Safe driving is its own reward,
But coffee parties are nice too
**Transportation planning**

**Seek funds for added Oakland study**

AC Transit’s Board of Directors gave the green light May 23 to the second phase of a program which could reshape the face of downtown Oakland.

They approved a proposal to seek $142,000 of federal money to fund the next step in planning transportation for downtown Oakland under the Central District Transit Improvement Plan. The first phase of the project involved preliminary analysis of existing traffic and transportation conditions.

The second phase of the overall plan is designed to provide the City of Oakland, AC Transit and BART with information and direction regarding coordinated transit efforts, producing both short term and long range proposals. The project is expected to take 12 months to complete.

The area to be considered in the study covers the central city from the Grove-Shafter Freeway on the west to Lake Merritt and Laney College on the east, and from Jack London Square and the Oakland Estuary on the south to the MacArthur Freeway and “Pill Hill” medical facilities on the north.

**State finance to help With 30-Z operation**

With the aid of a $300,000 state transportation subsidy, AC Transit is taking over the Martinez-Richmond corridor service which the System previously provided under contract to BART. Plans call for some expansion of peak-hour service on the express route connecting the Western Contra Costa County cities of Richmond, San Pablo and Pinole with Martinez, the county seat.

Line 30-Z service was started as Line Z following a 1982 transportation needs study which pointed out the lack of direct transit access to Contra Costa County facilities in Martinez. Subsequent survey information identified riders on the line as mainly District residents, many of whom are totally dependent on public transportation.

For economical continuation of their trips, Line 30-Z passengers may transfer to another AC Transit bus, to a BART train or BART express bus, or to WestCAT Dial-A-Ride or ‘County Connection’ service.

The two-zone express route will be operated by AC Transit on a one-year trial basis, with hopes for improving both service and ridership. An updated and revamped Line 30-Z route map and timetable is available from drivers or by calling AC Transit Information.
Study seeks clues to best bus ride

Can we make buses quieter? Can we make them smoother?
AC Transit is joining a private California firm to try to answer these questions in a noise and vibration study involving four District buses. Two 35-foot coaches and two 40-foot coaches are being rebuilt with various materials and designs to explore the possibility of reducing noise and ground vibration.

Work is slated to start the end of May, as the District begins working with Pacific Bus Rebuilders, Inc., a Woodland company specializing in refurbishing of older equipment. Cost for the initial phase is projected at $60,000, according to General Manager L. A. Kimball.

“We want to look at alternatives to understanding of the subject,” he explains.

Results of the testing will be used in preparation of specifications for future equipment orders, he said. Funding for the research project is being provided by a special grant from the State.

Subsidized program offers Opportunities for employee Certificate or degree work

Courses aimed toward career and personal advancement are the core of a unique Regional Transit Association program launched at Golden Gate University, San Francisco, and also to be carried out at other institutions of higher learning throughout the Bay Area, according to Ben Davis, employee relations coordinator.

At least 25 District employees will join other transit people from San Francisco MUNI, BART, Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans, Santa Clara County Transit, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in a series of classes leading either to a Certificate in Transportation Management or a bachelor’s or master’s degree.

The Pilot Program is being funded by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, with plans to continue it based on the evaluation of the first students’ course work, Davis says. The alternatives are certificate-oriented classes at Golden Gate University or pre-degree work at other colleges or universities.

The only cost to selected participants, Davis stressed, is their time. Screening for program candidates is by the Personnel Department and Golden Gate University, where academic counseling also takes place.

It's golden summer for parks

Residents and visitors can enjoy the out-of-doors the easy way by using AC Transit bus service to a variety of East Bay Regional Parks from now through Labor Day.
A special extension from the BART/Berkeley rail station will provide access to Tilden Regional Park at hourly intervals between 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. with regular fares being charged. An additional 25 cents will allow patrons to board with bicycles. Regular bus service provides access to Temescal Regional Recreation Area, Redwood Regional Park, Crown Memorial State Beach, Point Pinole Regional Park, Don Castro Regional Recreation Area and Point Isabel Regional Shoreline in Richmond.
Hikers can also use bus stops near recreational areas, including Alameda Creek Trail, Fremont; Mission Peak Regional Preserve; San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline; and Garin and Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks in Hayward.
Groups who wish to charter buses to Parks may do so on weekdays by calling East Bay Regional Parks at 531-9300 during office hours.

Move-in coordination group named

As building contractors put finishing touches on the new Central Maintenance facility, a special task force named by General Manager L. A. Kimball has been assigned the responsibility for smooth opening and successful operation of the complex at 105th Ave. and East 14th St. in East Oakland. Maintenance will share the site with Purchases and Stores.

Smooth start-up

The ad hoc group is charged with several responsibilities in the transition process as heavy maintenance activities are moved from the overcrowded Emeryville Division into the new facility beginning in July.
We expect them to ensure a smooth start-up as they oversee the opening of Central Maintenance,” Kimball stated. “And they will finish preparation of the administrative guides and work manuals designed to give Central Maintenance employees guidance, on a task-by-task basis, to make effective use of the new facility.”

