

City of Richmond-AC Transit Interagency Liaison Committee (ILC)

July 28, 2022, 9:00 am by Zoom Teleconference

Meeting Notes (notes are not verbatim)

Attendees

City of Richmond: Vice Mayor Eduardo Martinez

AC Transit: Director Jovanka Beckles, Director Christian Peebles

Public Comments: No public comments on items not on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEMS

New Discussion Items

Service Recovery Priorities

(AC Transit)

Visual Presentation (included in agenda packet)

Presented by Michael Eshelman, AC Transit Service Planning Manager

Service changes: In August, increasing service, Line 71 frequency will be improved from hourly to every 30 minutes. Line 76 will regain pre-pandemic service. Supplemental school service will be restored.

Presentation on service recovery status, how lines will be restored in comparison to pre-pandemic service. (see agenda packet). Richmond/West County lines among the first to be restored.

Vice Mayor Martinez: “Wowed” by amount of information presented, workload in monitoring and modifying all these lines.

Overview of Complete Streets

(City of Richmond)

Visual Presentation (available on meeting recording)

Presented by Patrick Phelan, City of Richmond Public Works

Richmond has many policy documents supporting complete streets: General Plan policy, Bicycle Master Plan—working on Bike/Ped Infrastructure Plan, Pedestrian Plan discusses in more detail, Corridor projects—San Pablo Avenue Complete Streets Plan done with City of San Pablo. South Richmond Connectivity Plan, Rumrill Boulevard Plan, Yellow Brick Road neighborhood plan in Iron Triangle, Community Based Transportation Plan, Ferry to Bridge Plan.

Complete Streets includes stormwater management, street trees as well as various transportation modes. Council just approved Local Roadway Safety Plan, it complements Complete Streets planning.

Richmond Wellness Trail completed, Yellow Brick Road nearing completion, serves Kaiser facility.

Travelsafe Richmond program workshop in May, worked with AC Transit on 13th Street project.

Proposing road diet, 4-3 lanes on McBryde Ave., submitting to OBAG.

Challenges: Don’t always get public support, projects often require reallocating road space, funding is challenged, funding sources will only support certain parts of projects, requiring multiple funding sources. Projects require utility adjustments, “digging down into the earth,” but sometimes modify projects to avoid that. Maintenance is a challenge. Quickbuild projects “all the rage” right now, but Complete Streets projects cannot be fully built that way.

Vice-Mayor Martinez: Please explain “quickbuild.”

Phelan: Can create improvements with lighter, easier to install improvements, e.g. bollards protecting a bike lane instead of full curb. Quickbuilds can be test of concept for more permanent version.

San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor

(AC Transit)

Verbal Presentation

Presented by Nathan Landau, AC Transit Long Range Planning Manager

Leah Greenblat, Transportation Planning Manager, West Contra Costa Transit Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) also participating.

Landau: AC Transit identified San Pablo Ave. as Major Corridor. San Pablo Ave. Bus Rapid Transit is high scoring project in Plan Bay Area 2050. San Pablo Ave. needs to have congestion related problems addressed. AC Transit is pleased that study looked at side-running and center-running model, transit agencies generally prefer center-running lanes to side-running lanes, but San Pablo Avenue needs own consideration, WCCTAC San Pablo Avenue proposal was just presented to AC Transit Board.

Greenblat: Origin of study is need for multi-county, multi-jurisdictional coordination. El Cerrito expects more development with less parking, needs good transit.

Councilmember Martinez: How are cities within Alameda County coordinated?

Landau: Alameda County Transportation Commission is coordinating body.

Director Beckles: Are cities on Board with center-running proposal?

Greenblatt: We're just presenting options, but sees broad interest in transit improvements.

Beckles: Projects take a long time to develop, this is one opportunity to get it right. She envisions future without fossil fuels, people walking, biking, riding transit more, need cities to be unified.

Greenblatt: WCCTAC has done presentations to El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, and AC Transit.

