



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT

MINUTES

East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee

**Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 2:00 PM
1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA**

**AC Transit: Vice President Elsa Ortiz, Director Greg Harper,
Director H. E. Christian Peeples**

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

City of San Leandro: Mayor Pauline Cutter, Vice Mayor Corina Lopez

Alameda County: Supervisor Nate Miley

Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Caltrans: Tony Tavarez

The East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee met on Thursday, September 5, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. with Chair Ortiz presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

(Director Young arrived at 2:08 p.m.; Vice Mayor Lopez arrived at 2:09 p.m.)

Present Chair Elsa Ortiz, Director Greg Harper, Director Joel Young, Council President Rebecca Kaplan, Vice Mayor Corina Lopez, Councilmember Noel Gallo, Mayor Pauline Cutter

Absent Committee Member Tony Tavares, Supervisor Nate Miley

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments offered.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Ortiz reported that the BRT Project has consumed all available schedule contingency due to a myriad of right-of-way issues and is facing significant challenges in trying to meet the year-end deadline to start passenger service. While staff is adopting various mitigations to try and recover the schedule, the completion of ten curbside stations in Downtown Oakland is critical.

Chair Ortiz further reported that the AC Transit Board of Directors had approved a 90-day free fare trial period and approved a \$36 million line of credit which would provide sufficient financial resources to fully fund and finish the project.

4. REGULAR UPDATES

4.A. BRT Project Updates:

[19-306](#)

- 1) Construction Progress
- 2) Critical Items that Could Impact the December Opening
- 3) Community Outreach
- 4) Project Labor Agreement, Construction Careers Policy and Hiring
- 5) Sponsorships and Naming Rights - Branding
- 6) Readiness For Passenger Service

Construction Progress.

Director of Bus Rapid Transit David Wilkins presented an overview of construction progress since the last meeting.

Critical Items Impacting the December Opening.

Mr. Wilkins highlighted pressing issues impacting BRT construction progress in Oakland,

including project delays related to developments in downtown Oakland, permit issuance, and timely approval of a change in the composition of asphalt paving material.

Chair Ortiz called attention to issues concerning developers in downtown Oakland and the implications to the project's timeline and budget. Councilmember Gallo pointed out that some situations require a compromise, especially when it involves plans to develop a property that has been vacant for years and would create hundreds of jobs - a situation that would benefit both the City and AC Transit. Mr. Wilkins commented on the subject property located between 54th and 55th Avenues in Oakland, whereby the developer was required to treat AC Transit's BRT project as an existing condition. He added that a similar situation in downtown Oakland is much more problematic because of its impact on the project timeline. He further advised that staff was be assisted by Oak DOT (specifically Christine Calabrese and Wladimir Wlassowsky) on developer issues.

Ms. Calabrese commented that developers need to understand that the station platforms are not bus stops. She added that City staff is working to accommodate both AC Transit and developers, and in some situations, a temporary platform will be constructed and will be in use for two years until the development is complete. In addition, developers may need to reinstall the hardscape near the platforms. Council President Kaplan suggested landscaping be delayed because it may need to be replanted when the development is complete. Mr. Hursh advised that permanent station platforms will be built and mothballed until construction around it is complete.

General Manager Michael Hursh emphasized the urgency in making critical decisions to maintain the momentum of the project, and Chair Ortiz continued to stress the financial limitations of the project, saying that there was not money to accommodate additional requests by developers.

Council President Kaplan felt it was important to distinguish what a developer was asking for and whether the project schedule could accommodate it. Mr. Wilkins advised that late, last minute changes for developers have a significant impact on the project's design, schedule and budget.

Chair Ortiz asked if there were any other permits coming up in the next three months that would require immediate attention. Mr. Wilkins advised that there were none as staff is currently working with the City on pending permits.

Council President Kaplan asked if there were any other discretionary actions the City could take to ensure a timely process. Mr. Wilkins advised that paving material was a concern, and it would save time if the City would accept using hot mix asphalt all the way to final grade in select areas that have to be paved in Fruitvale and downtown Oakland. Council President Kaplan suggested that the money saved by not using the

rubberized asphalt be set aside and used later to repave the street or financially compensate the City who will have to resurface the roadway sooner than planned. Mr. Hursh advised that any decision to compensate the City would be brought back to the AC Transit Board.