Heading the five-member ‘transition task team’ is Gene Gardiner, assistant manager for research and planning, who has been joined by Pam Granger, project coordinator; Donna DesBoine, assistant project coordinator; and Irvin Owle and Colby Swanson of Maintenance Department.

When fully on line, Central Maintenance will give the District capabilities far beyond today’s level of activities. The new facility will be fully equipped for in-house diagnosis of drive trains for assembly-line-like rebuilding of major mechanical components — bus engines, transmissions and other parts.

Training and procedures

“The transition team also will assist in establishing necessary training programs, and developing the procedures to measure and to promote a high level of productivity and performance on the part of employees moving into Central Maintenance,” according to Kimball.
FOCUS: Transit People and Projects

ACCESS EXPLAINED

Driver Christine Zook (center) was among AC Transit representatives on hand at the Oakland Convention Center May 8 to explain and demonstrate 'ACcessible Bus' passenger lifts. The event was Disabled Resources Day, and the System provided an extensive staffed information display relevant to the handicapped and to other categories of riders.

MOVING DAY — Emeryville to East Oakland...not many miles, but moving's never easy, as Purchases people learned, including (below, left) Glenn Andrade, department manager, and (above) Pete Thome, assistant manager. Maintenance crews provided muscle and equipment for the move.

FOLLOW-UP

Special AC Transit bus service will run every Friday evening, now through June 22, for horse racing fans going to Golden Gate Fields, Albany, for "Twilight Racing."

AC Transit will provide direct evening trips to the track beginning approximately two hours before 4 p.m. post time. There's a $1 one-way fare for local riders, while transbay riders will pay $2.25 each way, to and from the Transbay Terminal. Return buses will begin leaving the track following the fifth, seventh and last race each evening.

East Bay riders may board local Line 94 — Golden Gate Fields "Pony Express" buses at BART/Berkeley or BART/North Berkeley stations, or along the route. In San Francisco, transbay riders board at the Transbay Terminal, First and Mission Streets.

AC Transit Monthly Passes are not valid on the special service to the Albany course, and transfers are neither accepted nor issued.

Employee month

MAYORAL HANDSHAKE — AC Transit's Carol Weinstein is congratulated by Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson at the May 3 Annual Awards Ceremony for Volunteers for Oakland. Weinstein received recognition for her work with the Senior Companion Program. Wilson, noting that May is National Volunteer Month, said more than 2,000 persons had contributed time to the City of Oakland during the last year, representing 160,000 hours of service.

Employees Florence and Hernandez, four retirees die

Two employees and four retirees died in recent weeks.

**Frank Florence**, 66, a Seminary Division driver whose service spanned 27 years, died April 16. The family home is in Oakdale.

He is survived by his two children, Donald Florence and Lillian Upton.

**Antonio Hernandez**, 36, a Mechanic "C" in Maintenance, died April 12 after nearly five years of employment. He lived in Rodeo.

Among survivors are his widow Evelyn and two sons, Antonio and Joseph.

**Hans Schmidt**, 86, a Mechanic "A" at Emeryville Division at the time he retired in 1963, died April 17 in Oakland, where he made his home. His retirement had ended a transit career of 33 years.

Schmidt is survived by his widow, Wilhelmine and daughter Eleanor Moore.

Harold R. Wiles, 85, a former Richmond Division Mechanic "A" who had completed 20 years of service at the time of his retirement in 1964, died April 18. He was a San Pablo resident.

A nephew, George E. Wiles, is among survivors.

**Joseph P. Montoya**, 61, a Seminary Division driver at the time he completed 28 years of service and retired in 1973, died April 28. His home was in San Leandro.

Montoya is survived by his widow Margaret and six children: Timothy, Thomas, Steven, Karen, Denneth, and Jeffery.

**William Fitzmaurice**, 92, who had completed 48 years of service with AC Transit’s predecessors when he retired in 1957, died May 3 in Oakland, leaving no known survivors.

Fitzmaurice, at retirement, was a senior clerk in the Electrical Department.
Actions of the Board

At a regular meeting April 11, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized General Manager to issue Request-for-Proposal for automated training system, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.
- Adopted resolutions authorizing filing of claims or applications with Metropolitan Transportation Commission for allocations of half-cent sales tax revenues, of State Transit Assistance funds, of Transportation Development Act funds, and of net Toll Bridge Revenues, all for Fiscal Year 1984-85, on motion of Director Fajans.

* * *

At an adjourned regular meeting April 25, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized travel of Assistant General Manager for Finance to Washington, D.C., in connection with funding for operating facility renovations, on motion of Director Bettencourt.

Employee softball teams take to the field for new season

AC Transit's Summer Softball League is underway, with an estimated 80 District employees formed into six teams.

"We expect this year to be even more successful than last, which was the first year the District was involved with the program," says Donna J. Pate, employee relations representative, who is handling coordination of the games. "It's not too late to get involved. We are always looking for people. We need cheerleaders and scorekeepers, as well as players," Pate says.

Employees interested in participating may call Personnel Department, 891-4799.