

**MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE AC TRANSIT
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
JULY 13, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL and Introduction of Members and Guests

AAC members present:

Janet Abelson	Erika Bruhns, Vice Chair
Chonita Chew	Mary Clutts
Pamela Fadem	Shawn Fong
Melissa Getz	Don Queen
Sandra Johnson, Chair	James Robson
Tanya Washington	Barbara Williams
Hale Zukas (1:12 pm)	

AAC members absent:

Jonathan Elkus (excused)

Staff:

Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator
Kim Ridgeway, Senior Program Specialist
Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager
Michael Eshleman, Service Planning Manager
Linda Nemeroff, District Secretary
Tabby Davenport, Safety Manager
Derik Calhoun, Director of Transportation
Cecil Blandon, Director of Maintenance

Guests:

Diane Shaw, Board of Directors
H. E. Christian Peeples, Board of Directors
Renee Martinez, Paratransit Inc.
Lisa Cappellari, Paratransit Inc.
Ruilin Woo, USOAC

3. ORDER OF AGENDA

The order of agenda was approved.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4.A. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Getz/Fong approved the June 8, 2021 AAC meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 12: Abelson, Bruhns, Chew, Fadem, Fong, Getz, Johnson, Queen, Robson, Washington, Williams, Zukas

ABSTENTIONS – 1: Clutts

ABSENT – 1: Elkus

5. REGULAR UPDATES

5.A. Future Hybrid Committee Meetings

Linda Nemeroff, District Secretary, reported that on September 30, 2021, per Governor Newsom's Executive Order, agencies will begin to conduct hybrid Meetings, meaning that meetings will be in person but also have video conferencing. The Brown Act states that Committee Members who remote into the meeting must post the meeting information, as well as the address of the location in which they are attending remotely, no less than 72 hours before the meeting date and time. The location from which the Committee Member joins must be open to the public and ADA accessible. These rules are applied to Committee Members as decision makers; members of the public and AC Transit Staff are not required to abide by these rules if they attend the meetings remotely.

The AAC received a demo of the Meeting OWL Pro. The AAC will test the hybrid meeting concept at the September 14th meeting and beginning the October 12th meeting, all rules and regulations regarding hybrid meetings will be in effect.

The Committee brought up several concerns about the regulations, especially since the pandemic is not over. Some of the concerns included:

- The health and safety of individuals who are immune compromised, being obligated to allow members of the public in their homes.
- The health and safety of family members that may be compromised.
- The health and safety of children residing within the home.
- The accessibility of the location in which the member is attending the meeting.
- Why, if anyone can attend meetings remotely, does the Committee Member need to provide an accessible space, and technology in their own residence?

Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager, responded that she would reach out to the Legislative Affairs/Community Relations (LA/CR) department to look into seeking modifications and/or exemptions for public advisory committees. She also requested that the recording of this meeting be sent to LA/CR so that they may review the entire discussion.

MOTION: Abelson/Zukas moved that the Accessibility Advisory Committee support the Hybrid Meeting model and that Legislative Affairs/Community Relations (LA/CR) Staff look at exemptions in the existing Brown Act on Public Advisory Committee Members. The motion carried by the following vote: AYES – 13: Abelson, Bruhns, Chew, Clutts, Fadem, Fong, Getz, Johnson, Queen, Robson, Washington, Williams, Zukas

ABSTENTIONS – 0

ABSENT – 1: Elkus

5.B. Review August Service Changes

Michael Eshelman, Planning Manager, reported that the next service changes, effective, August 8, 2021, are designed to focus on trips for school service, restore or increase frequency on 11 Transbay lines, add connections for the Alameda ferry terminals on Line 21, and add the new Line 78 to Seaplane Lagoon.

5.C. Update on Social Distancing on the Bus

Tabby Davenport, Safety Manager, gave an update on social distancing requirements on AC Transit. The District, in conjunction with the re-opening of the State of California, went from 6' to 3' distancing on all buses effective June 7th. Then on June 21st, zero distancing was adopted. The District has and will continue requiring the use of masks on the buses, as well as the driver shields, HVAC upgrades, enhanced cleaning, and sanitizer and masks on board for passenger use. The District will also continue to secure wheelchairs upon passengers' request until further notice.

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

The Committee reviewed the Road Call report for June 1 – July 2, 2021. There were four (4) 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:

- Mental Health Awareness Meeting
- AC Transit Board of Directors Meeting
- Alameda County Transportation Authority PAPCO meeting, where she was re-elected Vice Chair

6.B. Board Liaison Report

Director Shaw, Board of Directors, reported that she has become more involved in the APTA Advisory Committee and will update the AAC with any pertinent news from that committee.

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

None.

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

Janet Abelson reported that the SRAC didn't meet in July because that committee meets every other month. The next SRAC meeting is August 3rd via Zoom.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. MEMBER/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chonita Chew reported that the USOAC's Healthy Living Festival will be held Thursday, September 30th from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm at the Oakland Zoo. Chonita asked Tammy Kylo, Committee Secretary, to email the information to the AAC members.
- Mallory Nestor-Brush reported that the Joint Board/AAC Meeting will be Wednesday, July 28th via Zoom. Some topics include an overview of the role of the AAC and the 2021-2022 AAC Top Priorities.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & NEXT MEETING DATE

The next AAC Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting.

Future Agenda Items:

- Customer Service Training and Key Performance Indicators
- Alameda CTC presentation on current projects
- Driver Customer Communication Training regarding Wheelchair Securement
- An ombudsman program
- Wheelchair Securement Policy
- FASTER Bay Area
- AAC Programs/Projects to increase Senior Ridership

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.