

**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 21-040**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT OF MUNICIPALLY FUNDED TRANSIT TRIPS**

**WHEREAS**, reliable and low-cost public transportation is a fundamental human need and supports climate, economic, health, mobility, and racial equity; and

**WHEREAS**, public bus-based transportation is significantly less carbon intensive per mile than single occupancy internal combustion vehicles and even greater climate benefits will be realized as zero-emission buses come online as part of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District's ("District") Zero Emissions Bus Rollout Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the District provides municipalities within the region with a vital means of meeting their climate, economic, health, mobility, and racial equity goals and obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years some municipalities across the country have successfully funded pilot programs in partnership with local transit agencies to provide free transit trips on a system, citywide, or route-based basis; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of such pilot programs, some agencies have seen significant increases in demand for public transit; and

**WHEREAS**, the District and local municipalities have a shared interest in safely restoring public transit ridership levels following sharp reductions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2021, the District successfully conducted a monthlong Fare-Free Fridays program across its service area, including paratransit services; and

**WHEREAS**, representatives of the City of Berkeley are exploring and have begun preliminary discussions with the District about whether and how a broader free transit pilot on a given day of the week could operate; and

**WHEREAS**, like other municipalities, the City of Berkeley has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act that could support such free transit pilot programs; and

**WHEREAS**, in order for interested municipalities to consider funding potential pilot programs, they need to adopt budget allocations on defined timelines; and

**WHEREAS**, budget allocations occur twice annually in the City of Berkeley, once in November and once in June, and a proposal to consider funding from the November budget process has been drafted; and

**WHEREAS**, a funding allocation for a pilot by the City of Berkeley or any other municipality does not in any way commit the District to approve any particular free transit pilot program or other modification of service, but may facilitate staff coordination between municipalities and

the District that could lead to the further evaluation and potential approval of such programs by the District Board.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of Directors of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District does resolve as follows:

**Section 1.** To generally support the concept of municipally funded free transit pilots or other programs.

**Section 2.** The establishment of any such program shall be ultimately subject to operational and administrative evaluation and approval by the Board of Directors.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by four affirmative votes of the Board of Directors.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 13th day of October 2021.

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Elsa Ortiz, President

Attest:

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Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

I, Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary for the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 13th day of October, 2021, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Linda A. Nemeroff, District Secretary

Approved as to Form and Content:

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Jill A. Sprague, General Counsel