Info project promotes
Options for commuting
Across Dumbarton span
As I rode the bus this morning, I was certainly impressed by the driver (Joseph E. Tauring). Not only did he handle the bus well, being sure to draw gently away from the curb, but he was also uniformly courteous to the passengers, and has even established a rapport with some of them.

At such an early hour, it was a pleasure to experience such civilized behavior, and it is always a pleasure to watch a professional at work.

Richard H. Byrns
Chabot College
Livermore

It is a pleasure to recommend to your attention — as I have done several times before — one of your operators: this time, John Morrill.

I was especially impressed by his considerate, polite, and helpful way in handling the elderly. He is a kind and patient person who seems to be well liked by the people on the bus, some of them beneficiaries of his exemplary attitude.

Dr. Edith Ligeti
Berkeley

I would like to commend to you Driver Dana Price. She has to be by far the most courteous, polite, and reliable bus driver that I have traveled with in my six months in the Bay Area.

Having traveled by AC Transit, BART, and MUNI in that time, I have been exposed to many drivers. By far, Dana has been the most accommodating to all passengers.

Frank Hoffmann
Oakland

We were having dinner at a restaurant in Berkeley when we noticed a disturbance outside. Evidently, the bus driver (Johnathan Scott) had found himself duty bound to detain a rather unsavory, unsavory individual who had bothered a small child.

As people walked by and offered to help the driver, he just shook his head and waved them on, knowing full well he had the situation well in hand and didn't need anybody making more of the situation and possibly creating more of a confrontation.

We couldn't help but feel pride and reassurance that there were still some good people in this busy world. A short time later the police arrived and arrested the man. Please thank the driver.

Ralph and Jeanette Phillips
Berkeley

I would like to nominate one of your drivers, Bernard Gurecki, of the DB Line for “Driver of the Year” for efficiency and courtesy above and beyond the call of duty. It’s actually rather rare and much appreciated.

Dave Fafarman
El Sobrante

The “Madera School News” wishes to advise you of Madera’s gratitude to Driver Charles E. Franken for his dedicated service in safely delivering children to our front door each school morning. In honor of his patience and perseverance, we have awarded him our first-ever “Bus Driver of the Year” award.

Our thanks to Mr. Franken and the many other AC Transit drivers like him.

Janet L. Brown, Editor
El Cerrito

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Budget fate hinges on funding “ifs”

A projected $108 million Estimated Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 1986, which would be balanced, is being considered by AC Transit’s Board of Directors, but General Manager L.A. Kimball is quick to note that it’s based on a funding assumption which has yet to be proven valid.

The key concern about this estimate, Kimball states, is uncertainty about continued federal mass transit operating assistance. AC Transit had been looking forward to a federal contribution of some $7.1 million (about 9 percent less than received in FY 1985), and a reduction in that amount could have severe impact on the District and its riders.

In debating the national budget, the House of Representatives proposes to continue assistance at near current levels while the Senate voted to decrease mass transit funding. These federal budget proposals are now in a joint committee of the two legislative bodies for resolution of the differences voted by each house.

Kimball stated that a decrease in federal funding could be offset by reallocation of state, local and bridge toll monies available within the region, but that would require persuading other transit operators and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to reallocate these regional resources.

The Operating Estimate indicates a modest increase in farebox revenues (from $33 to $34 million), a projection predicated on an anticipated adjustment in distance-based fares for transbay bus service. If earlier projections for total (including federal) allocations are met, there need be no adjustment in the basic local (60¢) fare, according to Kimball. In any event, he says, no specific proposals for fare hikes will be formulated for public discussion until the uncertainties about revenues are more clearly near resolution.

In terms of miles and hours of operation, the proposed FY 1986 Operating
Info outreach aims to add bus riders

A promotional campaign aimed at commuters in the Dumbarton Bridge corridor opened this month with wide distribution of informational materials about AC Transit's Line DB - Palo Alto-Union City bus service.

Central element of the ridership push is a brochure detailing the route and schedule of Line DB and offering potential patrons a clip-out coupon worth a free round-trip on the transbay service any weekday until July 5.

To assure maximum distribution of the brochure and complimentary ride voucher, cooperation of major employers in the Palo Alto-Menlo Park area was sought. This resulted in employers agreeing to mail the Line DB promotional piece to the homes of about 1,100 employees who live within the service area.

Another phase of the information effort took place at the Dumbarton Bridge toll gates on June 19, with commuters being handed specially-printed envelopes containing the Line DB brochure and data on ride-sharing provided by RIDES, the Bay Area's carpooling coordinators. The particular aim of this joint hand-out is to convince drivers that either taking a Line DB bus or joining a carpool is preferable to the daily strains, hassles and energy waste of driving alone.

Sessions sensitize info operators to handicapped problems

The Cover - Early morning commuters at the Dumbarton Bridge Toll Plaza June 19 received information on ways to avoid driving in peak-period car traffic between Southern Alameda County and Palo Alto. AC Transit and "RIDES for Bay Area Commuters" cooperated in distributing information about the commuting options of carpools, vanpools, and AC Transit Line DB bus service. Participating in the project were (top photo, from left) Jeff Rice and Peter Skillerman, of RIDES; and Doyle Dewberry and Trini Gibson, of AC Transit's Marketing Department. Gibson (lower photo) waits to distribute one more of the approximately 6,000 packets disbursed during the day's 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. period.

