ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 24-022

A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 23-021, DISSOLVING THE AC TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC), EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE PAST MEMBERS OF THE AAC AND THE GENERAL MANAGER'S ACCESS COMMITTEE (GMAC) FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSIT FOR SENIOR AND DISABLED FIXED-ROUTE TRANSIT RIDERS, AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO UTILIZE THOSE MEANS HE DETERMINES ARE BEST TO CARRY OUT THE ROLES OF THE AAC AND GMAC

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors established the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on October 10, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20-058 was adopted by the Board of Directors on November 12, 2020, reaffirming the establishment of the AAC and amending the terms of office and membership qualifications; and

WHEREAS, the AAC met virtually on a regular basis during the Covid-19 pandemic, which improved attendance and public participation in Committee meetings, and enabled the AAC to continue providing valuable feedback regarding the accessibility of the District's programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 State of Emergency expired on February 28, 2023, thus requiring members of legislative bodies operating under the Brown Act, such as the AAC, to either attend meetings in-person, follow the Brown Act traditional teleconference procedures in effect prior to the pandemic, or make use of new procedures created by Assembly Bill 2449 (AB 2449), which permit remote video-conference participation from an unpublished location, but only for a very limited number of times per year and only under specific "just cause" and "emergency" situations; and

WHEREAS, members of the AAC who desired to continue to serve and to attend meetings via teleconference expressed concern with the requirement to notice their teleconference locations, which are often their home addresses, on meeting agendas for health, safety and security reasons; and

WHEREAS, members of the AAC also indicated they may need to resign from the Committee as they may no longer be able to attend meetings on a regular basis if they were required to either attend in-person or disclose their address (and open it to the public) if they did not or could not meet the AB 2449 teleconference requirements; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2023, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 23-021 suspending the AAC and directing the General Manager to establish a committee to advise him – rather than the Board – on accessible services matters, with lower burdens to participation compared to the AAC; and

WHEREAS, the General Manager's Access Committee (GMAC) was established on April 27, 2023, with a purpose to review, comment, and advise the General Manager and District staff regarding the implementation of District planning, programs and services for seniors and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the GMAC has met on a monthly basis since May 2023, and has been able to offer greater flexibility than that available to AAC members in how members attend meetings, while preserving public access and participation, proving the validity of the concept for future use at the direction of the General Manager.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District does hereby:

<u>Section 1.</u> Repeal Resolution No. 23-021 in its entirety, thereby eliminating the requirement for the General Manager to utilize any particular means of soliciting review, comment and advice on District planning, programs and services for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Section 2. Resolve that the AC Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee is hereby dissolved.

<u>Section 3.</u> Express its gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of senior and disabled fixed route transit riders, to the past members of the AAC and the current members of the GMAC for their commitment to accessible public transit.

<u>Section 4.</u> Directs and authorizes the General Manager to utilize those means staff determines are best-suited for soliciting and receiving review, comment, and advice on District planning, programs and services for seniors and individuals with disabilities; and

<u>Section 5.</u> This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by four affirmative votes of the Board of Directors and will remain in effect until further action by the Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of July, 2024.

Joel B. Young President

Attest:

Linda A. Nemeroff Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary I, Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary for the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 10th day of July, 2024 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

> Linda A. Nemeroff Board Administrative Officer/District Secretary

Approved as to Form and Content:

Shayna van Hoften Interim General Counsel/Chief Legal Officer