

# Meeting of the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee

## MINUTES

Thursday, March 10, 2016

2:00 p.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room  
1600 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

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### PSC Members:

#### **AC Transit:**

Vice President Elsa Ortiz, Chair  
Director Greg Harper  
Director Joel Young

#### **City of Oakland:**

Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan  
Council Member Noel Gallo

#### **Alameda County (Ex Officio):**

Supervisor Nate Miley

#### **City of San Leandro:**

Mayor Pauline Cutter  
Council Member Corina Lopez

#### **Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Caltrans:**

District Director Bijan Sartipi

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The East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee held a special meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. with Chair Ortiz presiding.

### 1. Roll Call

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Vice President Elsa Ortiz, Chair  
Director Greg Harper (arrived at 2:18 p.m.)  
President H. E. Christian Peeples (Alternate)  
Mayor Pauline Cutter  
Councilmember Corina Lopez  
Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan  
Councilmember Noel Gallo (arrived at 2:08 p.m.)

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Supervisor Nate Miley  
Caltrans District Director Bijan Sartipi  
Director Joel Young

#### **AC Transit Staff Present:**

General Manager Michael Hursh  
General Counsel Denise Standridge  
District Secretary Linda Nemeroff  
Executive Director of Planning, Construction and Engineering Michael Cannell  
Director of BRT David Wilkins

### 2. Public Comment For Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment offered.

### 3. Consider approving BRT Policy Steering Committee minutes of January 14, 2016.

Consensus to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:6: Kaplan, Gallo, Harper, Cutter, Lopez, Ortiz

ABSTAIN:1: Peeples

ABSENT:2: Miley, Sartipi

#### **4. Chair's Report on pertinent actions of the AC Transit Board of Directors.**

Chair Ortiz reported that the AC Transit Board conditionally awarded a \$108,112,200 contract to O. C. Jones & Sons, Inc. for construction of the infrastructure and station platforms, pending the outcome of a procurement protest the District received the previous day. Major construction is expected to commence in two months. She then turned the meeting over to Director of BRT David Wilkins for the staff presentation.

#### **5. BRT Project Update:**

*[The PowerPoint presentation on the BRT project update is incorporated into the file by reference.]*

##### **A. Bid Package 3 – Contract Award Funding Plan and Contingency Sustainment Plan**

Director of BRT David Wilkins gave the staff presentation, including an overview of the Contract Award Funding Plan, the Contingency Sustainment Plan, bid items to reduce or remove, and inter-agency project scope negotiations (bid items to defer or modify).

Questions arose throughout the discussion concerning the decision-making process to defer, modify or postpone items and at what point those decisions should be made. Several members of the Committee expressed a desire for the PSC to weigh-in before any concrete decisions are made.

Mr. Wilkins advised that the staff proposal represented a strategy for rebuilding the contingency which would involve discussions with the contractor and interagency partners. General Manager Michael Hursh advised that the presentation contained two charts: 1) items that were being deferred, and 2) items that were not critical. He added that what was being presented was a worst case scenario in the event staff was unable to find savings or additional funding elsewhere. Staff will continue to keep the PSC and the AC Transit Board apprised of developments, and before any changes become final the AC Transit Board and City staffs (and City Council if their staff feels it's appropriate) will be briefed.

While Councilmember Gallo was optimistic that the end result of the project would be a service of the highest quality, Councilmember Lopez was concerned that the removal some of the benches as well as map cases, trash cans, etc. would leave end users feeling short-changed, especially since the project was ultimately about the rider experience and providing the finest quality of service, especially for seniors and the disabled.

#### **DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS BID ITEMS**

*[A station layout was provided by staff so that members of the Committee could see the walking deterrent domes as well as the placement of benches and cameras.]*

**Walking Deterrent Domes:** Mr. Wilkins advised that staff was exploring less expensive alternatives. It was also noted that the domes could also pose accessibility issues.

**Benches:** Vice Mayor Kaplan felt bench placement was very important and that too many benches could impede accessibility. Mr. Cannell advised that with a five-minute frequency of service, the benches may not be needed or could be reduced in number.

**Trash Receptacles:** While not directly mentioned in the staff presentation, the Committee discussed whether or not trash cans were necessary at the stations given the cost to maintain them. Several members of the Committee felt that people did not use them and that, perhaps, their removal could save money and improve pedestrian and disabled access. Security issues were also raised and it was determined that there should be an inter-agency discussion before a final decision is made.

**Ticket Vending Machines:** Vice Mayor Kaplan felt they were costly and problematic in terms of repairs and vandalism and would require personnel to maintain them. She felt there should be a policy discussion prior to determining whether they are removed, and suggested outreach to local businesses on opportunities to become Clipper vendors.

**Map Cases:** Vice Mayor Kaplan and other members of Committee strongly objected to their removal and/or deferral as they represent a relatively small expense, but could have a huge impact on riders. Having a map on the first day of service is of vital importance.

**Cameras:** Mayor Cutter commented on the elimination of some of the cameras, noting that safety was an important issue. Mr. Wilkins advised that the stations would be hard-wired for cameras so they could be added later as funding becomes available.

#### **OTHER ISSUES:**

**Funding:** Mayor Cutter inquired about cap and trade funds for the project. Manager of Capital Planning and Grants Chris Andrichak advised that the funding outlined in the presentation was already agreed to formula funding and that staff expected to get more than the conservative estimate outlined in the presentation.

