New-look shuttle
Aims to boost
Broadway business
Transit trends and topics

Area APTA was rare resource

APTA's 106th Annual Meeting, held here September 27 - 30, (see Pages 4 and 5) provided an unparalleled opportunity for AC Transit's Directors and staff both to participate in and contribute to an array of instructional and stimulating activities. Nearly 15,000 transit policy-makers and managers from more than 50 countries came to the Bay Area for APTA-related events including:

- The business of North America's premier transit advocacy group.
- An array of informational seminars and instructional workshops.
- The 1987 International Bus Roadshow, hosted by AC Transit and conducted at Hayward Division.
- APTA's third triennial "EXPO '87" - a huge exposition showcasing the latest in mass transportation vehicles, support systems and services.
- APTA business activities requiring AC Transit representation included election of new officers. Following two years as APTA Vice President-Human Resources, Director Linda Shepard relinquished the post to Sam

End-of-year cut in employee numbers announced

A layoff of non-driver personnel - announced to District Directors and the workforce October 23 - is scheduled to be carried out by the end of the year. Among those to be affected are 17 management/administrative people, as well as hourly workers in both maintenance and clerical positions.

"It's with deep regret that we announce this action," said General Manager Gene Gardiner. "We have no choice but to cut payroll at this time; and we must achieve the cuts in ways that minimize impact on bus service and bus riders."

The personnel action is aimed at paring the System's operating expenses by some $1.5 million, to match a diminishing revenue base.

Actions already undertaken this fiscal year to cut costs and/or generate revenues include an earlier reduction in non-driver workforce; layoff of 58 part-time drivers; deferral of all non-essential expenditures; delay of computer system upgrades; discontinuance of under-utilized transbay bus service; and success in garnering an additional $2.1 million in available regional dollars.

Review of more deficit-reducing Proposals is Public Hearing aim

AC Transit's Board of Directors took additional measures at an October 14 meeting to get a grip on financial problems.

The policy-makers reviewed and adopted a variety of actions aimed at offsetting the financial shortfall experienced during the first months of the budgetary fiscal year that began July 1.

In addition to reaffirming support of General Manager Gene Gardiner's orders curtailing all expenditures not directly linked to providing on-street service, the Directors set a Public Hearing for November 18 to review proposals for possible fare and bus service adjustments.

The moves followed a Deficit Reduction Plan pursued earlier this year to address financial needs. Recent actions taken to achieve significant cost-savings and budget cuts include:

Previous actions
- Reduction of service by more than 300 hours per day, coupled with layoff of over 50 part-time bus drivers.
- Elimination of 27 support (non-bus driver) positions.
- Early retirement of two dozen veteran employees.
- An impending five-percent reduction, across-the-board, of all non-driving personnel to yield $1.5 million specified by the Directors.

But these reductions, coupled with actions taken during last fiscal year, will not completely balance the budget in this fiscal period. And, Gardiner told the Board, additional belt-tightening measures must be adopted. The District's latest financial projections indicate that without additional dollar-saving steps, AC Transit could face a 3.5 to $6 million deficit this year.

Actions under consideration at the Public Hearing include a basic fare increase of five cents — from 75 cents to 80 cents for adult local riders peak hours only — on Jan 1, 1988.

This fare adjustment could yield up to $54,000 additional revenues in this fiscal year, while assuring receipt of $2.1 million in funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) — the financial conduit for regional transit monies available to support East Bay bus service. MTC has been urging AC Transit to raise the base fare to 80 cents — the same as BART's minimum.

In a move to curtail abuse of transfers, Directors also are considering an adjustment to transfer policy — suggesting a 10-cent fee for every initial transfer, now given free. An estimated $200,000 in revenues would result.

Fare proposal

Also, it is proposed that AC Transit adopt a differential transbay bus fare ($1 westbound across the Bay Bridge to San Francisco and $2 eastbound) with possible elimination of zone charges. Directors are hopeful this move will raise $130,000 while reducing "casual carpooling" which now involves some 3,000 persons, who regularly congest westbound bus stops each morning.

Potential service adjustments to be discussed during the Public Hearing include elimination of specified transbay bus service to and from San Francisco on weekends and nights — which could yield more than $700,000 in cost reduction. Lines A, K, RD, RF and RH are slated for reductions, with Line F service on weekends and holidays expanded from 15-minute to 20-minute headways.

The public hearing on the potential fare and service adjustments has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 18th.
Annual Convention

Participation in APTA varied

International Roadeo drew drivers and judges to Hayward (below).

At American Public Transit Association's annual convention — centered at San Francisco's Moscone Center (top) were (above right, left to right): Miriam Golikely, new Human Resources Vice-President; APTA Chairman Reba Malone; and District Director Linda Shepard.