Updates on Past Items

Bus Shelter and Furniture Program Update

(AC Transit)

Visual Presentation (see agenda packet)

Presented by Carissa Lee, AC Transit Service Planning

Lee: Presenting in more detail on bus stop furniture guidelines, gave brief overview at last ILC meeting. AC Transit-Clear Channel Agreement will end next year, will present at a later date on contract scenarios for bus shelters ("how."). This presentation and the guidelines are the "what," what should be included. Bus stops are integral to bus riding experience, for providing dignity to riders. First section of guidelines is types and designs--enclosed and cantilever. We recommend cantilever for future. All furniture must be ADA compliant. Guidelines distinguish between activities requiring outreach and ones that don't. We have methodology to determine priorities to add or remove shelters and benches. Presentation lays out next steps for shelter decision making, including work with cities.

Councilmember Martinez: How do you collect data for each bus stop, like ridership?

Lee: We have Automatic Passenger Counter on bus recording ons and offs at each stop.

Director Peebles: Streets and sidewalks are owned by underlying jurisdictions, so they are responsible for street furniture. AC Transit administers contracts on behalf of cities. Clear Channel no longer in using bus shelters as advertising since advertising have moved online. Annual maintenance cost can often almost equal the initial installation cost.

We will provide list of Richmond shelter scores to Director Beckles, Richmond Council.

Councilmember Martinez: We'll need to schedule a Council meeting to consider shelter options. He expresses "amazement" at amount of information needed to run a transit district or a city.

Hilltop Horizons Specific Plan and Major Richmond Developments (City of Richmond)

This is a standing item

Visual presentation (available on meeting recording).

Presented by Roberta Feliciano, Richmond Planning Department

Specific Plan is designed to guide transformation of 143 acre site to higher intensity mixed use development. It will meet General Plan goals, informed by community process. Richmond designated area as Priority Development Area. City has existing conditions, and opportunities and constraints memos. City held stakeholder interviews with AC Transit, many other agencies and key individuals.

Vice Mayor Martinez: Diagram of city, community, consultant work needs to show that they'll all be working together.

Director Beckles: Is survey asking for community input completed? Appreciates presentation.

Planning Director Velasco: Property owner Prologis sent survey, haven't been shared with City.

OBAG Grant Applications (AC Transit)

Presented by Sean Diest Lorgion, Service Planning Department

Submitted grant for Macdonald Avenue signal improvements, such as signal priority and improved signal coordination. We operate 340 revenue miles daily on Macdonald, have 1,100 ons and offs. \$5 million project. Projects being reviewed by Contra Costa Transportation Authority review panel.

Director Peebles: Grants cover capital costs, how is maintenance paid for.

Eshelman: Shelters would need to be rolled into future shelter program.

Director Peebles: In some locations, maintenance every 2-3 days is needed.

Vice-Mayor Martinez: Is adding WiFi accessibility at bus stops part of program.

Lee: Haven't looked at WiFi, first goal is to get lighting into bus stops, getting electrical connection at reasonable cost for shelters.

Director Peebles: He's seen advertisements for shelters with solar panels on top. "Are those real?"

Lee: Talked to Santa Clara VTA, battery theft has been a problem.

Eshelman: We also have OBAG grant request for inACT program, particularly assessment of bus stop accessibility and conditions. We have coordinated with Richmond on City OBAG applications.

Future Agenda Items

The following items were listed as future agenda items:

Update on Richmond Moves Shuttle (City of Richmond)

Phelan: Now offering voucher option for people who don't have smartphones, credit cards. 510-367-9357 is customer service line for Richmond Moves.

Bus Passes and Community Benefits Ordinance (City of Richmond)

Director Beckles noted concern about safety at AC Transit Division 3—unsafe crossings.

Eshelman: This intersection is part of Macdonald Avenue project, if we can get OBAG grant.

AC Transit staff and Directors: We also notes that AC Transit is trying to fill many drivers' positions, other positions, \$60 per hour total compensation, mostly in benefits. \$1,500 signing bonus.