



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT

Master Minute Order

File Number: 20-262

Report ID: 20-262

Type: Regular - Planning

Status: Received

**Agenda
Section:**

Meeting Body: Board of Directors -
Regular Meeting

Report Created: 06/11/2020

Final Action: 07/08/2020

ded Action: Consider receiving report and provide input on staff's initial proposals to redesign the route network in light of diminished operating revenue.

Sponsors:

Enactment Date:

Attachments: STAFF REPORT, Att.1. Proposed Network Maps,
Att.1. Summary of Proposed Changes

Enactment Number:

Hearing Date:

Effective Date:

History of Legislative File

Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting	07/08/2020	Received				Pass
Action Text:	MOTION: PEEPLES/SHAW to receive report and provide input on staff's initial proposals to redesign the route network in light of diminished operating revenue. The motion carried by the following vote:					
Notes:	<i>[Written comments received prior to the meeting are incorporated into the file by reference.]</i>					
<p>Planning Manager Michael Eshleman presented the staff report, noting that the proposals were subject to change as a result of Board and public input.</p> <p>President Wallace complained about proposed service reductions in his ward, believing that the existing service should be improved upon, not cut.</p> <p>Director Peoples commented that the effort to redesign the service needed to consider the following factors: 1) effective outreach to riders who may not have access to technology; 2) outreach to cities in the District about red lanes and transit signal priority to maintain a sufficient speed of the bus; 3) how to make the maps easier to read and understand; and 4) capacity limits. He further commented on the proposal to consolidate Lines 51a and 51b, saying that it was impossible in Berkeley because of the prioritization of parking.</p>						

Vice President Ortiz also shared concerns about Lines 51a and 51b. She further inquired what was driving staff's proposal. Mr. Eshleman responded that a long lead time was necessary to implement changes.

Vice President Ortiz mentioned the importance of providing service to low income communities because equity was a serious issue to funding agencies like MTC, ACTC and the legislature. She further commented that any proposal to cur service in low income areas needed to be soundly justified.

Director Young asked whether the proposed 15-30% reduction would balance the District's budget in FY 2020-21, saying that there was not enough financial information available to know the appropriate amount of service to cut. He requested more information in a follow-up report what the reductions means from a financial standpoint. Mr. Eshleman advised that it is not clear for many agencies how revenue and ridership will come back.

Director Young asked why the District can't continue operating under the emergency service protocol given the level of uncertainty. General Counsel Jill Sprague advised that Federal Transit Administration guidance is unclear, but staff was continuing to research the issue.

Director Williams echoed Director Peeples' comments concerning access to the public comment process. He further requested that staff give a brief overview of the service changes in Ward 4. He also inquired about the process to eventually bring service back. Mr. Eshleman advised that staff had yet to have those discussions. Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications Claudia Burgos advised of staff's efforts concerning the public outreach process.

Director Harper questioned the number of operators that would be needed to provide the service and how much overtime would be needed. Chief Operating Office Salvador Llamas explained the process of utilizing overtime for the service. He added that there are other situations that cause unplanned overtime. Director Harper believed that the District should attempt to control overtime to the greatest extend possible.

Director Shaw asked for an update on the ridership numbers for the different lines. She also asked for clarification of the sign-up process.

Director Shaw also asked about Clipper readers on rear doors. General Manager Michael Hursh advised that the Clipper Executive Board would make money available for operators that needed them, but the timeline was extended.

Vice President Ortiz suggested that a lower percentage of cuts be added to staff scenarios, such as 10%, 20%, and 30%.

Public Comment:

Jess Daniels, North Berkeley Hills resident, commented that a 15-30% service reduction will challenge all riders but people like Jess rely on the bus and will suffer from the service cut. Neighborhoods should be viewed individually.

David Ying commented that low income areas are hit hardest by Covid 19-related bus service cuts; Cal State East Bay bus service cancelations would be significantly hard on CSUEB students.

Diego Aguiar-Canabal commented that the District should enhance service instead of enacting service cuts. District should utilize Back-doors boarding; East-west connectivity is just as important as North-South.

Yvonne Williams, President of ATU Local 192, commented that overtime use is needed to provide service (this is not new information). Measure BB was supposed to return service to pre-BB levels and beyond. ATU is opposed to service cuts/re-arrangement of service.

Darryl Owens commented that service cuts are not simple and will be problematic to riders.

Tyrone Ellington noted that efforts to preserve profitability will cause community relevance to suffer and suggested a fare collection restructuring plan instead of route redesign.

A. Shapiro offered that the service cuts do not mirror the information stated in staff report and that the principles of route cuts is not reflected the same on District maps.

Sofia appreciated the Board's work on service changes and hoped it would take individual community issues to mind when it decides on the matter.

Gayle, Kensington resident, commented on the lack of transit choices for riders in the area. choices. In addition, bus service is the only choice available and the housing crisis, where multi-occupant dwellings are common, illuminates the need for buses.

Erin Laurison, commented that service cuts assume walkability of riders to alternate bus stops; however, some riders have unique challenges that make walking to alternate stops difficult. It was requested that the Board ensure transparency and that information is accessible to blind riders.

Nick Mediat was concerned about how service cuts will cause greater instances of multi-line transfers for riders, which is a burden to riders. It was suggested that the COVID-19 crisis be used to build a better bus service network.

John Walsh, Transbay Coalition, recommended improving the bus experience by speeding up buses so riders arrive at their destination quickly and suggested that the District be aggressive about pushing for a no-car District.

Kaspar Mossman, Kensington resident, heard that BART is working to close parking lots and build housing, creating a greater need for bus service to get around, even to BART.

Kyle Finger commented that some service is redundant and should be eliminated. Transbay Service should be near-eliminated due to replication of service with BART.

Angelica, Kensington resident, was hopeful that route elimination is reconsidered.

Isaac recommended that the District explore other alternatives than service cuts.

Edwina Robinson commented that service employees wanted all buses cleaned and sanitized and requested training. Bus Operators will feel safer if they see these

efforts which impact their daily safety on the job.

Joyce asked that rider consideration be looked after, as service cuts will impact ridership.

Connie McFarland commented that route changes will cause overtime and that service cuts would result in a major inconveniences for all.

Nathanial Arnold reported four new cases of workers contracting Covid-19 since the last Board meeting and that increasing service was unwise as the pandemic continues.

Ayes: 6 President Wallace, Director Harper, Director Shaw, Director Williams,
Director Peeples, Director Young
Nayes: 1 Vice President Ortiz
