Transit trends and topics

“Measure B” dollars will aid AC

Passage on November 4 of a ballot proposition (Measure B) calling for adding a half-cent to the sales tax to cover transportation needs in Alameda County will assure $115 million in much-needed revenue for AC Transit over the next 15 years. The new law is expected to garner a total of approximately $990 million in the next decade and a half, earmarked for a long list of street, road, and freeway improvements in addition to public transit support.

The District’s portion of Measure B dollars will still fall far short — representing less than one-twelfth — of what AC Transit needs to keep operating in the 38 separate communities where buses provide service at the present time. According to Board President Linda Shepard, who actively supported Measure B, “These funds will be very helpful; however, we still need to find additional areas of support in order to maintain current levels of service.”

She praised Alameda County voters for supporting the measure, saying “The people recognized the need for dealing with our transportation problems. We will have to develop additional positive strategies in coming years to meet future needs.”

A similar measure, which would have excluded AC Transit from direct funding distribution, failed to pass in Contra Costa County, garnering only 46.9 percent endorsement. In Alameda County, Measure B was passed with 56.5 percent approval.

Other projects to be supported by the new funding include the following:

- $187 million for local streets and roads;
- $220 million to widen and improve the Nimitz Freeway;
- $170 million for a BART rail extension from San Leandro’s Bay Fair station through Castro Valley to Dublin east of the Hayward hills (with the provision that excess funds would be used to extend BART from the BART/Fremont station south to Warm Springs, near the Santa Clara County line);
- $134 million for connecting “Foothill Parkway” in Hayward between Highway 580 and Industrial Parkway;
- $60 million for an extension from the Nimitz Freeway to Harbor Bay Business Park near the Oakland Airport;
- $44 million for improvements to the interchange of Interstate 580 and 680 near Pleasanton;
- $20 million for a two-lane connection from Vallecitos Road to I-580 at Collier Canyon Road near Livermore;
- $15 million for improvements to service for elderly and disabled (paratransit services);
- $13.5 million for San Leandro projects connecting with the Nimitz Freeway and improving local traffic flows;
- $11 million for improvements at the interchange of Highways 13 and 24 in Oakland;
- $4.5 million for oversight, administration, and delivery of the funds over the 15 years.

Is re-routing due in Downtown?

Proposed rerouting of bus lines serving downtown Oakland will be discussed at a public hearing scheduled by the Board of Directors for 7:30 p.m. January 8 at Oakland City Hall, enabling the City Council to hear public comment firsthand.

In addition to dispersing bus routes now concentrated at 14th and Broadway, the proposals call for making Franklin a two-way street. The total package is described in a comprehensive newsletter being distributed on buses and by mail. Copies by mail may be obtained by calling 839-2882.

The proposals were developed jointly by the District, city planners, and an ad hoc group of civic and business interests.

Voters re-elect three Directors; Ward III affirms Board newcomer

Director-elect Peter Smith joined veteran District policy-makers William J. Bettencourt, Roy Nakadegawa and Board President Linda Shepard in official swearing-in ceremonies November 25. Smith assumes the Ward III seat vacated by Director John L. McDonnell, who is retiring after 30 years of service to East Bay bus riders.

The District’s newest Director brings a youthful outlook to the task of establishing policy for the East Bay’s public bus system. A graduate of Harvard and of the University of San Francisco School of Law, Smith has acquired experience in various capacities with public agencies and private-sector law firms.

He also is no stranger to local political circles, having served as a paid consultant to mayoral, state assembly, and congressionally.

(Continued on page 7)

Board commends Shepard

Board President Linda Shepard has received singular praise from fellow Directors for promoting the transportation tax measure approved by Alameda County voters in the November general election.

The half-cent transportation tax passed by voters will contribute $7 million or more in each of the next 15 years to fund improvements in AC Transit service in Alameda County.

Retiring Director John L. McDonnell introduced a special resolution November 25 honoring Shepard. The resolution noted that, as 1986 Board President, Shepard took the lead in sparking three essential actions:

- Formulating a sweeping Deficit Reduction Program in response to threatened funding cuts;
- Seeking state legislation for off-setting the budgetary shortfalls;
- Appointing a dynamic new general manager to implement new policies and programs.

Shepard also was elected recently to the 14-member executive committee of the California Transit Association (formerly the California Association of Publicly Owned Transit Systems).
Bus-use saves big bucks
As costs of car-buying
And operating escalate

Dollar savings to be garnered by using such public transit services as AC Transit buses are sharply defined in a report on what it would cost to own and run a 1987 model car. Using 10 new American models for the study, a research firm calculated that it would cost at least $4,174 next year to own and operate the smallest, least expensive of the test vehicles—a Ford Escort GL subcompact (with a value, new, of $9,115).

