

AAC Minutes

March 12, 2019

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE AC TRANSIT
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
MARCH 12, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Members and Guests

AAC members present:

Janet Abelson	Erika Bruhns
Chonita Chew (1:25 – 2:50)	Mary Clutts
Pam Fadem, Chair	Sandra Johnson
Don Queen	James Robson
Tanya Washington (1:25 – 2:50)	Barbara Williams, Vice Chair (1:40)
Chris Williams (left 2:09)	Hale Zukas (1:10)

AAC members absent:

Jim Gonsalves (excused)	Will Scott
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Staff:

Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator
Kim Ridgeway, Accessible Services Specialist
Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager
Linda Nemeroff, District Secretary
Jelena Harada, Assistant District Secretary
Ramakrishna Pochiraju, Executive Director of Planning & Engineering
Claudia Burgos, Director of Legislative Affairs & Community Relations
Beverly Greene, Executive Director of External Affairs and Marketing
Steven Jones, External Affairs Representative
Patricia Broadbent, Senior Project Manager

Guests:

Diane Shaw, Board of Directors
H. E. Christian Peeples, Board of Directors (via Phone)
Arnold Brillinger, Service Review Advisory Committee (SRAC)
Shawn Fong, City of Fremont
Randall Glock
Kurt Elste, Ventek International
Gino Spadafore, BRT
Graham Carey, BRT

2. Order of Agenda

The order of agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Abelson/Robson approved the February 12, 2019 AAC meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 8: Abelson, Chew, Clutts, Queen, Robson, Washington, B. Williams, Zukas

ABSTENTIONS – 4: Bruhns, Fadem, Johnson, C. Williams

ABSENT – 2: Gonsalves, Scott

4. Update on BRT

Steven Jones, External Affairs Representative, gave an overview of the 9.5-mile-long, \$216 Million BRT project set to begin revenue service in December 2019. The BRT system will consist of 34 total stations, 21 median stations and 13 curb side stations. The 27-bus fleet will consist fully of 60' Hybrid/Low Emission buses. Features of the BRT include, enhanced station lighting and high visibility crosswalks for improved safety, Clipper Card readers on the platforms to speed boarding, level boarding for easier access, and bus only lanes to improve transit frequency. The BRT system will run from Uptown Oakland (19th Street) to the San Leandro BART Station. Construction is still in process, but the full project is currently 58% complete.

The BRT team also includes three Construction Relocation Managers, whose functions include: informing businesses of upcoming work and projected Timeline, coordinating between stakeholders and project team to help minimize disruptions, troubleshooting possible issues such as driveways, parking and access to business, as well as regular check-ins and updates in person and via Social Media, outside Newsletters and the AC Transit Website.

The BRT project has implemented a Project Labor Agreement and Construction Careers Policy with the following targeted hiring goals:

- 50% of all hours to Oakland & San Leandro Residents
- 20% of all hours to Apprentices
- 25% of all Apprentice hours to Disadvantaged Workers

The BRT project has also implemented a Workforce Development Fund in which \$0.10 of every hour worked is collected and granted to local construction training & employment organizations.

Chair Fadem voiced concern about mobility access, especially during rush hour times. Patricia Broadbent, Senior Project Manager, replied that the Systems Activation Group (SAG) will reach out to the AAC to get a “test group” together to navigate the platforms, including boarding.

5. BRT Ticket Vending Machine

The Committee reviewed the Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs). The machines are designed to allow individuals to pay at the BRT boarding station and retrieve a ticket. The machines do not give change, an individual would have to have exact fare or pay with Clipper. Fare Inspectors will be on vehicles to check for tickets or swipe Clipper Cards to ensure individuals have paid before boarding. If a TVM runs out of tickets or needs servicing of any kind, the machine would send a signal to the Operations Control Center (OCC) to resolve the issue(s). After a short discussion, the Committee provided the following feedback:

- The screen contrast is too low.
- The Braille is not correct. There are no spaces between the words.
- The tactile markings are not prominent enough.
- There should be Braille at the top of the machine as well.
- Ticket retrieval is very low to reach, a hinge door is needed to cover the tickets from wind, and the ticket should be able to be retrieved with one hand.
- The machine should be wider to be able to accommodate more Braille.
- The machine needs to be able to be used from a parallel approach.
- Training and outreach are going to be a huge component, and should include the blind and low vision communities.

