

**MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE AC TRANSIT
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
MAY 11, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL and Introduction of Members and Guests

AAC members present:

Erika Bruhns, Vice Chair	Mary Clutts
Jonathan Elkus (1:45)	Pamela Fadem
Shawn Fong	Melissa Getz
Don Queen	Sandra Johnson, Chair
James Robson	Tanya Washington (left at 1:27)
Barbara Williams	Hale Zukas

AAC members absent:

Janet Abelson (excused)
Chonita Chew (excused)

Staff:

Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator
Kim Ridgeway, Senior Program Specialist
Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager
Mika Miyasato, Senior Transportation Planner

Guests:

Diane Shaw, Board of Directors
H. E. Christian Peeples, Board of Directors
Alicia Brown, Paratransit, Inc.

3. ORDER OF AGENDA

The order of agenda was approved.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Fadem/Bruhns approved the April 13, 2021 AAC meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 10: Bruhns, Clutts, Elkus, Fadem, Getz, Johnson, Queen, Robson, Williams, Zukas

ABSTENTIONS – 2: Fong, Washington

ABSENT – 2: Abelson, Chew

5. REGULAR UPDATES

5.A. Update on Rapid Corridors Project

Mika Miyasato, Senior Transportation Planner, gave an update on the Rapid Corridors Project. AC Transit received funding for design and implementation of the Rapid Corridors Project, which will improve transit reliability and reduce travel time along the Telegraph (Lines 6 and 800), San Pablo (Lines 72, 72M and 72R), and Grand/West Grand Avenue (Lines 12, 805 and NL) corridors.

The project includes Transit Signal Priority (TSP) equipment installation and signal retiming for San Pablo, West Grand/Grand and Telegraph Avenues. In addition, the project includes the relocation and improvement of key bus stops along the Telegraph and West Grand/Grand Avenue corridors. Bus stop relocation and/or improvements are not proposed for the San Pablo Avenue corridor.

The proposed bus stop improvements include longer red curbs, sidewalk improvements, and far-side bus stop relocation to provide better access to the buses and safer ramp deployment. The project proposes to relocate near-side bus stops (located immediately before crossing intersections) to far-side bus stops (located immediately after crossing intersections), which would allow buses to take advantage of proposed traffic signal changes and reenter traffic more easily as well as increase safety and promote healthy, and equitable mobility for all.

Along the Telegraph Avenue corridor, bus stop spacing would be based on the “Rapid Bus Replace Local” service type, reflected in Board Policy 501, adopted by the Board of Directors in 2019. This would increase bus stops to approximately every four blocks instead of every two blocks. The average distance between bus stops would be 1,200 – 1,300 feet. There is no change to bus stop spacing along the Grand/West Grand Avenue corridor.

Outreach activities in May and June 2021 will include proposed bus stop change notification and virtual community meetings. Meeting details are provided on AC Transit’s website. Upon conclusion of the outreach activities, designs for the project is expected to be completed in Fall 2021. Construction is expected to start Spring 2022 and complete Fall 2022.

The Committee voiced concerns about shelters and benches as part of this project. Pam Fadem commented that, though merchants may not want benches and shelters outside of their establishments, these items are necessary for some riders in order to be able to access fixed route services. Those who cannot stand for a very long time and need protection from the elements can access the bus safely.

Mika concluded by encouraging the Committee to give feedback on the project. In addition to attending the virtual community meetings, feedback can also be provided by calling AC Transit at 510-891-7262, emailing planning@actransit.org, or by mail to Mika Miyasato at 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

5.B. Review/Adopt AAC Top Priorities for 2021-2022

The Committee reviewed each of the 7 top priorities. After discussing each priority, Staff was directed to make changes to priority #1, #3 and #7. The Committee will review and vote to approve the 2021-2022 Top Priorities, with the proposed changes, at the June 8th meeting.

5.C. Review of Quarterly ADA Complaints

The Committee reviewed the Quarterly ADA Complaints which compared ADA Complaints in 3rd Quarter 19/20 to 3rd Quarter 20/21. The Committee commented that they are happy to see a continued decrease in almost all the categories.

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

The Committee reviewed the Road Call report for April 4 – May 1, 2021. There were six (6) road calls; four (4) 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 on the following virtual events she attended:

- San Leandro Senior Center Alzheimer Conference
- Downtown Oakland Senior Center Brain and Aging Symposium
- Barbara Lee's "Biden's 1st 100 Days" Forum
- PAPCO Program Review
- AC Transit "Transit Talks"
- United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC) COVID-19 Relief Platform
- 100 Black Women – Bay Area Chapter Health Forum

6.B. Board Liaison Report

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

- AC Transit "Transit Talks", with the last one being held Thursday, May 13, 2021
- New Bus Operators (NBOs) are currently being trained
- The District reviewed an electric bus, which has much easier wheelchair securement systems, and will be tested on Transbay routes not in service
- The Board will review the fare increase proposal at the Wednesday, May 12th Board Meeting
- Encourage the AAC to continue to call in complaints and incidences to the Customer Relations Department so a ticket can be generated immediately

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

None.

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

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. MEMBER/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & NEXT MEETING DATE

The next AAC Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 8, 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 2:39 p.m.