

**MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE AC TRANSIT
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
JANUARY 11, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL and Introduction of Members and Guests

AAC members present:

Janet Abelson	Erika Bruhns, Vice Chair
Chonita Chew	Jonathan Elkus
Shawn Fong	Melissa Getz
Don Queen	Sandra Johnson, Chair
James Robson	Tanya Washington
Barbara Williams	Hale Zukas

AAC members absent:

Mary Clutts (excused)	Pamela Fadem (excused)
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Staff:

Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator
Kim Ridgeway, Senior Program Specialist
Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager
Beverly Greene, Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing & Communications
Steven Jones, External Affairs Representative
Rama Pochiraju, Executive Director of Planning & Engineering
Derik Calhoun, Director of Transportation
Carissa Lee, Transportation Planner

Guests:

Diane Shaw, Board of Directors
H. E. Christian Peeples, Board of Directors
Kacie Conyers, TheCIL
Roger Acuna, Independent Living Resource
Mike Cole

3. ORDER OF AGENDA

The order of agenda was approved.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Bruhns/Abelson & Robson approved the December 14, 2021 AAC meeting minutes.
The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 12: Abelson, Bruhns, Chew, Elkus, Fong, Getz, Johnson, Robson, Queen, Washington, Williams

ABSTENTIONS – 1: Zukas

ABSENT – 2: Clutts, Fadem

5. REGULAR UPDATES

5.A. Briefing on the 2022 Federal and State Advocacy Program

Steven Jones, External Affairs Representative, gave a briefing on the District adopted 2022 State and Federal Advocacy program. These programs help guide AC Transit's advocacy efforts on a State and Federal level. This year's advocacy programs were significantly streamlined from previous versions, and a new core principles category was added to capture the district's guiding values. The following amendments were made and adopted by the board in November:

- Federal program
 - The district intends to identify and secure long-term funding for accessible services, pandemic related expenses, operations and maintenance needs for transit infrastructure, implementing the zero emission bus rollout plan, protecting the district's assets, people, and technology investments.
 - Advocate for transit supportive laws, regulations, actions and policies that require all mandates be fully funded.
 - Facilitate new mobility, and other collaborations, that promote increased public transit ridership.
 - Advocate dedicated radio frequency spectrum to public transportation.
- State program
 - Pursuing legislation to permanently exempt transit agencies from paying sales tax on the purchase of zero emission buses, which could save up to \$25 million in tax savings, to help support the District's transition to a 100% zero emission bus fleet by 2040.
 - Pursue legislation that requires health plans to reimburse public transit for medical eligible trips.
 - The State program funding goals are essentially the same as those include in the Federal program, but also specify money for the components needed to implement AB 917. The district partnered with the California Transit Association and Los Angeles Metro to pass a bill that allows transit agencies throughout the state to use cameras mounted on transit vehicles to discourage illegal parking in bus only lanes and at bus stops. Now that the Bill has passed, the District will seek the funding to purchase and outfit the fleet with cameras.

Beverly Greene responded that the Bus Rapid Transit line coaches are outfitted with cameras and now the District needs to find funding for the rest of the fleet.

5.B. Update on Bus Shelters

Carissa Lee, Transportation Planner and the Bus Stop Amenities Project Manager, reported that Clear Channel, who has been overseeing the shelter program since 1999, is no longer interested in the current contract structure in which Clear Channel assumes all the costs and receives revenue from advertising. The AC Transit Board of Directors authorized a sole source contract for up to one year and no more than \$1 million. AC Transit would also get an estimated 50%

revenue share of advertisements. This sole source contract would commence April 1, 2022 and end March 31, 2023.

In October 2021, The Board also directed Staff to conduct public outreach, determine bus stop furniture placement standards, and work with local jurisdictions to determine their contribution to bus stop maintenance. For the public outreach piece, a survey will go out that will ask customers to rank the importance of bus stop amenities including seating, weather protection, maps / real time signs, lighting and trash receptacles.

The Committee voiced concerns about:

- The need for benches
- The need for protection from rain and sun
- Who is responsible for trash clean up?
- Getting the survey information inside the bus to get it to more riders
- Adding real time signs as new shelters are installed and old shelters are replaced

5.C. Review of Quarterly ADA Complaints

The Committee reviewed the Quarterly ADA Complaints which compared ADA Complaints in 2nd Quarter 20/21 to 2nd Quarter 21/22. Tammy reminded the committee that all complaints are answered within 5 business days. If there is a driver related ADA complaint, the Superintendent pulls the video and a conference with the operator is requested.

Shawn Fong raised an issue internally via email to Staff regarding a temporary stop closure on Chatham/Park for line 57. She was trying to understand what the notification process was for the posting a temporary bus stop closure and asked if the driver would still pick-up a customer if they see them waiting and it does not impact traffic. A Transportation Planner responded to Shawn's email and also stated that drivers are not allowed to pick up customers at a temporary closed bus stop.

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

The Committee reviewed the Road Call report for December 5 – January 14, 2022. There were four (4) road calls; three (3) were chargeable. All vehicles passed the pre-trip inspection and thus any road call listed occurred in service.

6. STANDING REPORTS

6.A. Chair's Report

None.

6.B. Board Liaison Report

Director Shaw reemphasized the importance of putting in a customer service ticket when issues come up by calling the Customer Service Department or by using the AC Transit mobile app. Director Shaw also encouraged the Committee to take the Bus Stop Amenities survey and send it to others who ride the bus so that they can weight in as well.

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

None.

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

Janet Abelson reported that the SRAC was invited to test the Contactless Payment App for East Bay Paratransit. The next SRAC meeting is Tuesday, February 1st, at 12:30 pm; this will be a virtual meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Cole asked for more information about how the Real Time Sign project is going. Also, his bus, the 79, does not run on the weekends. Finally, the 18 bus is out of sync with the AVA system.

8. MEMBER/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Derik Calhoun reported that the district has seen 325 positive COVID cases in the last couple of months. AC Transit is keeping with its 10-day quarantine protocol although OSHA allows for only 5 days. Also, in an attempt to maintain service, Operators are being asked to work on days off. The District will continue to use front door boarding and there is no capacity limits as this time, but Operations will continue to monitor the situation. Bus Operators are also consistently and continuously using all PPE, and masks and sanitizer are on the buses as well for passenger use. More information is available on the AC Transit website.
- Chonita asked about attending the redistricting meetings. Beverly Greene responded that links for the meetings are on the AC Transit website, but she would also send information to Tammy to send to the Committee.
- Melissa Getz restated her need to have the line 80 come by her house again.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & NEXT MEETING DATE

The next AAC Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting.

Future Agenda Items:

- Pandemic Updates on the agenda on a regular basis
- Review of the AC Transit Website
- Future Funding regarding the Federal Infrastructure Bill
- Flex Service
- An ombudsman program
- FASTER Bay Area
- AAC Programs/Projects to increase Senior Ridership

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Tammy Kylo

Secretary to the Committee