

**MINUTES  
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE AC TRANSIT  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)  
OCTOBER 13, 2020**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL and Introduction of Members and Guests**

**AAC members present:**

Janet Abelson (1:36)	Erika Bruhns
Chonita Chew	Mary Clutts
Jonathan Elkus	Pamela Fadem, Chair
Shawn Fong	Melissa Getz
Sandra Johnson	Don Queen
James Robson	Tanya Washington
Barbara Williams, Vice Chair	Hale Zukas

**AAC members absent:**

None.

**Staff:**

Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator  
Kimberly Ridgeway, Senior Program Specialist  
Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager  
Robert del Rosario, Director of Service Development and Planning  
Claudia Burgos, Director of Legislative Affairs and Community Relations  
Beverly Greene, Executive Director of Legislative Affairs and Marketing Communications  
Steven Jones, External Affairs Representative  
Margaret Tseng, Customer Services Manager

**Guests:**

Diane Shaw, Board of Directors  
H. E. Christian Peeples, Board of Directors  
Warren Cushman  
Chris Mullin

**3. ORDER OF AGENDA**

The order of agenda was approved after moving item 5.C “Resume Fare Collection” and 5.D “Customer Service Center Update” to the first item discussed.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**4.A. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: Clutts/Johnson approved the July 14, 2020 AAC meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 14: Abelson, Bruhns, Chew, Clutts, Elkus, Fadem, Fong, Getz, Johnson, Queen, Robson, Williams, Washington, Zukas

ABSTENTIONS – 0

ABSENT – 0

**4.B. Approval of Minutes for the Joint Meeting**

MOTION: Queen/Chew approve the September 9, 2020 Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and AAC meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 10: Abelson, Bruhns, Chew, Clutts, Elkus, Fadem, Getz, Queen, Robson, Williams

ABSTENTIONS – 4: Johnson, Fong, Washington, Zukas

ABSENT – 0

**5. REGULAR UPDATES****5.A. 2021 Draft Federal and State Legislative Programs**

Steven Jones, External Affairs Representative, gave an overview of the 2020 State and Federal Advocacy Programs. Some of the items discussed include:

- Engage Congress and the Administration to secure new emergency and stimulus funding to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the District's budget, operational capacity, and to support local economic recovery.
- Support/seek additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funding, including assistance at 100% federal share.
- Support reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and legislation that increases funding for transit infrastructure.
- Support legislation, regulatory decisions and/or administrative actions that do not require a local match when utilizing federal funds.
- Support legislation that designates public transit employees as essential workers and prioritizes resources to them, including funding for "hazard duty pay" for employees required to work extra hours and serve the community through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Secure funding to continue the District's partnership with community food delivery services to assist area residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support permanent reinstatement of the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit and extension of the credit to include electricity and hydrogen, used in transit vehicles, as an eligible alternative transportation fuel.
- Monitor and support efforts to advance racial justice and transportation equity through federal transportation policy.
- Seek regulatory relief from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for maintaining Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) examiner status of trainers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support of electrical grid infrastructure modernization to meet Governor Newsom's executive order declaring the goal of eliminating fossil fuels from transportation by 2035.
- Secure funding to continue the District's partnership with community food delivery services to assist area residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support legislation that designates public transit employees as essential workers and prioritizes resources to them, including funding for "hazard duty pay" for employees required to work extra hours and serve the community through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support efforts to offer commuter benefits incentives as an alternative to commuting by personal vehicle, and ensure those benefits continue to be provided to employees required to work remotely.
- Advocate for the inclusion of direct input from Bay Area operators in any proposals to streamline public transit operations in the Bay Area.

- Monitor and support efforts to advance racial justice and transportation equity through state transportation policy.
- Support alternative traffic enforcement legislation that gives municipalities the flexibility to adopt potentially more effective methods for speeding enforcement.

