

# **ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT**



## **MINUTES**

**Thursday February 20, 2020**

**2:00 PM**

### **VIRTUAL MEETING**

### **East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee**

*AC Transit: Vice President Elsa Ortiz, Director Greg Harper,  
Director Joel Young*

*City of Oakland: Council President Rebecca Kaplan, Council Member Noel Gallo*

*City of San Leandro: Mayor Pauline Cutter, Council Member Corina Lopez*

*Alameda County: Supervisor Nate Miley*

*Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Caltrans: Tony Tavarez*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee met on Wednesday, February 20, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. with Committee Chair Ortiz presiding. AC Transit Board Director H. E. Christian Peeples was present as alternate for Director Joel Young.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Present** Chair Elsa Ortiz, Director Greg Harper, Councilmember Corina Lopez, Councilmember Noel Gallo, Director H. E. Christian Peeples  
**Absent** Council President Rebecca Kaplan, Mayor Pauline Cutter, Committee Member Tony Tavares, Supervisor Nate Miley

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments offered.

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Committee Chair Ortiz reported that the start of passenger service has been delayed with a new date forecasted for May 2020. She added that the District is eager to deliver this landmark public transportation system to the East Bay community, but delays caused by PG&Es inability to install permanent power to the new traffic signals and BRT platforms, along with other disruptions, had hampered delivery of the project as planned. Committee Chair Ortiz further added that several private developments in the downtown Oakland portion of the BRT route have created additional delays and complications.

Chair Ortiz thanked the Cities of Oakland and San Leandro, and Caltrans who continue to make critical approvals and key decisions to help AC Transit keep work progressing.

**5. REGULAR UPDATES**

**5.A. BRT Project Updates:**

[20-052](#)

- 1) Operational Readiness for Passenger Service
- 2) Construction Readiness - Substantial Completion
- 3) Branding/Sponsorship & Naming Rights
- 4) Outreach for Passenger Service & On-Going Construction Outreach
- 5) Contract Compliance Update

Director of BRT David Wilkins provided an overview of the operational readiness for passenger service and an update on construction. Highlights of the substantial progress made since January 2020 were also presented.

Committee Chair Ortiz acknowledged the project delays to due unforeseen issues and the slow completion of critical construction activities as a result. She further inquired whether the launch of the service would have been possible on March 26th if not for the unforeseen circumstances slowing the project. General Manager Michael Hursh reported that construction work would be largely completed by the end of March; however, the certification to operate would still have to be validated by the Federal

Transportation Administration (FTA). Mr. Wilkins advised that the construction lag was caused by issues that were solely in the hands of PG&E but advised that the District has finally established a regular communication channel with the utility and is on the path to resolve the issues.

Director Harper commented about the status of the Northern Layover, particularly the signal modification and roadway improvements, and was concerned that the completion is at only 5%. Director Harper wanted to explore the option of delaying the Northern Layover project to a later time to allow for faster completion of the BRT project overall. Mr. Wilkins advised that the signal modification at the Northern Layover had been completed since the report was written and that the roadway improvements are nearing completion in the following days. Mr. Hursh added that the final phase of the BRT project is moving incredibly fast at this point.

The committee members commented about the restroom facilities at the Northern Layover. Mr. Hursh advised that the restroom facility is part of the Greyhound terminal. He added that recently, Greyhound was sold to a different company and it was too early to know whether the new ownership intended to change the layout.

Oakland Councilmember Gallo asked for the locations of the incomplete canopies that were mentioned in the presentation. Mr. Wilkins provided the locations and advised that the Uptown north-bound station canopy would be temporarily relocated because it overlaps with a large development at the location. He added that the developer agreed to build a temporary platform on 19th Street during construction.

Oakland Councilmember Gallo commented about the security cameras on the BRT platforms and asked how the video recordings would be managed and accessed. Mr. Hursh advised that the video will supply the AC Transit's Operations Control Center and Caltrans with traffic data for the purpose of traffic management. He added that AC Transit is committed to collaborating with the Sheriff's Department on the corridor; however, the video feed will not be directly streamed to law enforcement. He further clarified that the cameras would be used as a tool for the District's Operations Control Center to monitor the movement of the busses to ensure the optimal operation of the BRT system.

San Leandro Councilmember Lopez commented that the City of San Leandro is exploring the option to collaborate with the District to install additional video equipment on the platforms in San Leandro, for broader use. Councilmember Lopez requested that the District's policy on camera use includes language to prohibit the sale of captured video.

Director Harper commented on the advancement of video technology in recent years and believed public input was needed before any written regulations are set in place.

Committee Chair Ortiz commented that aside from the platform cameras, the BRT busses will be equipped with cameras for citing vehicles parked in the bus-only lanes. Chair Ortiz asked for further detail on the enforcement of the dedicated lanes. Mr. Hursh clarified that the bus cameras for this purpose have already been in use by the District.

Director Peeples stated that the BRT camera use is a discussion for the AC Transit Board of Directors and requested the District develop a policy on this matter. Director Peeples added that extensive work on this topic had been done by the County of Alameda and BART.

### **Branding/Sponsorship & Naming Rights**

Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing and Communications Beverly Greene presented an update on branding and communication plans. Ms. Greene added that the marketing of the BRT service is in the development and implementation stage, noting that the District is targeting the healthcare and education industries for potential sponsors.

Director Harper was apprehensive about the design of the bus wrap and believed that the design would be rejected by the public. He also felt staff should explore the option of not wrapping the busses at all and leaving the platform art as is. Mr. Hursh advised that the result of the BRT branding effort was the coordinated look of the bus stops and busses which also distinguishes BRT from other bus lines, noting that the design had been adopted years ago. Director Peeples commented that the rollout of the project has already been coordinated, stressing the importance of honoring the work that had already been done.

### **Outreach for Passenger Service & On-Going Construction Outreach**

Public Outreach Team Manager Steven Jones gave an update on the outreach team's focus along the corridor, specifically on community and rider education about the final construction phase and commencement of passenger service.

### **Contract Compliance Update**

Contracts Compliance Administrator Phillip Halley presented an overview of the progress achieved toward meeting workforce utilization goals and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) utilization goals. Committee members praised the achievement of the workforce goals.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Lou Katz**, Oakland Privacy Advisory Commission, urged the Committee to protect the public's privacy, adding that the cameras would be placed on the BRT platforms, in the public right of way of the City of Oakland, without any transparency or oversight or usage policy.

**Oscar** spoke in support of the previous comment adding his concern about the lack of policy, and about the cameras capturing not only the BRT traffic but also the daily lives of the general public. Oscar was also concerned that the BRT will not serve the East Oakland community, because it connects the high earning areas and expresses through the poor segment of Oakland.

**Tom Guarino**, PG&E, introduced himself and his team to the committee and pledged a willingness to work with the District.

**Joseph Tanios**, Construction Inspection Manager with the City of Oakland, commented that his team is committed to partnering with AC Transit on the BRT project.

All items were presented for discussion. No actions were taken.

## 6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 6.A.** Consider approving Policy Steering Committee minutes of December 4, 2019. [20-053](#)

MOTION: ORTIZ/PEEPLS to approve Policy Steering Committee minutes of December 4, 2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Chair Ortiz, Director Harper, Peeples, Councilmember Lopez, Councilmember Gallo

**Absent:** Council President Kaplan, Mayor Cutter, Committee Member Tavares, Supervisor Miley

## 7. SELECTION OF DATE & TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for May 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

## 8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/REVIEW LIST OF PENDING ITEMS

There were no new agenda items.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Linda A. Nemeroff  
District Secretary