The study showed that the most expensive of the 1987 vehicles tested, the Cadillac DeVille, topped the annual cost list at $6,968 a year, or more than $580 per month. Estimated purchase price of such a car was $21,659.

Cost figures were based on the price of the car, fuel, oil, tires, and maintenance. Included also were insurance estimates, depreciation, financing, taxes, and license charges.

All cars included in the study were new four-door sedans with automatic transmissions, power steering, power disc brakes, air conditioning, tinted glass, AM-FM radios, cruise controls, and side moldings. Other annual cost figures included:

- The rear-drive Chevrolet Caprice at $5,315 per year, and the rear-drive Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme at $4,966.
- The front-drive Ford Taurus L, $4,964 and $5,315 per year, and the rear-drive Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme at $4,966.
- The Plymouth Reliant, $4,400; Chevrolet Cavalier, $4,402; Ford Tempo GL, $4,471; and the Dodge Caravan minivan, $4,722.

In determining costs, the researchers used a 36-month projected time period for keeping the car and a 60,000-mile usage figure.

Slides will explain route plans

An audio-visual slide presentation explaining AC Transit’s route restructuring plan is being produced by Fern-Tiger Associates, of Oakland, one of 6 organizations (including qualified DBE/WBE firms) which filed proposals.

District retirees meet deaths

Deaths of two retirees were reported in October.

Richard J. Faulkner, 63, who was an East Oakland (Seminary) Division driver who retired in 1985, died October 25 in Richmond. He had completed 30 years of service prior to retirement.

A former Pinole resident, Faulkner is survived by his widow, Billie, and four children: Billie, Leisa, Richard, and Matthew.

Miguel Sahagun, 84, another 30-year veteran of transit service, who retired in 1972, died October 28 in Oakland. He had been a Service Employee A.

The former Santa Clara resident is survived by three children: Michal and Alfred Sahagun, and Alesia O’Neal.

Two achieve safety milestone

Two AC Transit drivers have joined the exclusive ranks of operators who have achieved 25 years of safe driving.

The drivers, Eugene Stewart of East Oakland Division, and Harry G. Wiggins of Hayward Division, become the 60th and 61st AC Transit employees to reach the impressive quarter-century mark of safety behind the wheel.

Stewart and Wiggins are estimated each to have carried more than two million passengers safely and to have driven more than one million miles without accident.

Stewart qualified for bus driver on Feb. 21, 1956, and Wiggins on May 7, 1959.

Patterson gets higher post

Jack L. Patterson, formerly chief dispatcher, East Oakland Division (whose selection for quarterly honors in the Employee Recognition Program is noted on Pg. 10 of this issue) has been appointed assistant transportation superintendent. The announcement came from George Grandison, director of operations.

Patterson joined the District in 1973.

District continues Research and tests

Of access technology

TEST RIDE — Accessible Services Coordinator James Lee demonstrated the Lift-U wheelchair lift for General Manager Gene Gardiner (center) and retiring Director John McDonnell. The platform-type device was installed in Bus # 1347 for testing of its reliability and ease of operation. A recommendation to the Board will follow additional lift evaluation.

Sexual harassment

Is seminar subject

AC Transit’s management personnel have completed a seminar on sexual harassment, designed to improve understanding of the problem and to explore its legal ramifications.

Conducted by Attorney Howard Jackson, who has specialized for two decades in personnel cases, the course emphasized the need for managers to recognize what constitutes sexual harassment in the work place and what steps need to be taken to address the problem.

All of AC Transit’s 220 management employees participated in the half-day seminars, offered during the first week of November and the first week of December.

“Our purpose has been to assist District employees in understanding and dealing with this issue,” said General Manager Gene Gardiner, who was in the first class.

“It’s imperative that our people have knowledge and direction on this extremely sensitive subject.”
AC Transit's seasonally-decorated "Holiday Bus" can be counted on to draw attention and praise during its annual six weeks of operation from Thanksgiving through the first of the New Year.

Among other special appearances this year, the bus operated November 29 as a shuttle service coach along Broadway in Oakland as part of the city's celebration of the Holiday Grand Lighting Ceremony. After that, it was put into service on regular bus routes.

This year's four-wheeled greeting card (actually two separate coaches) features cutouts of trees, toy animals, and gifts on the exterior, with interiors displaying holly accented with berries. A traditional expression of season's greetings to patrons and the public, "It's our way of saying 'Hello; and Thank You' at the same time," says General Manager Gene Gardiner, "while also wishing everyone a happy holiday."

"Holiday Bus" decorating is an annual project of the District's Maintenance staff.

From the late 1950's, when he campaigned for passage of the $16 million bond issue that funded purchase of a failing predecessor's privately-owned system, to today's Board and management efforts to assure 21st century transportation needs, Director John L. McDonnell has been the uniting champion of transit's role in serving a highly diverse cross-section of East Bay citizens.

