

**DRAFT MINUTES  
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE AC TRANSIT  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)  
JUNE 8, 2021**

**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	Erika Bruhns, Vice Chair
Chonita Chew (left 2:13 pm)	Jonathan Elkus
Pamela Fadem	Shawn Fong
Melissa Getz	Don Queen
Sandra Johnson, Chair	James Robson
Tanya Washington	Barbara Williams
Hale Zukas (1:17 pm)	

**AAC members absent:**

Mary Clutts (excused)

**Staff:** Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator  
Kim Ridgeway, Senior Program Specialist  
Michael Eshleman, Service Planning Manager

**Guests:** Diane Shaw, Board of Directors  
H. E. Christian Peeples, Board of Directors  
Warren Cushman  
Sheela Gunn-Cushman  
Deborah Diamond  
Helena Chang, CIL

**3. ORDER OF AGENDA**

The order of agenda was approved.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**4.A. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: Fadem/Getz approved the May 11, 2021 AAC meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 11: Bruhns, Elkus, Fadem, Fong, Getz, Johnson, Queen, Robson, Washington, Williams, Zukas

ABSTENTIONS – 2: Abelson, Chew

ABSENT – 1: Clutts

**5. REGULAR UPDATES**

**5.A. Review of June Service Changes**

Michael Eshleman, Planning Manager, gave an update on the June Service Changes. AC Transit typically conducts four sign-ups each year as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with ATU

Local 192. These occur in March, June, August, and December. The June service changes are focused on improving reliability and increasing service within Special District 2 to meet the District's obligations to provide service to Fremont/Newark commensurate with the revenues provided by these jurisdictions.

The additional service in Special District 2 includes improving frequency to 20 minutes for Line 200 while reinstating Line 215 on weekdays. This sign-up brings the expenses and subsidy contributions into balance. The reliability improvements for June are focused on the All-Nighter or "owl service". The service changes will go into effect on June 13, 2021.

#### **5.B. Update on Restoring Service**

Michael Eshleman, Planning Manager, gave an update on restoring service. Staff has received comments from the Board, and the public about wanting service restored. There are no service cuts planned for the future. Staff is working on bringing maximum service back at the right pace to the specific areas and lines. At the Board Meeting on Wednesday, the Board will consider the budget, which will lay the framework for how much service the District can afford over the next year. The goal for full service recovery is August 2022. However, the constraints for adding service are money and the number of operators that the District has available for service.

No operators were laid off during the pandemic, however, due to attrition, the number of operators dropped from 1300 to 1100

In April, the District held "Transit Talks". There will be more outreach and engagement to look at service changes for implementation in August 2022. One change to note for August 2021: Transbay service will be restored to 55% of pre-COVID service levels.

#### **5.C. Review/Adopt AAC Top Priorities for 2021-2022 with Actionable Items**

Abelson/Fong moved to approve the 2021-2022 Top Priorities with the following changes:

- Change "LA/CR" to Legislative Affairs & Community Relations (LA/CR)
- Change the bullet points to letters

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 13: Abelson, Bruhns, Chew, Elkus, Fadem, Fong, Getz, Johnson, Queen, Robson, Washington, Williams, Zukas

ABSTENTIONS – 0

ABSENT – 1: Clutts

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

The Committee reviewed the Road Call report for May 2 – May 31, 2021. There were five (5) road calls; three (3) were chargeable. All vehicles passed the pre-trip inspection and thus any road call listed occurred in service.

## **6. STANDING REPORTS**

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

Sandra Johnson, Chair, reported that she attended the following events:

- East Bay Affordable Housing Celebration
- Unite Against Hate March
- City of Oakland Older American's Month
- District 18 Assemblymen Candidate Forums
- Empowerment Elders Workshop, represented by CLRA

- United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda Count (USOAC) 30th Anniversary

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

Director Shaw, Board of Directors, reported on the following:

- AC Transit went to 3-foot distancing on buses effective June 7th
- Muni will be going to zero social distancing on July 16th
- The next Board of Directors meeting on June 9th will include a report on the rear door boarding pilot on lines 51B and line 6.
- There are bus stop changes along E. 14th Street and Ashland; anyone who rides in that area should go to the AC Transit website for more information.

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

None.

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

The SRAC received reports on Vaccination Updates, the Measure J Claim for Contra Costa County and East Bay Paratransit Key Performance Indicators. The next SRAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 3rd at 12:30 pm.

### **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Warren Cushman stated that there is a region wide disability coordinating committee which works with independent living centers. This committee work on advocacy with MTC and public transportation. If anyone is interested in this committee, he will send information to forward to the AAC. Also, MTC will soon issue a report from the Blue Ribbon Task Force, which will have impacts on people with disabilities including wayfinding and fares. He will communicate this information as well.

Sheela Gunn Cushman reported that the Automatic Voice Announcement (AVA) system has been off for a while in that it announces about a block before the actual stop, which has caused some drivers to let her off before her actual stop. The issues have been happening on lines 10, 28, 21, 21 and 39. She also stated that she likes the new hybrid buses but wishes that the clipper card readers were in the same location on all buses.

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

- Pam Fadern shared that she will be a Grandma for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.
- Staff reported that we may have the Joint Meeting with the Board on July 28, 2021

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

The next AAC Meeting will be held Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting.

Future Agenda Items:

- Update on restored bus service.
- Alameda CTC presentation on current projects
- Driver Customer Communication Training regarding Wheelchair Securement
- An ombudsman program
- Board Decisions on Legislation and Policy
- Wheelchair Securement Policy
- FASTER Bay Area
- AAC Programs/Projects to increase Senior Ridership

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.