Nakadegawa assumes Board presidency
Transit trends and topics

Re-route plan gets varied reaction

DOWNTOWN PERSPECTIVE - Oakland Chamber of Commerce President Bill Downing (above) and some downtown interests endorsed the proposals, while others voiced opposition. This public hearing, at City Hall, also involved five City Council members, since the proposed program can't be implemented fully unless Oakland makes Franklin a two-way street. Aim of the participants who developed the proposals is reduced traffic congestion in the area of 14th and Broadway.

VOICING VIEWS — Rider Betty Wright (at podium, top photo) and two dozen other speakers voiced varied views during a January 8 public hearing on possible rerouting of downtown Oakland bus service. The District had distributed widely a newsletter (being studied by attendees in photo below) detailing proposals to disperse selected lines, thereby reducing commute-hour traffic in bus stops on Broadway and 14th. The proposals were developed by a study group comprised of District staffers, city planners, and Oakland civic and business representatives.

Nakadegawa takes top Board post

Veteran policy-maker Roy Nakadegawa was selected by fellow Directors to serve as 1987 Board President during annual balloting at the December 12 meeting. Director Jerome G. Wiggins was elected Vice-President.

Nakadegawa, a member of the Board since 1972, will be serving his second term as President. The Berkeley resident was most recently returned to office as a Director at-large in the November, 1986, elections.

A senior civil engineer for the City of Richmond, Nakadegawa has visited and studied mass transportation systems in the Orient (including Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, and Japan), and in North America and Europe.

The Board's new Vice-President is a transportation analyst with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission who was first elected to the District's Board in 1984. Wiggins represents a western Contra Costa County constituency.

Nakadegawa succeeds Ward V Director Linda Shepard in the top Board post, while Wiggins' immediate predecessor as Board Vice-President is Ward I Director Michael Fajans.

Both Board officers are residents of Berkeley.

Discussing his priorities for the coming year, Nakadegawa stated that his Board presidency will focus on two essential tasks: providing reliable on-street bus service by achieving maximum productivity from AC Transit's workforce, and seeking an effective long-term solution to what has become an annual budgetary crisis.

"AC Transit's constituents need, want and support bus service," says Nakadegawa. "Patrons contribute to operating costs at the farebox, and the public continues to demonstrate its broader support — as evident in the half-cent transportation tax approved in November by Alameda County's electorate."

"This year we will intensify efforts to communicate the transit funding facts to Sacramento and the nation's Capitol — to convince them that their continued support also is necessary to assure the viability of vital mass transit service, including AC Transit."

AC Transit's role within the metropolitan East Bay is a crucial one, Nakadegawa stresses, since three-fourths of the System's riders report that they have no other transportation alternative.

To meet this responsibility, "The District must focus on its obligation to operate economical, efficient, safe, convenient, and attractive mass transportation in 1987."

THE COVER — During the Directors' first 1987 meeting, a gavel mounted on a commemorative plaque was presented by incoming President Roy Nakadegawa to Linda Shepard, who had just finished a year as the Board's top officer. In addition to accepting the official gavel, Nakadegawa assumed leadership of the District's policymaking body for the current calendar year. Directors also presented Shepard with an embellished copy of a previously-adopted resolution commending her leadership in promoting the transportation tax approved by Alameda County voters last November, funding future bus service improvements, operations and maintenance.
New ticket will aid train/bus riders

Beginning February 1, a new fare prepayment instrument goes into effect on AC Transit local bus service. This new ticket titled “AC/BART Plus” — also is valid (within limits) for trips within the BART train system. It’s designed for the frequent BART rider who, on occasion, also makes use of local Eastbay bus service.

“AC/BART Plus” works just like the familiar ‘Show-and-Go’ Monthly Pass for riders on the District’s local bus service — except that it’s good only for half a month. During each effective time period, the rider simply shows a valid “AC/BART Plus” to board for local trips only.

To determine the ticket’s effective period, drivers simply look at the large number on its face — indicating the semi-monthly period during which it’s to be honored. For example, “3” means the third semi-monthly period of 1987: February 1st to the 15th. The numeral “4” would indicate the fourth semi-monthly period: February 16th to the 28th. (To preclude the possibility of arguments about the valid period, the actual effective dates also are printed on each ticket.)

For users, “AC/BART Plus” gains entry to the BART system just like any other BART ticket. It has specific stored-value, which depletes each time the ticket is inserted in fare gates. Since a range of initial value is required to cover BART trips of various lengths, the ticket may be purchased in any of eight values — ranging from $20 to $53 for each semi-monthly period.

The “AC/BART Plus” will be made available to the public through the District’s customer services offices, BART’s ticket office, and other selected outlets. Informational and promotional materials will include a new hanger-flyer on buses, geared to help answer riders’ questions about the new ticket.

Board meeting notices
To get added visibility

Agendas for all meetings of the AC Transit Board of Directors, including all committee meetings, will be posted for public inspection at least 72 hours prior to each session in the Lobby Office at District headquarters, 508 16th Street, Oakland.

This new posting practice is an added agenda distribution channel (joining direct mailings and news releases) to ensure full conformance with recent revisions in California’s “Brown Act” (the state’s open meeting statute).

The posted agendas will be displayed for the public’s information needs during any hour of the day or night and also, as circumstances require, on weekends and holidays. The postings will be readable from the street, accessible for perusal even when the building is closed.

District Directors have a long established policy of encouraging public comment on agenda items — and on any other matters of patron or public concern. For information on any agenda item, interested parties also may contact the District Secretary’s office: (415) 891-4863.