The statistics tell part of the story: in his 30-year tenure on the Board (where he served four terms as president) the public system expanded service from less than 200 square miles to 650 square miles of the metropolitan and suburban East Bay. Today's AC Transit serves nearly 80 million riders yearly, and has logged 1.5 billion passenger trips since 1960.
Looking back

Transit service tenure spans three decades: 1956 to 1986

Seeing the birth and growth of a new System

For more than 30 years, John L. McDonnell has played an energetic role in the policy decisions which brought a host of transit service and equipment improvements.

Before AC Transit rolled into operation in October, 1960, Director McDonnell had worked to acquire brand new buses to put into service. At that time, local bus routes were introduced to neighborhoods in western Contra Costa and in Hayward, and freeway express bus service came into being.

Since then, McDonnell has joined fellow Directors in actions to modernize and enlarge both the bus fleet and the service network; adopt Monthly Passes, bus stop shelters, and other passenger conveniences; continue discounted fares for transit-dependent school children, senior citizens and the disabled; undertake the $100 million reconstruction program currently rebuilding District support facilities; and meet continuing funding crises.

McDonnell's leadership transcended local and regional activities, as evidenced by his election (in 1979) to two years as chairman of APTA — North America's mass transportation advocacy group.

1960: New agency, New logo

CHANGE OF OWNERS — Director McDonnell was there (at table, lower left) when East Bay communities joined in the civic celebration as the System's emblem changed on Oct. 1, 1960.

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW — Director McDonnell (far right) pitched in during the 1985 ground-breaking for new General Offices — another vital element in the far-sighted facilities program endorsed by McDonnell and his peers on the Board a decade ago to anticipate and to meet future transit needs.

2—Supplement

Supplement—3
Bus patrons to get better trip info at two busy sites

AC Transit riders soon will be referring to airport-style bus departure schedule displays in the Transbay Transit Terminal and Oakland's 12th Street BART station — information installations being developed by the Regional Transit Association (RTA) which utilize on-site mini-computers to list schedules on television-like monitors.

Three dozen commute-hour routes serve the Transbay Terminal and nearly 30 local, express and transbay bus lines serve BART/12th Street station — at the historic 14th and Broadway transfer point. The computers, with real-time clocks, display the next two scheduled departures for each route all day until service ends — when the display reads, “No more service today.” Adjacent signs list days and hours of operation for all routes.

Schedules for AC Transit, Golden Gate Transit, San Francisco MUNI, and SamTrans buses will be displayed in the Transbay Transit Terminal. The downtown Oakland display is challenging because of the complexity of District bus service — with more than two dozen routes departing in all directions.

The District has been working with the RTA and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to reformat current RUCUS (automated run-cutting) data for use in these modestly-priced displays which will be installed in various major regional transit connection points.

Board electees sworn-in

(Continued from page 3)

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(Continued from page 3)
Bay Bridge Golden Anniversary

Joining with Bay Area In Bridge birthday bash Is November high-light

ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES — General Manager Gene Gardiner (at left) emceed at Oakland's official Bay Bridge Breakfast November 12. Then, enroute to the Toll Plaza for a reenactment of the bridge opening, Gardiner rode in the 1931 Cadillac reportedly used by ex-President Herbert Hoover during the 1936 ceremonies.

ARTISTS HONORED — Board President Linda Shepard and Vice President Michael Fajans (above) joined in honoring Yvette Lara and Jamal Bishop, 4th-graders at Oakland's Fruitvale Elementary, who produced the first-place Bay Bridge anniversary poster appearing on District buses. More than 500 Bay Area schools were invited to participate in the artistic contest, one of the many official anniversary events.

Zorman's safe-driving record is honored

MASTERLY OPERATOR - General Manager Gene Gardiner and Director of Operations George Grandison presented specially-ordered Safe Driving patches to John L. Zorman (at center), noting 35 accident-free years behind the wheel.

Board Actions
(Continued from page 12)
At a regular meeting November 12, the Board of Directors:
- Adopted resolution establishing annuity benefits for members of the Board of Directors, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Adopted specified compensation/health and welfare adjustments for exempt employees and Officers of the Board; approved two job classifications for Office of the District Secretary; approved salary range for position of Manager of Government/Community Relations, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized travel of Purchases & Stores Manager in his position as 1987 Chairman of APTA's Purchases & Materials Management Administrative Committee, on motion of Director Fajans.

UNIQUE AWARD — A special plaque also honors John Zorman's singular 35-year safe-driving feat. District records indicate that the veteran operator accumulated well over one million mishap-free miles while serving East Bay bus riders prior to his retirement earlier this year.

