Dumbarton Corridor Study- Shortly after Staff requested permission from the Board in October of 2015 to seek funding for a joint Dumbarton Corridor Study with SamTrans and ACTC, the team received notification that Facebook will fund the study with a $1 million contribution. The study will examine potential future rail alternatives, improved bus operations along both the Corridor and the Peninsula, and bike and ped improvements along the Peninsula shoreline.

AC Transit will serve as a project partner on the study with a primary focus on improvements and expansion for the Dumbarton Express service. The study will officially kick-off this month and has a 12-month duration. Staff will provide periodic updates to the Board throughout the study.

CAD/AVL Data Center and Voice Over IP Communications testing- Accomplishing a second project milestone, Clever Devices and AC Transit completed extensive field testing of data centers and cellular carriers for voice communications. With the analysis of the data generated from the tests, AC Transit was able to select the data center that will host the CAD/AVL servers (Broadview, Austin Texas) and the cellular carrier (Verizon Wireless) for the Voice over IP (VOIP) communications. The live tests were conducted by driving over 1000 miles on routes throughout the AC Transit service area during the months of November and December. Testing included staff from Clever Devices and AC Transit Operations Control Center and Road Supervision personnel.

Holiday Events- Throughout the month of December, staff from the Legislative Affairs and Community Relations Department attended several toy and food drive holiday events that benefited families in our community. From the G.O., four big barrels of canned and boxed goods were donated to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. In addition, G.O employees donated $320.00 which converts to $1920 (the alameda county community food bank has a purchasing power of $6 for every $1 donated). They will use the money to purchase fresh groceries (at wholesale/bulk) which cannot be donated such as eggs, milk, and produce. Additionally, D2 operator, Sheila King was determined in having ten barrels full for this holiday season, as a result of her encouragement and collaborative efforts at D2, they were successful in having ten full food bank barrels truly demonstrating the spirit of holiday giving. We thank local elected officials and the Oakland Metropolitan, Alameda, Fremont, Newark, Hayward, Castro Valley, and San Leandro Chambers of Commerce for hosting these important events.

Holiday Bus- A 40-foot Gillig was outfitted as the “Holiday Bus” again this year, featuring colorful graphics inside and out, and offering free rides. The bus operated out of each division for one week from mid-December to the new year, and we heard from many delighted customers via social media.

Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) San Francisco Bay Area - On Thursday, December 10, 2015, staff from various departments of AC Transit attended an event hosted by WTS, an organization dedicated to building the future of transportation through the advancement of women. General Manager, Michael Hursh was the guest of honor and provided brief remarks on the importance of public transit in the bay area.

Service Expansion Plan (SEP) - Since December, staff from the Planning, Legislative Affairs & Community Relations and Marketing departments have been working on an additional round of outreach meetings for components of the SEP that were delayed in order to gather additional community input. Community meetings were held on Saturday January 9th at 10:30 AM at Emeryville City Hall and another on Monday, January 11th at 6:30 PM at St. Columba in North Oakland. The various alternate proposals that staff developed were presented for the lines F and J. Additionally, we expect to go to the Alameda City Council later this month or in early February to get an official position on their preferred SEP alternative.

Oakland Mayor Highlights BRT- On December 15th, staff from the Legislative Affairs and Community Relations team attended the San Francisco Business Times’ 2015 Oakland Structures Breakfast where Mayor Libby Schaaf highlighted our BRT project as an example of a project that has helped spurred additional development along the International Blvd corridor and is projected to generated needed jobs for Oakland residents.
Leadership Program - Legislative Affairs and Community Relations team member Julie Waters was accepted into Leadership East Bay (Berkeley/Emeryville), which is a professional development program. The program consists of local business owners, nonprofit leaders, and staff from city and county agencies. Julie is looking forward to learning more about Berkeley and Emeryville while sharing information about AC Transit.

Clipper Penetration Rate - We are continuing to break records with customer use of Clipper Cards. AC Transit achieved a 42.8 penetration rate in October, compared to 37% in October 2014.

New Easy Pass Partners - We’re excited to announce two new EasyPass program partners. Ashland Place is an 85-unit residential community in San Leandro. The two-year program began late last year, and it is our first EasyPass program in San Leandro. Mural Apartments is a 90-unit affordable housing community in the newly-minted MacArthur Station in Oakland. It is our second Oakland-based residential development, and the program starts this month.

Vietnamese Community Center Clipper Outreach - On December 10th, the Marketing team partnered with the Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay to provide AC Transit information to its constituents. Our Customer Service, Bus Rapid Transit, and Legislative Affairs & Community staff made presentations to the Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay. The audience of approximately 60 seniors heard an overview presentation of AC Transit and the service we provide as well as an informational presentation about Clipper. The customer service team helped participants complete senior Clipper card applications and also distributed Clipper cards on the spot.

Holiday Bus