Board presidency changes
Fares, other funding facts weighed

Adjusted local fares is a current possibility in AC Transit’s program to establish a balanced operating budget for Eastbay bus service. Such an operating budget, Board and management agree, must reflect the District’s uncertainties about future levels of federal and state operating assistance.

Additional complications clouding the District’s finances include potential costs of new requirements under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (previously not applicable to mass transit) regarding overtime compensation for public employees, and a major immediate burden resulting from recent massive increases in the cost of maintaining insurance coverage.

The latter is of real and significant concern, according to Acting General Manager Nat Gage:

“Many public agencies, including cities, school systems, and parks and recreation districts, are now facing a terrible dilemma. They either cannot get insurance, or they have to pay such an exorbitant premium that insurance is impractical.”

To address this situation, Gage says, the District not only is reviewing existing insurance programs but exploring what new providers may have to offer.

Importantly, budget-related actions to date, in addition to the transbay fare increases which took effect January 1, have included curtailment of all non-essential District expenditures and a reduction in management personnel.

Fare-adjustment alternatives offered for public comment in a January 22 public hearing included across-the-board increases in all local Eastbay fares; selective increases for particular categories of passengers; introduction of a commute-hour-only cost differential; or some combination of these possibilities.

Currently, local fares for AC Transit’s Eastbay passengers are 60-cents, adults; 40-cents, youth; and 15-cents, seniors and handicapped.

Proposals for local fare increases (categorized by adults, youths, senior/handicapped) include the following:

### Possible Across-the-Board Alternatives:

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### Possible Peak-Hour-Only Surcharge:
Fares which would be levied in addition to the current fare (shown above) only 6-9am and 4-7pm weekdays.

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AC Transit patrons crossing the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge by bus began paying, on the first day of the New Year, the following fares:

- **ADULTS:** Zone 1, $1.50; Zone 2, $1.85; Zone 3, $2.25.
- **YOUTH, SENIORS, HANDICAPPED:** Zone 1, 70 cents; Zone 2, 85 cents; Zone 3, $1.05.
- **MONTHLY PASSES:** Zone 1, $54; Zone 2, $67; Zone 3, $81.

Summing up his views on the District’s overall status at the beginning of 1986, Gage warned against a too narrow field of focus:

“We need to maintain a balance among our concerns. If we focus our entire creative abilities on funding matters, we may neglect other areas which need equal attention, though it is, of course, true that without adequate financial resources, we are unable to deliver the quantity and quality of service our riders have indicated they need and want.”

As to the sources of needed financial relief, Gage discouraged any tendency to count on much from official coffers:

“They are intent on matters they consider of higher priority.”

Linda Shepard elected President

AC Transit’s Board of Directors elected Linda Shepard President and Michael Fajans Vice President at the policy-making body’s first meeting of the New Year. The officers will serve for the next 12 months.

An Oakland-based communications consultant, Shepard has been a Director since 1982, representing voters of Fremont, Newark and west Hayward. She becomes the first Black woman to hold the position of Board President.

“Transportation problems — and the necessary solutions — are a top concern for many Eastbay residents,” said Shepard in accepting the key Board position. “We at AC Transit must and will plan and provide improved bus service to address the travel needs of our passengers.”

On a cautionary note, however, she stated that the District’s ability to increase levels of Eastbay and transbay bus service currently is limited by serious financial constraints. Since a practicable long-term solution permitting service growth will hinge on development of a stable new source of funding sufficient to meet projected needs, Shepard promises a continued emphasis on efforts to develop regional consensus on a program that will support future transit improvements.

Shepard also voiced firm belief in fostering participation of Eastbay residents in service planning and operations:

“This District’s Directors have long had a commitment to involve everyone — including the disabled, all minorities, and women — in all aspects of AC Transit operations. We also will have a work force that represents the ethnic and cultural make-up of the Eastbay.”

Shepard, who succeeds veteran Director William J. Bettencourt as President, represents Ward V (the west Hayward/Fremont area). She serves currently as Vice President for Human Resources of American Public Transit Association and as a member of that advocacy group’s Legislative Task Force. Her career background includes broad professional experience in public transit and politics.

Fajans, the Board’s newly-elected Vice President, has been a Director since 1979, representing residents of Ward I (portions of Berkeley and of north, west and downtown Oakland). He is an urban planner.

THE COVER - Before she accepted a gavel herself (as shown here) on January 8, Linda Shepard, beginning a year's term as top Board officer, first presented her predecessor, William J. Bettencourt, with a commemorative gavel mounted on a plaque honoring his long tenure and four separate terms as president of the District’s policy-making body. Shepard, representing voters of Fremont, Newark, and portions of Hayward since 1982, assumes the Board Presidency after serving last year as Vice-President — the post now held by Michael H. Fajans.
Survey gives data on bus use, users

A recently-completed passenger survey reveals an interesting picture of a hypothetical "average" AC Transit rider: a woman just under 29 years of age who uses the bus five to seven days a week, and who usually walks to and from the bus stop at each end of a trip.

The statistical data collected in this systemwide survey does not really describe an actual individual. The survey results register demographic changes from previously-collected information. It is expected to prove very useful to the system's service planners, according to Don Larson, research and planning manager.

Larson summarized for District Directors during a December Board meeting what the latest survey indicates:

- That 56 percent of AC Transit's weekday riders are female.
- That 49 percent report annual household incomes of $20,000 or less.
- That 42 percent use the bus to commute, while another 25 percent report its use in traveling to or from school.