Clem Redmon recognized For 31-year service

RETIREMENT SEND-OFF — Before launching another long-time venture — this time, it's retirement — veteran Training Instructor Clement Redmon (right) posed with General Manager Gene Gardiner after receiving a plaque and being the subject of a Board of Directors commendatory resolution honoring his 31 years of transit service. The official resolution noting Redmon's retirement outlined the phases of his career, which began when he joined AC Transit's predecessor as a bus driver in 1955. Emphasizing his 25-year tenure as a training instructor, the special resolution spotlighted, among other things, his reputation for "exemplary attendance", "dependability and congeniality".

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Four receive Employee Recognition honors

We went to the Cal football game as we do every time they play in Berkeley. We always ride the bus from the BART station at College and get the bus back at Durant and College. We went to the fraternity house after the game, so we were a bit late in getting a bus home. When we got down to Durant and College, the man who was directing the loading of the buses told us that the last bus had just left! There were two more buses standing there and when we said “Oh, help!” he asked where we were going. He knocked on the window of the bus standing there and said to the driver, “Take these people down to BART and then go to the yard.” The driver was charming and very interesting about some of his experiences as a bus driver. His name is Joe Alder. It was a wonderful experience.

Mary Proffitt
Advisory Committee on Accessibility
Oakland

As a senior citizen obliged to use your bus service, it has been my privilege to observe your operations and the efficiency and courtesy of your drivers. I’ve noticed one who stands out for his able driving and unfailing courtesy (Lucius Lee). This driver has a polite greeting for every passenger and keeps a sharp eye on all passenger movements, even controlling unruly school kids.

J.G. Jimeno
Oakland

I am a visually impaired woman with severe “tunnel vision” who travels with a Seeing Eye dog. I take buses everywhere because, of course, I don’t see well enough to drive. While my faithful canine companion does an outstanding job of preventing me from tripping on curbs or walking into obstacles, she leaves the responsibility to me of ensuring I have my packages when I leave the bus. But with such a narrow field of vision (it’s like looking through a straw) I sometimes don’t notice I’ve left my purse or other valuables behind.

Recently, when I got off in Alameda, I had one dog, her harness, but no purse or umbrella. I was panic-stricken, and the bus was already a block away. I walked back to the corner to begin my walk home. Suddenly, the driver of the bus came running up to me with my belongings. I was stunned! Apparently, he parked his bus at the corner just to try to see if I was still in the area. Will you please let this driver (M. McMillan) know I will never forget his thoughtfulness and kindness?

Brandy Prince
Alameda

Just a note of thanks to one of your information operators (Robert Lockhart). He took the time not only to map out a bus schedule and times, but even gave me BART fares and information. He really deserves a written note of thanks.

Evelyn Martin
East Bay

JOB EXCELLENCE — Latest to be honored in the Employee Recognition Program are shown on this page. They are (top photo, left and center) Robert Cobb, “Bus Driver of the Quarter”, and former Dispatcher Jack Patterson, “Clerical Employee of the Quarter”, both of East Oakland Division, whose general superintendent, Keith Steckly, is shown presenting their awards. Gary Marriott (above right) received his congratulations for earning “Mechanic of the Quarter” title from Sterling Stewart, general superintendent, Hayward Division. In the spotlight as “Non-Union Employee of the Quarter” was (above left) Howard Dupuis, transportation supervisor.
At an adjourned regular meeting October 15, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized travel of two District employees to attend Bus Maintenance Forum in Albuquerque, on motion of Director Fajans.
- Adopted resolution of congratulations on Operator Rick Vierra's first-place win at the annual American Public Transit Association Bus Roadeo in Detroit, on motion of Director Fajans.
- Approved participation in the Practical Business Training Program, beginning April 13, providing a three-month in-house training program for two Japanese executives, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Approved amending Employee Recognition Program to incorporate awards of a $1000 Savings Bond to any District first-place winner in APTA International Bus Roadeo and of a $750 Bond to a second-place winner.

* * *

At an adjourned regular meeting October 29, the Board of Directors:

- Approved the District's hosting of 10th anniversary events of Bus Ride Magazine, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for the purchase of bus driver uniforms, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Adopted resolution of appreciation and best wishes to Director John L. McDonnell on his retirement as Ward III representative, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized resolution of appreciation and best wishes to Clement E. Redmon, retiring after 31 years of transit service, on motion of Director Wiggins.
- Authorized General Manager to enter into contract agreement with MTC and BART to effect a Joint AC/BART Pass as of January 1, serving as a Demonstration Project for a period of at least six months, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized General Manager to solicit Requests for Proposals for consulting services aimed at assuring DBE/WBE participation in APTA’s EXPO ’87, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized General Manager to enter into professional services agreement with Fern Tiger Associates for production of a slide presentation on the Comprehensive Service Plan to be used in public outreach, on motion of Director Wiggins. (Continued on page 9)