service changes will be rolling out August 10, 2025. Changes were designed to be cost and operator neutral due to AC Transit budget gaps. In Berkeley specifically there will be service on Alcatraz for the first time in over a decade and some increased frequency on busier lines (18; 52), while frequency will decrease on some lines going through the Berkeley hills and on lines 72R and 88.
- ii. **Ryan Lau:** In terms of communication, e-news has been put out. More information will be coming in mid-July such as on-bus brochures, information at stops, and on social media.
- iii. **Public Comment:** How are taxi programs and paratransit coverage going to be changed?
 - 1. **Berman:** In Berkeley these programs will not be affected.

b. Bus Stop Amenities

- i. **Carissa Lee:** In 1999, AC Transit started a contract with Clear Channel for transit shelter work. This contract ended in 2023, and AC Transit assumed liability over the 276 shelters and began searching for 3 shelter contractors: maintenance, capital work, and advertising. Lamar Transit is the contractor for advertising, a partnership that started July 2024. Graffiti Protective Coatings is the maintenance contractor and they pressure wash twice a month, amongst other regular maintenance – broken glass has been an additional cost beyond the contract cost, which has been the biggest issue for AC

Transit. AC Transit is still looking for a capital contractor to handle purchasing, design, and replacement of shelters. The 10 jurisdictions have committed to \$239k and we are continuing to work on the MOU in Berkeley. Berkeley has 51 total shelters, and Berkeley City Council previously adopted a resolution to help fund these. Some cities, including Berkeley, have inquired about new shelters being added. To add 7 new shelters would cost about \$23k a year for Berkeley. The AC Transit board approved a recommendation for adding new shelters to its maintenance cost (April 2025), including the swapping of old shelters for new. Good partnership has been exemplified with the recently completed Durant Quick Build shelters.

- ii. **Director Peebles:** This lack of funding or funding gap is a national problem not unique to AC Transit. This is why we've had to jump through hoops regarding advertising no longer being able to cover the costs. City of Richmond has created a system that is seeming to work, partly regards to benches.
- iii. **Lee:** Stand alone bench placement is always in coordination with the jurisdiction and the city oversees the benches themselves. Simme Seats are an affordable and spatially convenient way that Emeryville and Hayward have been doing this.
- iv. **Director Walsh:** How are the conversations happening between AC Transit and City of Berkeley?
 - 1. **Lee:** Monthly coordination meetings about bus furniture with city staff.
 - 2. **Catherine Clark:** AC operates 511 stops in the city, many are legacy benches from Clear Channel, some are Berkeley owned, and we are in the business of increasing the number and have some planned additions. Many stops in Berkeley share with Lawrence Labs and Bear Transit. City is prioritizing shelters in their asset inventory. We need to put the MOU in place, right now we are checking shelter locations for this project. We like to own and maintain benches so that they are in high ridership areas and placed safely.
 - 3. **Eric Anderson:** Confirming first that existing assets have oversight and can continue to be maintained before adding more.

- v. **Walsh:** These shelters went in originally according to ad revenue, have there been any plans to move an existing shelter to a different location?
 - 1. Ridership, proximity to amenities, etc. are jumping off points for installing new shelters. Moving shelters is more expensive than our contract allows
- vi. **Walsh:** City of Berkeley should create a pathway for community-built benches to be legally and safely placed since those installing them are already using the placement guidelines.
 - 1. **Anderson:** I am in communication with Hayward, who has created this program. As of now we have no work orders out to remove any of the community-built benches, the only reason we would expect that to happen would be if one comes loose and becomes a hazard.

3. Update on Past Items

a. Hayden AI Presentation

- i. **Cecil Blandon:** Hayden AI project includes 100 vehicles with cameras installed. It records a 10 second video of vehicles that are in bus lanes or bus stops. There was a warning period and now citations are being issued. We look forward to getting full implementation across the district. Citation data: 207k events were generated between oct 2024 to April 2025. The sheriff's office looks at them and approve the events, bringing the number down to 74k. They are then sent to the processor, and 48k citations were issued.
- ii. **Walsh:** Why are so many more events identified than approved?
 - 1. **Blandon:** There may be 10 buses that go through the same site that record the same event, making duplicates in total events. A vehicle is only sited 1 time in a 24 hour period.
- iii. **Walsh:** How many events are contested?
 - 1. **Blandon:** Some trash vehicles or public works vehicles have brought this up, but it's only been about 10 in the past 9 months.
- iv. **Blandon:** This is a pilot program that the district can decide to expand later. The 100 Hayden AI buses are operating on 40 different lines. We used operator reporting data to select which lines we put them on.
- v. **Peeples:** Is there any data on how many citations got paid?