Comments of a more general nature, including suggestions, questions and complaints, should be directed to the District’s Customer Relations Office: (415) 891-4700.

Driver and four long-time transit retirees meet deaths

Several deaths from among District ranks occurred in early winter.

Willis Crutchfield, 60, a driver at East Oakland Division with 30 years of service, died December 1. His home was in Emeryville.

He is survived by his widow, Gilda, and four children: Micheal, Sonya, Dedra, and DeShawn.

Carl L. Glover, 58, a former Newark Division driver who retired in 1980 after 16 years of service, died November 28 in Milpitas. He was a Newark resident.

Survivors include his widow, Martha, and son, Mark.

Another former driver, James A. Wright, 59, of Fairfield, who worked out of Seminary (East Oakland) Division before his retirement in 1979, died December 3. He had completed 24 years of service prior to retiring.

Wright is survived by his widow, Carolyn, and five children: Larry, Barbara, Linda, Donald, and Daryl.

Vincent Montano, 62, who was an Emeryville Division driver when he retired in 1977, died December 2 in Livermore. He was a veteran of 20 years of transit service.

Montano, whose home was in Concord, leaves five children: Gloria, Anthony, James, Virginia, and Donna.

William R. Beckett, 88, who retired in 1967 as an Emeryville Division supervisor after 33 years of transit service, died December 5 in Oregon. Surviving is a daughter, Barbara Beckett Sarles.

Beckett’s transit employment began in 1934.
CAROLLING COMMUTER — Line H rider Franklin Ponder, bound for Albany, joined General Manager Gene Gardiner in an impromptu duet.

NOEL NOTES — General Manager Gene Gardiner (at top, second from left) joined a sizeable contingent to perform seasonal songs for transbay commuters in San Francisco this year. The group included (left to right) Dispatcher Joe Tating (on drums), Driver Skip Carr, Dispatcher Bob Turner, Drivers Jeni Sessions and Fred Leonetti, and Road Supervisor Paul Aiello. "Santa's Helper" Gloria Gaines, of Personnel (above left) dispensed holiday cheer and candy canes while (above) Richmond Division Driver Fred Leonetti shared carols and comments with radio news reporter Deborah Martinez.

Holiday happening lifts Spirits at SF Terminal

I left a lunch box and a bag of hardware on the bus in Hayward. Later, I went down to the South Hayward BART station to try and track down these items. The hardware was not critical, but my lunch box contained important documents.

I would like to express my thanks to your driver Belita Ragsdale for her help. Thanks to her I was able to recover the lunch box that same night. She really made a sincere effort to help me.

Charles E. Tocci
Hayward

I am writing to tell you that you have an extra special driver working for you. Her name is Debra Lanier, who greets her passengers with a smile and answers their questions in a brief, courteous manner.

She is especially considerate of the elderly and handicapped. Yesterday, she was kind, helpful and efficient in helping a young man in a wheelchair board the bus and get situated for the ride, and then again when he left the bus (I have seen other drivers communicate their displeasure at having to do this).

Elaine M. Chivello
San Leandro

Many of your employees appear to be getting better daily. They are so courteous, kind, patient and understanding. When I boarded the bus at 13th and Franklin, a very nice young lady (Karen McGowen) was in charge and discharged her duties very well.

Priscilla Ann (Scotian) Charles
Oakland

I usually catch the 88 bus each morning at 5:54 a.m. in Berkeley, and I must transfer to a bus at University and Sacramento. I find I have no problem when I ride with Driver Rudolph Colar.

This note is to tell your company that I find him to be very considerate, helpful, and a good representative for AC Transit.

Norma Green
Berkeley

Mr. Doyle Dewberry and Ms. Joy Graner were very interesting speakers representing AC Transit on the topic of courtesy to the handicapped. The buses being able to transport handicapped people opens a lot of freedom. It gives them independence and, best of all, it doesn't set them off from the rest of society.

I remember the times I would move so the elderly people could sit in front. At times, some people with wheelchairs would come on board, and I thought it was just great. The film ("Riding Together") really demonstrates my thoughts.

Hortencia Flores
Bishop O'Dowd High School

I live right next door to the bus yard and several times, as the bus was going by my house after leaving the coach stop, Driver A. L. Green, whose bus I catch most weekday mornings, saw me locking my front door and briefly stopped so that I wouldn't miss it and be late for work.

I appreciate that and other courtesies.

D. M. Andersen
Oakland

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Norma Green
Berkeley
Actions of the Board

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

- Authorized General Manager to contract with Winston Network, Inc., for five-year extension of bus advertising network, on motion of Director Wiggins.
- Approved resolution expressing the District’s appreciation and commendation to President Linda Shepard for her effort toward formulating and promoting the Alameda County transportation tax measure, which won approval in the 1986 General Election, on motion of Director McDonnell.

* * *

At an adjourned regular meeting December 12, the Board of Directors:

- Approved participation of Director of Administration, as invited, in American Society for Training & Development’s annual conference design activities; approved travel of two District representatives to International Conference on the Visually Impaired Traveler in Mass Transit, January 11-12 in Washington, D.C., on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized General Manager to negotiate contract with CPC Associates for a direct mail advertising project to extend over a six-month demonstration period, on motion of Director Bettencourt.
- Authorized General Manager to issue Request for Proposal for a Classification Analysis and Salary Compensation Study, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Approved renewal for 1987 of contract with legislative consultants, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Elected Roy Nakadegawa President and Jerome G. Wiggins Vice-President for 1987, on motion of Director Bettencourt (see story, Pg. 3).