General Manager’s Report

Hispanic Community Affairs Council Annual Scholarship Luncheon - On Friday, May 5, AC Transit sponsored a luncheon hosted by the Hispanic Community Affairs Council. Nearly 30 young Latino students from Alameda County were awarded scholarships. These academically-talented and highly-motivated students are pursuing a college education and are in need of financial assistance. We are proud to participate in an event that invests in the future leaders of the community we serve. Estee Sepulveda, External Affairs Representative, attended the event on behalf of the District.

Building Futures Jazz It Up! - On Friday, May 5, AC Transit sponsored Jazz It Up, an event benefiting the programs and services of Building Futures. This organization assists individuals and families in Alameda County dealing with homelessness and domestic violence. Their programs include the San Leandro Shelter, Midway Shelter, Sister Me Home domestic violence safe house, and a spectrum of housing assistance and domestic violence services. Estee Sepulveda, External Affairs Representative, attended the event on behalf of the District.

City of San Leandro Town Hall Meeting Districts - On Monday, May 8, AC Transit participated in the City of San Leandro's community town hall for districts one, two, and five – the eastern part of the city. Estee Sepulveda, External Affairs Representative, Austin Lee, Transportation Planner, and Geoffrey Johnson, BRT Community Construction Relations Manager, staffed an information table to answer questions from residents. Council Member Corina Lopez mentioned the East Bay BRT in her remarks. AC Transit continues to value the partnership we have with the community of San Leandro.

Tri-City Health Center Superhero Run - On Saturday, May 13, AC Transit sponsored the 2017 Superhero Run hosted by Tri-City Health Centers at Quarry Lakes. This superhero themed race honors local police and firefighters. We are also proud of the staff from AC Transit's walking club that participated in the 5k race!
California Transit Association’s Spring Legislative Conference - On Wednesday, May 17, President Ortiz, Director Williams, General Manager Hursh, and the Legislative Affairs & Community Relations team attended the California Transit Association’s Spring Legislative Conference in Sacramento, CA. They visited with Assemblymember Thurmond, Marvin Deon, Chief of Staff to Senator Nancy Skinner, and Evan Corder, Chief of Staff to Assemblymember Rob Bonta, to thank them for their support of SB 1, a transportation funding bill that was recently signed into law by Governor Brown. We greatly appreciate their continued support for AC Transit.

GM Outreach - The BRT outreach team continues its efforts to share information with the community regarding the BRT project. On May 6, AC Transit participated as a sponsor of Councilmember Noel Gallo’s Cinco de Mayo/ Mother’s day celebration. Even Stomper heard about BRT that day!

AC Transit was a proud supporter of the Oakland Asian Cultural Center’s (OACC) 21st Annual Chrysanthemum Ball. The event celebrated the OACC’s commitment to building vibrant communities by promoting cross-cultural understanding and the people who work to achieve this goal in the name of social justice.

Alameda Bike Festival & Rodeo - AC Transit’s Legislative Affairs & Community Relations Department partnered with Safe Routes to Schools to present the 4th Annual “Alameda Bike Festival & Rodeo” on Saturday, May 13th. This fun-filled day promoted bicycle education among Island City residents and their families. External Affairs Representative Steven Jones and Operator Sidney Ragland provide valuable information to hundreds of attendees about AC Transit’s services, and how to safely use the bike rack.
AC Transit Board Members, labor representatives, transportation advocates, parents and students celebrate the May 10 agreement with the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) that preserves bus service to Skyline High, Montera Middle and Community Day Schools through the close of the 2017-18 academic year. Preserving this vitally-needed service was possible through $500,000 of operating assistance from The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and $500,000 from OUSD. This $1 million funding bridge coupled with $900,000 in efficiency measures (under development with OUSD), dramatically reduces the cost of supplementary service to AC Transit.

