

**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 20-019**

**A RESOLUTION TO JOIN TRANSPORTATION LEADERS NATIONWIDE IN THE CAMPAIGN
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced a series of efforts to combat human trafficking in the transportation sector seeking a commitment of 100 pledges in 100 days from transportation, labor, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across the country; and

WHEREAS, The USDOT and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are committed to detecting, deterring and eliminating human trafficking occurring on all modes of transportation, including public transit; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2020, the USDOT announced that 100 transportation industry employers have met Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao's call to sign onto the "Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking" pledge. These signatories join more than 250 leaders across all modes of transportation committed to training more than one million employees to help fight human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Chao awarded \$5.4 million in grant funding to twenty-four organizations across the country for projects through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative in 2020; and

WHEREAS, an annual \$50,000 award has been established by the Secretary to incentivize individuals and entities, including NGOs, transportation industry associations, research institutions, and State and local government organizations, to think creatively in developing innovative solutions to combat human trafficking in the transportation industry; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is one of the greatest atrocities of the 21st century, which the International Labor Organization estimates that as many as 24.9 million men, women and children globally, and 100,000 in the United States (US) are sold into prostitution, domestic servitude or other forced labor in dark corners around the globe with 81% of them trapped in forced labor, 75% are women and girls, and 83% of all sex trafficking victims in the US are from the US; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County is ranked the third highest hotspot for human trafficking in the country, with 80 percent of cases in California coming from the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and San Diego; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's office reports that some 4,700 youth reported as sex trafficking victims with demographics representing a disproportionate 61% as African American, as well as 15% as LatinX, and 12% as Caucasian; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office reports smaller numbers of reported sex trafficking victims of some 400 youth, which they believe to be an under reporting of the activity; and

WHEREAS, criminals are using America’s roadways, railways, waterways and skies to traffic victims, allowing our transportation system to be an enabler in such awful acts; and

WHEREAS, in July 2019, the USDOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking reported that based on aggregated tips received by the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) between 2011 to 2017, many reports of human trafficking were connected to various modes of transportation, including 320 reports that intersected with buses and bus stations; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) pledges with one voice to join the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Transportation Leaders nationally in the Pledge Against Human Trafficking Initiative; and

WHEREAS, AC Transit pledges to educate its employees and organizational members on how to recognize and report signs of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, AC Transit pledges to raise awareness among the traveling public on human trafficking issues by utilizing common messaging in targeted outreach campaigns; and

WHEREAS, AC Transit pledges to measure its collective impact against human trafficking by making and sharing key data points with the DOT/FTA and transportation leaders; and

WHEREAS, AC Transit supports uniting efforts across the transportation sector, which will yield greater progress in reaching our goal of eliminating human trafficking.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District does resolve as follows:

Section 1. Recognizes the great importance of joining the nationwide campaign of “Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking” (TLAHT) pledge and authorizes staff to engage in a unified employee education and public awareness campaign aligned with guidelines and tools set forth by the USDOT/FTA and local entities.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by four affirmative votes of the Board of Directors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of April 2020.

Joe Wallace, President

Attest:

Linda A. Nemeroff, 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 22nd day of April 2020, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

Approved as to Form and Content:

Jill A. Sprague, General Counsel