Transit specialists who deal with legislation and regulations affecting operations and funding met for an APTA/UMTA updating on these matters. Present were Donn DesBoine and Curtis Goodenough (inset, left and right) of Administrative Projects.

District people added to and learned from SF-based APTA

APTA ACTIVITIES — At EXPO '87 in San Francisco, Dr. Eleanor Ramsey (above right, at left), of Mason Tillman Associates, and AC Transit's Cynthia Dorsey review the program to help DBE/WBEs sell to transit systems. Under RITA contract (UMTA-funded, AC Transit-administered) the Berkeley businesswoman recruited 50 DBEs to showcase services and wares. James Lee, District accessible services coordinator, (bottom right) checks one of the lifts on display at transit's yearly showcase. Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson (above, standing) was among local leaders attending APTA events. General Manager Gene Garliner is in foreground.
Construction up-date

Focus is on Emeryville, Richmond

MAKING WAY — Destruction crews moved to raze the aged Emeryville Division buildings, which had been symbols of East Bay transportation since the mid-1930's. In the foreground center, workers view rubble which previously had been the maintenance shops and unit room on the historic site. The old second floor which once had housed Central Dispatch, Transportation Supervision and PBX/Information came down shortly after this photograph.

MOVING AHEAD — Revitalization of Richmond Division facilities continued during the Fall as the major reconstruction project moved toward its final year, with scheduled completion slated for the beginning of 1989. The new fuel island (above) provided the vantage point from which this picture was taken of the new yard, with the old maintenance shops in the background. The project is the first major upgrading of the facility since it became fully operational in 1947.

Two receive promotions

Dorothy Parrish Ted Reynolds

Dorothy Parrish, previously training and education manager, became human resources manager November 1 — to head the personnel services staff at Oakland headquarters. She reports to Michal Settles, director of administration.

As announced by Don Larson, planning and analysis manager, Ted Reynolds has moved up to transportation planning advisor. He has been a planning staffer since 1977, serving as acting assistant manager for the past three years. He joined the District in 1958.

IN-HOUSE EVENT — Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin (D-Union City) joined other state legislators in hearings on CALTRANS construction project delays. District headquarters was site of this combined meeting of the Assembly Transportation Committee, of which Eastin is a member, and the California Little Hoover Commission (Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy.)

Our ‘Stockholders’ Write

After the Cal-San Jose State game, my son Robert wandered away. Robbie is retarded, and I feared that he had boarded a bus and was lost in a strange city.

I reported my problem to the supervisors who were directing your operations at College Avenue and Durant. They responded immediately, with professionalism and compassion. They took what appeared to be appropriate action, including one of the supervisors driving to Rockridge BART, where he had possibly gone. Certainly, driving down College Avenue after a football game is above and beyond the call of duty.

The only name I have is Howard DuPuis, who stayed with me for what was probably long after he would have driven home.

Apparently Robbie had crowded onto a bus. He eventually showed up at El Cerrito BART, where your agent found him.

I’m sure that you get complaints all the time over every fancied wrong. I just wanted you to know that you have some good people working for you.

Irwin F. Cohn
Sacramento

I have had the good fortune to ride on the coach driven by Mr. Robert A. White on a number of occasions.

I have found him to be extremely friendly and helpful, not only to myself but to all the riders I have seen him interact with. He seems to enjoy his job and his passengers. This makes the bus ride more pleasant.

As a side issue, I have found that he is one of the few drivers who generally has his schedule bin filled with schedules. This is a small issue but very appreciated by us, the riders.

Stan Matsuoka
Oakland

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A quick note of commendation for Driver Norman Grant, with whom I had the pleasure of riding on the bus down Broadway.

Norman has the touch of things years ago, when it seems drivers were courteous, informative and helpful.

Angie L. Zigenis
Port of Oakland

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I wish to commend Operator James Davis as being a very courteous and careful driver.

I hope that you will train other drivers to follow in his footsteps. He made my day today!

George Hoshide
Oakland

Just after purchasing my AC Transit pass, I lost it on a bus. The driver, Claire Allen, returned my lost pass to the office. I was able to pick it up the very next afternoon.

Mrs. L. B. Crowl
Oakland
Actions of the Board

At an adjourned regular meeting September 23, the Board of Directors:

- Approved specified actions in regard to Request for Proposal to be submitted to BART in connection with provision of selected bus service, on motion of Director Fajans.
- Authorized General Manager to issue Request for Proposal for technical and management assistance in developing Comprehensive Service Plan Project, on motion of Director Fajans.

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At a regular meeting October 14, the Board of Directors:

- Approved amended Deficit Reduction Plan and scheduled November Public Hearing to receive public input on a slate of specified proposals under the plan, on motion of Director Rinehart (see story, Pg. 3).

Shared project

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