Director Harper commented that the Transbay Transit Center had an unrealistic opening date, and if a certain date is not realistic, we should acknowledge it now.

Community Outreach.

Public Outreach Team Manager Steven Jones gave an update on the outreach team's focus along the corridor, including communication with businesses on upcoming work and projected timelines, regular check-ins, outreach in the upcoming zones, and complaint resolution and troubleshooting of construction impacts.

Mayor Cutter commented that the temporary 4-hour parking on San Leandro Street near BART was removed to accommodate buses stopping in the area and requested that staff to ensure there is proper signage to notify residents of the change.

Project Labor Agreement, Construction Careers Policy and Hiring.

Contracts Compliance Administrator Phillip Halley presented an overview of the progress achieved toward meeting workforce utilization goals and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) utilization goals, pointing out that the DBE goals for the project had been exceeded. He also reported on the hours worked by Oakland and San Leandro residents and the offsite credit hours worked.

Sponsorships and Naming Rights - Branding.

Director of Marketing Michele Joseph presented an update on sponsorship and naming rights activities. An overview of BRT wayfinding signage was also given.

Mayor Cutter inquired about station naming. Ms. Joseph advised that the primary naming convention would be on the geographic location of the station with any sponsorship naming being secondary.

Council President Kaplan asked what the timing was around securing a sponsor for the BRT line. Ms. Joseph advised that finding a sponsor was a top priority and staff hoped to secure one by December. Mr. Hursh added that staff was aggressively attempting to obtain a sponsor and would continue their efforts after the launch of the service if one could not be found. Council President Kaplan urged AC Transit not to give free advertising to sports teams, while smaller organizations had to pay. Chair Ortiz advised that while she understood the concern, AC Transit placed information about sports teams on headsigns for the benefit of the community at the request of former Oakland

mayors.

Vice Mayor Lopez asked if the local jurisdictions would be able to weigh in and/or approve the sponsorship/naming rights of a station. Ms. Joseph advised that while the AC Transit Board retained ultimate authority on sponsorship/naming rights, the cities would be kept informed of any sponsorship/naming interests involving BRT stations in their city. Vice Mayor Lopez commented that her preference would be to allow the city to formally weigh-in on decisions in an open and transparent way that is agendized. Mr. Hursh responded that the District would continue to keep the Committee advised and would keep the cities apprised.

Director Harper requested that staff provide more specifics in future reports beyond general direction. He wanted some assurance that progress was being made and requested that staff contact him to discuss the matter after the meeting.

Readiness for Passenger Service.

Chief Operating Officer Sal Llamas reported on the District's readiness to begin BRT service in December 2019.

Mayor Cutter asked that staff evaluate the left turn lane near the San Leandro Civic Center because cars drive in the bus lane. Mr. Llamas advised that all bus only lanes will have traffic control which will give clearance to traffic. Mr. Wilkins advised that staff was aware of signal timing issue and will evaluate it.

Council President Kaplan wanted to make everyone aware that Oakland is contemplating a bus only lane on Broadway. She asked if AC Transit had money/plans to repave the Broadway segment. Mr. Wilkins advised that staff is aware of it, but there is no curb to curb paving planned for Broadway. Mr. Hursh advised that given the short amount of time left, paving work can occur after the start of revenue service.

Council President Kaplan made a formal request to address the change from rubberized asphalt in areas of Oakland.

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

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 5.A.** Consider approving Policy Steering Committee minutes of May 9, 2019.

[19-303](#)

MOTION: Kaplan/Cutter to approve the Policy Steering Committee minutes of May 9, 2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chair Ortiz, Director Harper, Director Young, Council President Kaplan, Vice Mayor Lopez, Councilmember Gallo, Mayor Cutter

Absent: Committee Member Tavares, Supervisor Miley

6. SELECTION OF DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 1 p.m.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/REVIEW LIST OF PENDING ITEMS

7.A. Review Pending List of Future Agenda Items.

[19-302](#)

Council President Kaplan inquired about the details of the service launch, and whether the District is planning to hold an event or press conference.

Council President Kaplan requested information on the additional cost involved with extending the free fare period on BRT to one year.

Council President Kaplan requested a report on fare enforcement.

Council Member Gallo requested an update on operations and maintenance responsibilities.

Council Member Gallo requested a presentation on the role of law enforcement with regard to public safety for San Leandro, Oakland and AC Transit as well as security measures.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Linda A. Nemeroff
District Secretary