The 2021 Draft Federal and State Legislative Programs will be presented to the AC Transit Board of Directors for review on October 28th and approval on November 12th. Chair Fadem also requested that the following link be in the minutes - Yes, transportation workers are included in the essential workers: <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>

#### **5.B. Update on Board of Directors' adoption of Resolution No. 20-048 in support of the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act (Proposition 15)**

Claudia Burgos, Director of Legislative Affairs and Community Relations, gave an overview on Proposition 15, Schools and Local Communities Funding Act. The measure requires commercial and industrial properties, as well as vacant land not intended for housing commercial agriculture or protected open space, to be taxed on their market value as opposed to their purchase price. The measure allocates almost all new revenue resulting from the measure to cities, counties, special districts and schools. The proponents of the measure have estimated the prop 15 could generate up to \$29 million dollars annually for AC Transit. However, the budget staff, using relative shares and increases based on county-level property tax information, calculated an increase of at least \$10 million and up to \$18 million annually.

AC Transit Board of Directors adopted the Resolution No. 20-048 in support of Schools and Local Communities Funding Act (Proposition 15) at the September 23, 2020 board meeting.

#### **5.C. Resuming Fare Collection**

Margaret Tseng, Customer Service Manager, reported that after 7 months, fare collection will resume on Monday, October 19, 2020. Committee members were concerned how to purchase the Senior and RTC monthly passes since fare collection starts at the middle of the month. Tseng responded that there are vending rules for the senior and RTC monthly passes and they are not allowed to sell those after the 15th of each month. Customer Service is working with seniors to purchase via mobile app for the last 12 days of October.

Fare sales can be made at AC Transit General Offices and the Lake Merritt BART station. Staff is currently working with the vendors in other locations to determine whether or not they will continue sales. Tammy Kylo will send out the list to the Committee once the information becomes available.

#### **5.D. Customer Service Center Update**

Margaret Tseng, Customer Services Manager, reported that on October 12th, the temporary Customer Services Center opened inside of the main lobby at 1600 Franklin Street in Oakland. The Center is open for the purchase of fare media, RTC Cards, and Clipper cards as well as lost & found functions. The renovation on the old Customer Services Center began earlier this year and was expected to be completed in November, however due to COVID, there has been a delay in obtaining materials. Now the center is slated to open by the end of January 2021.

#### **5.E. Review of Lift/Ramp Road Call Report**

The Committee reviewed the Road Call report for August 30 – October 3, 2020. There were a total of six (6) road calls; five (5) were chargeable.

## **6. STANDING REPORTS**

### **6.A. Chair's Report**

None.

### **6.B. Board Liaison Report**

Director Shaw reported that:

- The 2nd phase of Clipper is moving forward and will be available in January of 2021.
- Passenger load information will be available soon for the BRT Tempo Line.
- The Upcoming Board of Director's meeting will include:
  - Pilot for all-door boarding on 25 buses operating on lines in Oakland and Berkeley
  - Report on positive air flow test and procedures to ventilate coaches during the COVID-19 response

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

None.

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

Janet Abelson commented that SRAC has not held a meeting but would like to personally thank East Bay Paratransit again for the food delivery. Mallory responded that the Board of Directors took action at the September 23 meeting and concurred that East Bay Paratransit will continue to provide food delivery.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Warren Cushman stated that he is a member of the California Council of the Blind, and they are looking at better ways to serve the community in the arena of public transportation. Cushman stated they are interested in working collaboratively with the AAC on training issues and a number of other issues. The organization is also looking at some regional relationships with MTC and other partners in the Bay Area.

## **8. MEMBER/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chonita Chew announced that United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC) are going to be having the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention virtually this year on Friday, November 13, 2020. Tammy will forward the details to the committee.

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next AAC Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting.

Future Agenda Items:

- Board Decisions on Legislation and Policy
- Wheelchair Securement Policy
- Update on Fare Collection and Front Door Boarding
- Safety and Public Health
- FASTER Bay Area
- AAC Programs/Projects to increase Senior Ridership

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.