According to the study, 60.4% of all riders take just one bus to complete their travel while 35.8% require two coaches for each single trip. Nearly three-quarters of the respondents said they use buses five to seven days each week, indicating a high level of reliance on AC Transit.

The survey results will aid in planning future service improvements, developing marketing programs, and meeting federal, state and local reporting requirements, Larson noted.

Robert Shamoon retires
As up-from-the-ranks
Career in transit ends

Recently-announced retirement plans will bring to a close Robert J. Shamoon's 31-year public transit service career, which began in the Transportation Department of Key System (the District's privately-owned predecessor) in 1954.

Shamoon began serving Eastbay riders as a bus driver, then earned promotion to increasingly responsible positions — road supervisor, central dispatcher, labor relations analyst, personnel manager, and (for the past seven years) assistant general manager for Operations.

In addition to his responsibilities at AC Transit, Shamoon has devoted considerable time to civic activities and community-based organizations — particularly in southern Alameda County where he and wife, Zelpha, make their home.

With the beginning of 1986, he announced plans to enjoy accrued time off prior to official retirement, which will be noted with appropriate celebration as the actual date draws closer.

An avid sportsman and hunter, Shamoon says his future personal activities will include development of a new leisure-time abode to be built in the State's northern region.

New headquarters,
Hayward Division:
Building continues

REACHING UP — AC Transit's new General Office structure stretches up ten stories in Downtown Oakland. The skeletal steel outline dwarfs pedestrian walking on west side of Franklin Street. Current construction schedules call for project completion by the end of 1986. Finances are being provided through a unique and innovative agreement with the private sector furnishing the funding. Construction of the General Office is separate from the Facilities Improvement Program, which includes development of the new Hayward Division slated for operations in June (photo below).
"College Day" conversation

CAREER HORIZONS — Training and Education Manager Michal Settles (right) discusses objectives of the District's second "College Day" — held December 7 at AC Transit's new learning center in Hayward — with Dona Boatright, Assistant Dean of Applied and Social Sciences at Chabot College. The "College Day" program is part of the informational counseling/tuition reimbursement support offered employees seeking to advance themselves in their work by enrolling in vocational or higher education programs in their spare time.

30-year award given

DRIVING FEAT - Operator Henry Christi accepted a commemorative plaque and congratulations from Acting General Manager Nat Gage during December ceremonies honoring his three decades of accident-free service behind the wheel of AC Transit buses. The 11th District driver to achieve this coveted driving record, Christi began his public transit career January 3, 1952. He is currently at Newark Division, driving on Line 20-Newark and Line 26-Niles. In addition to the plaque, Christi received the 30-year safe-driving ring worn only by 10 other District drivers.

I want to thank AC Transit for the prompt action taken on my letter of 11/1/85. Linda of your Customer Relations office (Linda Crowe, assistant superintendent, East Oakland Division) called yesterday to express AC's concern over the situation and, also, to ask me to meet with Mr. Purdy (Glen Purdy, transportation supervisor), whom I found to be very courteous, concerned and helpful.

In speaking to Linda, I realized that despite the many times I have called up and complained about one thing or another, I have never taken the time to write AC about how much I appreciate the quality of the system. One reason I do call and complain as much as I do is that I ride your system so much — up to seven days a week — to and from work, grocery shopping, errands, visiting my widowed mother, etc. And I, of course, want a system that runs well and serves me well.

One individual I would like to point out is Pat (Pat Davis, Telephone Information Center). I think I have talked with her more than anyone in the office. In fact, I think she goes out of her way to serve the public.

Diane Andersen
Oakland

This is a letter of appreciation for one of your drivers, Vince Donato. For the full tenure of several months on the BX bus from the San Francisco Terminal to Naval Supply Center he was a monument of reliability, never once being late for his 7:30 a.m. arrival, regardless of rain, wind, accidents and tieups on the Bay Bridge.

Drivers like Donato are really appreciated.

Win Currier
Alameda

I have been a commuter on the E Line for the past 15 years, and I have yet to meet a driver on that line who did not come up to a great standard of politeness and helpfulness. Please thank them all on my behalf.

Commuting is a difficult business at best, and your service and drivers are making it as easy as it can possibly be.

Anna M. Diemand
Oakland
**Actions of the Board**

At an adjourned regular meeting November 26, the Board of Directors:

- Adopted resolutions relating to benefits of ex-Board members and to appointment and compensation of District officers, on motion of Director Shepard.
- Approved specified schedule of transbay fare increases; set public hearing for January 22 to consider local fare adjustments, on motion of Director Rinehart.

* * *

At an adjourned regular meeting December 4, the Board of Directors:

- Adopted resolution amending rules and regulations governing District travel reimbursement claims, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Approved procedures governing use, assignment, and maintenance of District non-revenue vehicles, on motion of Director Shepard.

* * *

At an adjourned regular meeting December 18, the Board of Directors:

- Adopted resolution relating to health and welfare benefits of specified District retiree, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized travel of Purchases and Stores Manager to Washington, D.C., to attend APTA committee meeting January 8-9, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Approved support for amending State Vehicle Code to permit front-mounted bicycle racks on buses, on motion of Director Fajans.

At a regular meeting January 8, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized travel of Acting General Manager to the APTA Management Seminar January 26-30 in Florida, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Elected Linda Shepard President and Michael Fajans Vice President for 1986, on motion of Director Rinehart (see story, pg. 3).