AC Transit Joins With MTC, OUSD and Labor to Announce a Funding Agreement Protecting Supplementary Bus Service

**APTA’s National Public Transportation Career Day** - AC Transit is committed to connecting youth in our communities to career opportunities within public transportation. In recognition of National Public Transportation Career Day, representatives from AC Transit visited Saint Elizabeth Elementary School in Oakland to talk to over 200 students about jobs in transportation, answer questions, and offer bus tours. Social media channels Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, were used to bring awareness to the day by highlighting positions such as bus operators, graphic design, legal, planning and more. The hashtags #careerday, #apta, #actransit were also used as part of our digital campaign.
Environmental Program – Leading up to Earth Day on April 22, efforts were made to reinvigorate the visibility of our environmental program. A promotional “Greening Our Community” take-one was published, which gives a high-level overview of AC Transit’s ongoing environmental initiatives. An infographic detailing past and future environmental milestones was created and produced as a tabletop sign for outreach events.
Corresponding carousel images were designed and stand ready to install on the homepage. Initial efforts were made to update content on the environmental webpages.
Earth Day themed posts were made on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, with the most number of likes (25) going to the Instagram format.

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.” — John Muir #earthday2017

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has. — Margaret Mead #earthday2017
AC Transit Fuel Cell Bus at APTA Bus and Paratransit Conference - AC Transit staff and Board Member Chris Peeples drove/road in a VanHool zero emission fuel cell bus #FC5 to the 2017 APTA Bus & Paratransit Conference held in Reno, Nevada on May 6-10, 2017. The bus was on static display at the bus Roadeo, and several Roadeo participants and spectators stopped by the bus to get more information on our zero emission bus program. The display of the bus was a great opportunity for AC Transit staff to discuss the successes of our fuel cell program, including the first ever trip of a fuel cell bus on the long journey from the Bay Area to Reno. The complete one-way trip from Seminary D4 in Oakland to the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno Nevada was approximately 224 miles. To ensure that the bus had enough fuel for the trip, staff identified two hydrogen fuel stations along the route to Reno for refueling - one located in West Sacramento and the other in Truckee, California. FC5 was able to endure the 448 mile round trip, including mountain elevations reaching well over 7200 feet with ease. The fuel cell bus #FC5 has accumulated well over 17,447 hours on the fuel cell power plant and over 160,000 miles.

On-Time Performance – The modifications to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that provided for improved running and relief times for operators appears to be paying off. In April, the on-time performance improved to 71.5 percent, which is only one-half of a percent below the District goal of 72 percent. The former CBA provided for 6 minutes of operator relief time for runs between 30 minute and 60 minutes, then 12 minutes for runs with over 60 minutes. The operators with the longer runs nearing 60 minutes found it difficult to get the proper relief time at the end of their runs with only 6 minutes of relief time. The new CBA provides for 4 minutes plus 10 percent of the running time in establishing relief times. A 30 minute run is provided with 7 minutes of relief time, a 60 minute run is provided with 10 minutes of running time. The operators with the longer runs have to deal with more traffic issues and passenger related issues, so allocating the relief time based upon the length of the run provides for more equity for our operators and improved schedule reliability for customers. With the additional relief time in the schedules, the operators are able to take adequate breaks.

Title VI- District staff are beginning the process of updating our Title VI – Civil Rights and Environmental Justice – program, which is due to the FTA this fall. The program is designed to ensure all people in the AC Transit service area can participate in planning activities and can access the benefits of transit service. The effort will involve staff from many departments across the agency, and will review existing policies and activities. Along with data about residents and riders, the program provides guidance to staff about how best to comply with the Civil Rights Act and associated Executive Orders and regulations. The program was last updated three years ago – the Board will remember at that time we updated key Title VI policies which required several staff reports and a public hearing, because the program update was responding to new regulations. This years’ update should be simpler, capturing the advances the District has made in this important work and proposing best practices going forward. Staff expect to bring the Title VI program update to the Board later this summer.
Bike to Work Day - On Thursday May 11, the Bay Area celebrated Bike to Work Day. AC Transit partnered with Bike East Bay and Walk Oakland Bike Oakland to spread the message and get people excited about their commutes. This partnership included 25 bus tail and queen ads as well as ad cards in buses. In addition, AC Transit marketing staff represented the District with a bus to demonstrate the three-position bike racks at the celebration in Frank Ogawa Plaza. Bus operator Sidney Ragland even showed Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and Oakland Police Chief Ann Kirkpatrick how to load their bikes onto the bus. The day wrapped up with Bike Happy Hour in Berkeley where AC Transit featured its new portable demo bike rack.