Education aid opportunities explored

AC Transit's "College Day" June 19 drew about 89 employees, to consult with representatives from many Bay Area educational institutions about programs which could improve job and career opportunities. Among employees receiving "College Day" counseling were (top) Daphne Friedrich, Safety, signing-in with Hiran McKinney, Training; (below) Gwendolyn Hale, Transportation; and (bottom) Drivers Christina Zook and Dave Nelson. The event kicked off a career training push which includes a new tuition reimbursement plan.

Line 30-Z goes WestCAT With funding aid plan

The financing uncertainties shadowing Line 30-Z (Martinez Link) service during past months have been dispelled by a plan, taking effect July 1, assigning operating responsibility to WestCAT (Western Contra Costa Transit Authority) with cost-sharing to be shouldered by four other agencies, including AC Transit and BART.

The change in Line 30-Z status - it has been operated the past year by AC Transit with the aid of state funding which runs out June 30 - includes service and fare modifications. Buses will run every two hours over the existing route between the Richmond BART station and Martinez, with a $1 fare (50 cents for seniors/handicapped). Transfers from other public operators will be accepted with payment of one-half fare.

Other participants in the 30-Z cost-sharing program are Contra Costa County and Central Contra Costa County Transit Authority.
YOUNG ARTISTS — Prize winning posters were produced by three Oakland High School youths as part of a student art contest entitled “Your Dream Here,” sponsored by Winston Network, the organization handling AC Transit bus advertising. The students, from left, Jennie Chua, Brian Wong, and Melvin Scott, show their creative efforts in the competition, which resulted in a $100 third place prize to Ms. Chua for “Better Learning Makes Better Living;” a $250 second place to Tong for “Music for the World;” and a $500 first place to Scott for “Peace on Earth.” The latter will be displayed on AC Transit buses during coming weeks. Bill Knowland/Tribune Photo

Current bicycle rack test project has high CHP interest

The District’s year-long demonstration project testing feasibility of bicycles on buses is of particular interest also to the California Highway Patrol, which worked closely with AC Transit during development of the front-mounted racks for certain Line T buses.

The CHP, whose responsibilities include monitoring buses, is following the project with an eye toward defining and measuring impact of rack-use on bus operations and identifying any adjustments needed to permit continuity and possible expansion of the program, which was launched last month.

Line T currently offers 10 designated Bike-and-Ride stops (located at points where rack-use impact on schedules is expected to be minimal) on both sides of the Posey and Webster tubes linking downtown Oakland with Alameda. For cyclists, the bus racks offer mobility by two-wheelers to some otherwise inaccessible areas.

The retirement round-up

- **Melvin B. Brown**, Driver, Emeryville Division, 38 years.
- **Charlie Collins, Jr.**, Driver, Richmond Division, 23 years.
- **Isodore P. Cordeiro**, Driver, Richmond Division, 29 years.
- **Claude W. Day, Jr.**, Driver, Emeryville Division, 20 years.
- **George W. Kiessling**, Mechanic, AA, Emeryville Division, 38 years.
- **Rustie Kinerman**, Driver, Semi-nary Division, 17 years.
- **George E. Kirk**, Driver, Emeryville Division, 15 years.
- **Les Sewell**, Dispatcher, Richmond Division, 30 years.
- **Luther Williams, Jr.**, Driver, Richmond Division, 32 years.

FOCUS: Transit People and Projects

**TRANSIT ODYSSEY** — In a multi-mode marathon May 28, two transit enthusiasts rode 412 miles on 12 different transit systems during a 24-hour period, traveling by bus, train, streetcar, cable car, and ferry. The pair — Mike Pechner, meteorologist, and Angelo Figone, MUNI employee (shown at right and above, with an informal rooting section of Newark Division drivers) used AC Transit’s new Line DB - Dumbarton Bridge service, which connects Palo Alto in Santa Clara County with BART/Union City Station in Southern Alameda County. The multi-system marathon was launched as part of a public awareness program promoting different ways of getting around the Bay. It served also as a fund-raiser for a Peninsula-based transit advocacy group.

**FIGHTING DRUGS** — Eighth-graders at St. Anthony’s, Oakland, designed imaginative anti-drug posters for District buses. Participants (from left) were Robyn Williams, Yolanna Patterson, David Harrison, Sister Gloriette, Jozette Brown, and Eberardo Hernandez, from Oakland’s La Clinica De La Raza.
At a regular meeting May 8, the Board of Directors:
• Awarded contract to S. J. Amoroso Construction Co., Inc./Verrett Construction Co. for service and bus washer buildings and fuel islands, Emeryville Division, on motion of Director Rinehart.
• Adopted resolution supporting candidacy of Director Linda Shepard for office of Vice President, Human Resources, American Public Transit Association, on motion of Director Rinehart.

* * *

At an adjourned regular meeting May 22, the Board of Directors:
• Authorized General Manager to solicit “Request for Proposal” for legislative consultant services, on motion of Director Wiggins.
• Endorsed California SB-224 relating to fines for infractions committed on or in public transit vehicles or facilities, on motion of Director Shepard.

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At an adjourned regular meeting June 4, the Board of Directors:
• Adopted resolution of congratulations and best wishes on retirement after 38 years of Lonnie L. Kelly, mechanic in building maintenance, on motion of Director Fajans.

CONSTRUCTION UP-DATE
This structure at Emeryville Division opened June 14 as the latest product of the District-wide program of upgrading aged and/or obsolete facilities. This building will ease a long-existing problem at Division 2 by providing parking for 262 employees.