**East Bay MUD:** President Peeples explained that East Bay MUD wanted to replace pipes during road work for the project and had asked for a one year delay. He asked staff to comment on negotiations and the impact something of this magnitude would have on funding. Mr. Wilkins advised that a significantly larger contingency would be required and the concern from East Bay MUD is that road construction from the project presented a risk to waterlines. He added that AC Transit would be responsible for the cost liability associated with that risk and that staff was working with the utility, agency partners and Caltrans to identify alternatives to minimize the risk to waterlines. Director Harper added that this issue needs to be agendaized before the Committee as soon as possible, noting that East Bay MUD has a right to maintain their easement regardless of the BRT service.

Councilmember Lopez wanted to make sure all of the utility agencies that needed to be communicated with had been talked to and questioned whether those discussions should occur at a public meeting as a way to memorialize those conversations.

#### **SAN LEANDRO-SPECIFIC ISSUES**

**Caltrans:** Mayor Cutter asked if the Committee could write a letter or hold meetings with state representatives to see if they would be willing to advance the schedule to repave some areas not covered by the project, noting issues with potholes in a portion of roadway between Georgia and Sunnyside in San Leandro. Mr. Wilkins advised that while Caltrans plans to repave a portion of Highway 185, it is not scheduled to occur until after the project. Mr. Hursh advised that a representative of Caltrans was a member of the Committee and his attendance at the next meeting would be encouraged.

In addition, Mayor Cutter made it clear that San Leandro expected to receive the enhancements that they paid for. Staff advised that the money that was given was for art enhancements in San Leandro and was not a part of Bid Package 3 because it is a separately funded aspect of the project.

### **OAKLAND-SPECIFIC ISSUES**

Councilmember Gallo asked City Administrator Claudia Cappio to restate the City's commitment to the project. Ms. Cappio talked about the partnership between AC Transit and the City of Oakland and the City's continued commitment to make the project happen by working together in ways that saved money and re-ordered the City's monetary commitment to the project.

Councilmember Gallo asked if the City was still committed to funding \$82,000 in driveway removals. Ms. Cappio confirmed that was the case and added that staff was also actively working on the program for \$2 million in business assistance, both during construction and post mitigation.

#### **Public Comment:**

Andy Nelson and Nannette Hunter appeared on behalf of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) created by the City of Oakland. They spoke about the purpose of the TAC and identified some outstanding issues that needed to be addressed in terms of business impacts, including: 1) no way to assess the order of magnitude of permanent impacts; 2) no budget set aside for a supplemental parking program; 3) not clear how the \$2 million city fund will be administered; 4) no funding for lost business revenues during construction; 5) and no plan for any tenant protection programs for increased rents. He added that a letter has been sent to the Oakland City Council and the TAC is looking forward to meeting with City leaders.

#### **B. Overview of Station Location Changes *[Requested by Mayor Cutter – 11/12/15]***

Senior Project Manager Ramakrishna Pochiraju gave an overview of station location modifications, including five in Oakland and two in San Leandro. He added that some stations were moved to mitigate bus bunching and provide space for additional buses, while others were moved to minimize parking impacts.

Mayor Cutter asked where the new traffic signals would be located since the light on Sunnyside Drive would be removed. Mr. Pochiraju advised that the signal would be moved to Euclid Avenue and the best practice was to have a signal near the bus stop. He advised that staff could further evaluate the placement of the signal and agreed to review the street layout with the San Leandro representatives after the meeting.

#### **C. Overview of Best Practices for Motorist and Pedestrian Construction Signage *[Requested by Vice Mayor Kaplan – 9/3/15]***

Director of BRT David Wilkins presented examples of construction signage.

Vice Mayor Kaplan asked when construction would begin to which Mr. Wilkins advised 45 to 60 days from contract award. She also clarified that what she had asked to see was proposed signage that explains the project to the public and, more specifically, makes it clear to the public that new bus stops/stations are going in, that they are not open yet, but provided information on when they will be. Mr. Wilkins advised that signage about the project still needed to be developed and that it would be done over the next several weeks. Vice Mayor Kaplan renewed her request to see the proposed signage.

**D. Update on Sponsorships and Naming Rights [Requested by Committee – 1/14/16]**

Director of Marketing and Communications Michele Joseph gave an update on current efforts to generate interest in sponsorships and naming rights. Since the last Committee meeting, John Gobis of Gobis & Co. had met with three different organizations, including a foundation for grants and charitable giving and a private sector organization interested in pursuing a major sponsorship. She added that next steps involved further discussions with these organizations regarding specific areas of opportunity along the corridor and the development of a sponsorship policy.

**6. Schedule date and time of next meeting.**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

**7. Future Agenda Items/Review List of Pending Items.**

Councilmember Gallo requested a timeline/projected schedule of progress toward completion of construction.

Director Harper mentioned that the Transbay Joint Powers Authority had a new document that provides information on the projected cost to end of project not including contingency. He requested that the Committee receive a similar document.

Councilmember Lopez requested an update on issues with East Bay MUD.

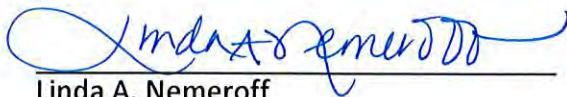
Vice Mayor Kaplan requested a report on a potential Clipper program and outreach to the local community and merchants along the corridor.

Vice Mayor Kaplan requested information on how real time arrival information will be provided.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda A. Nemeroff  
District Secretary