6. Review AAC Member Etiquette

Kim Ridgeway, Accessible Services Specialist, reviewed the AAC Member Etiquette. Abelson asked, in response to the bullet point “During meetings, if you would like to speak on an item, raise your hand so that the Chair recognizes”, what one would do if they are unable to raise their hand. Chair Fadern responded that one should ask the person next to them to raise his/her hand on their behalf.

7. Chair’s Report

None.

8. Board Liaison Report

Diane Shaw, AC Transit Board of Directors, reported the Board of Directors approved the Facilities Update Plan which would allow the District to get each division ready for the mandated 100% zero emission bus regulation, which goes into effect in 2040. The District is currently looking at both battery electric and hydrogen buses. AC Transit has already procured the first 60’ Hydrogen Bus which would go into the fleet Summer of 2019.

Board of Directors Shaw also informed the Committee about the Alameda County Senior Survey. She said she would send the information to Tammy Kylo to forward to the Committee.

9. Review of Lift/Ramp Road Call Report

The Committee reviewed the Road Call report for January 27 – March 1, 2019. There was a total of seven (7) lift/ramp road calls, 2 being chargeable.

10. Service Review Advisory Committee (SRAC) Report

Janet Abelson gave an update on the March 5, 2019, SRAC meeting. The SRAC received an overview of the FY 19/20 Measure B/BB Paratransit Plan and Funding Application. The Committee approved the Plan and Application by a majority vote and EBP Staff was instructed to inform Alameda CTC of the SRAC Action.

The Committee was also introduced to the new Human Resources Manager, Jessica Guzman, and received the Paratransit Broker Report, which includes an update on operations and Key Performance Indicators. Finally, the Committee approved an action to adjust the meeting dates of the SRAC bi-monthly meetings. This suggested change in the by-laws action was brought to the Committee in an attempt to avoid meeting that fell on the Tuesday after a major holiday. The Committee approved the change and beginning in 2020, the first meeting will take place in February.

The Committee also reviewed the change in attendance requirements. The by-laws will be modified to reflect the attendance change in which 2 consecutive unexcused absences, could result in a Committee member losing his/her appointment. In the event of 2 consecutive unexcused absences, an EBP staff member would follow up with the SRAC member and decide the status of the member’s appointment on a case by case basis.

11. Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) PAPCO Report

The Alameda CTC PAPCO met on February 25th and received a report on the Alameda County Volunteer Driver Program.

12. Public Comments

Arnold Brillinger reported that Monday, March 18th is Driver Appreciation Day and encouraged everyone to thank their drivers.

13. Member Communications and Announcements

Sandra Johnson reported that the USOAC is hosting the “Our Family Circle” day on April 13th from 6-9 pm. She will send information to Tammy Kylo to forward to the Committee.

Sandra Johnson also reported that on April 26th from 10-12 pm there is a “How Medicare for All Impacts Seniors and People with Disabilities” public forum at the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley. She will send information to Tammy Kylo to forward to the Committee.

Pam Fadem reported that The CIL is hosting the 2nd Annual Momentum Expo on Saturday, April 27th at 10 am at the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley. Individuals can go on The CIL website to register for the event.

14. Staff Communications and Announcements

Kim Ridgeway reported that due to the annual AC Transit Rodeo, there will be no AAC/Veteran Bus Operator session in March. The next session will be held on April 18, 2019.

Mallory Brush, Accessible Service Manager, reported that the AB1234 Ethics Training will take place on Tuesday, May 7th at 1:30 pm. Any individual not available on that day must take the online training and send the Certification of Completion to Tammy Kylo. Tammy will send information and reminders to the Committee along with the link for the on-line training.

15. Set Next Agenda & Meeting Date

The next AAC Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at East Bay Paratransit, 1750 Broadway, Oakland, in the Community Room. Agenda items will include Discussion on Members Top Accessibility concerns, and Review AAC Priorities.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.