1. **Blandon:** They have 90 days to pay the citation, after that it is taken to the DMV. We will be bringing an update to the board this summer with more details.

b. Bay Wheels Bikeshare

- i. **Clark:** MTC is partnering with bay wheels to add 11 new bikeshare stations in Berkeley, including e-bikes. To minimize parking impacts we have identified under-utilized red curbs and worked with AC Transit to make sure no locations interfere with bus operation. We identified 20 viable locations and presented them. We hope to announce these by the end of the month and the bike racks will be installed over the summer. Everyone within a 300 ft radius has been notified. MTC consultants are the ones installing the racks but the cities were able to select where they should be located. Public outreach has ended but we are still hearing comments.

4. Adjourned at 11:02 due to loss of Quorum

Continued Discussion

a. Durant Quick Build

- i. **Jim Cunradi:** This included the installation of three bus bulbs and a queue jump lane. This project is complete but there is still some work with lighting. Expression of thanks to City of Berkeley for collaboration.

b. Telegraph Avenue Rapid Corridor Study

- i. **Casey Bruno:** Project goes from 20th Street Oakland to Downtown Berkeley. This included bus stop level improvements. Echoing gratitude to the city for their responsiveness and collaboration. All the work in Berkeley is scheduled to be done in mid-June. Crews are wrapping up signal related work (i.e. transit signal priority implementation). Striping team will be finishing up parking T markings next week.
- ii. **Jean Walsh:** How do we know if it actually becomes a more rapid corridor?
 1. We will know the level of success of the project at the beginning of next year. Comparison test will likely be done in the Fall when students are back.

c. Berkeley City Project Updates (Clark)

i. Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant Updates

1. Through the 5 previous applications we have gotten a great number of new affordable housing available. Now going into construction. Involves at least 7 bus stops and we will see 4 new bus shelters
2. Affordable Housing x Transit Card partnerships – the developer oversees putting together the package. It has recently become mandatory for the developer to include Easy Pass. Whether the passes are bus passes or BART discount passes is based on location.

ii. Southside complete streets

1. Need to fix a signal timing issue but the project will be closed out soon.

iii. Telegraph multimodal Corridor Study

1. Project is well under way. TSP improvements are part of the baseline for what we are considering rapid. Lots of bicycles, businesses, etc. AC Transit has been on the technical advisory committee and has provided us with data that has helped us see the big picture.

iv. Adeline Street Transportation Improvements

1. Adjacent to Ashby BART and South-- to the end of Berkeley's jurisdiction. City will be requesting data from AC Transit for that and will include AC as a member of the TAC. This is just getting kicked off and is very early in the process but will be communicated with the public when there is more information. City will be adding 4 bus boarding islands in this area, curb alignments, but there will first be a quick build.

v. ACTC San Pablo Corridor Project

1. This is a safety enhancements project along San Pablo Ave. City of Berkeley and AC Transit have both provided comments on the 65% plan. ACTC is doing some improvements, and the project is moving along well.

vi. Berkeley Bike Plan Update

1. There has been a lot of public outreach as well as valuable insight from AC Transit through the TAC, including better understanding of deadhead routes, layover coordination, etc. in relation to bicycle infrastructure.

d. Service Planning and Performance Updates

- i. **Lee:** Some of our highest ridership routes go through Berkeley. Ridership in Berkeley is 144k daily riders (overall) which is 75% recovery post Covid. District OTP is on average in the low 70s for Berkeley. See line by line monthly data in the meeting packet.

5. Future Agenda Items

- a. ILC Restructuring and Member Appointments

6. Committee member comments

7. Proposed date and time of next regular meeting

- a. September 18th, 2025
- b. December 4th, 2025

8. Discussion closed at 11:33