

East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee



MINUTES

Friday, June 15, 2012
3:00 pm

2nd Floor Board Room
1600 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

PSC Members:

AC Transit Board:
President Elsa Ortiz
Director Greg Harper
Director Mark Williams

City of Oakland:
Vice Mayor Ignacio De La Fuente
Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

Alameda County:
Supervisor Nate Miley

City of San Leandro:
Vice Mayor Michael Gregory
Councilmember Pauline Cutter

Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Caltrans:
District Director Bijan Sartipi

The East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee held a meeting on Friday, June 15, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. with Chair Ortiz Presiding.

Items were taken out of sequential order. However, they are reported in sequential order in the minutes for ease in reading.

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

President Elsa Ortiz
Director Greg Harper
Director Mark Williams
Vice Mayor Michael Gregory
Councilmember Pauline Cutter
Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

Committee Members Absent:

Caltrans District Director Bijan Sartipi
Supervisor Nate Miley
Vice Mayor Ignacio De La Fuente

AC Transit Staff Present:

District Secretary Linda Nemeroff
Assistant General Manager Beverly Greene
Director of Planning and Service Development Tina Spencer
Director of Capital Projects Dennis Butler
Transportation Planner Jim Cunradi

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment offered.

3. Chair's Report & Pertinent Actions of the AC Transit Board Presented by Elsa Ortiz

President Ortiz reported on significant events which had occurred since the last meeting in January:

- The Incorporation of critical feedback from committee members in San Leandro and Oakland which resulted in significant improvements in the plan, such as the position of a station in San Leandro and modification of bus only lanes to preserve parking;
- Continued work with the City of Oakland to develop solutions to issues near the Allen Temple, as well as in the Eastlake neighborhood;
- The completion of the environmental process and the receipt of the Record Of Decision from the FTA on June 8, 2012; and
- Commencement of preliminary engineering work.

4. Approval of the minutes from March 16, 2012.

MOTION: WILLIAMS/KAPLAN to approve the minutes as presented (6-0-0-3).

Ayes: Members Williams, Kaplan, Harper, Gregory, Cuter, Ortiz - 6

Noes: None – 0

Abstain: None – 0

Absent: Members Sartipi, Miley, De La Fuente - 3

5. Briefing/Information Items Presented by AC Transit Staff

All items were presented for information only. No actions were taken.

[A presentation outlining the following agenda items was provided at the meeting for information and discussion. The document is incorporated into the file and by reference hereto is made part of these minutes.]

i. Project Approval Status

Director of Capital Projects Dennis Butler advised that the District had received the Record of Decision (ROD) on the project on June 8, 2012. He thanked the committee for their leadership and the critical staff on the project for their efforts.

BRT Project Manager Jim Cunradi provided an overview of the following:

- FTA Record of Decision Received June 8, 2012
- City of Oakland
 - Public Works Committee to consider the project on July 10, 2012.
 - City Council may consider on July 17, 2012.
- City of San Leandro
 - City Council will consider the project on July 16, 2012.

Councilmember Pauline Cutter advised that the San Leandro City Council would have a work session on June 25th to review changes for the project and have it finalized by July 15th. She also asked staff to be prepared to address what the stops would look like and other improvement to the roads and curbs.

- CalTrans
 - Final Fact Sheets delivered on May 20, 2012.
 - Caltrans Evaluating Final Fact Sheets.

Councilmember Kaplan expressed concern about the upcoming presentations to the cities, specifically with regard to who was managing

communications, outreach, the preparation of materials, and ensuring that the necessary steps were being taken to get the cities to approve the project. She added that she was concerned because the city meetings were fast approaching and no new materials were available that show all of the things that have changed about the project (i.e. median boarding, flat level boarding, improved pedestrian lighting and safety). She also said that she had been requesting this information for the past year and stressed the importance of providing documents/information that actually reflected what was agreed to, and mentioned that it would be helpful to have images from other cities that are operating a BRT.

Assistant General Manager Beverly Greene commented that staff was in the process of developing the materials for the council presentations. Councilmember Kaplan stated that verbal promises of various changes were made to the public, but due to the lack of documentation to support the changes, the public was now skeptical. She reiterated that she had requested this information for over a year.

Ms. Greene advised that staff would forward the PowerPoint and new materials in advance of the council meetings.

Councilmember Kaplan requested that the council presentations include the following: renderings of the plans for the East Bay BRT Project as well as images from cities that have a similar BRT system, lighting improvements, requests from the Allen Temple Arms and the East Bay Business District, public safety, and to highlight that vehicles will be made in the United States.

ii. Preliminary Engineering Status

▪ Progress to date

Director of Capital Projects Dennis Butler reported on the receipt of the Record of Decision and the status of preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and the Project Construction Grant Agreement (PCGA). He added that the BRT would be ready for revenue operation in 2016, and provided an overview of the preliminary engineering schedule as provided in the presentation.

▪ Upcoming Activities

Mr. Butler advised of staffing changes, noting that a Project Engineer had been hired and efforts were underway to find a replacement Program Director.

Director Harper asked what the difference was between the two positions. Mr. Butler advised that a Project Engineer has a more technical background and would be reviewing all of the deliverables associated with the preliminary engineering phase. He added that the Program Director would monitor the overall program direction, schedule, budget, and scope and ensure the project stayed on track to completion. He added that both positions were full time and 100% dedicated to the project.

Mr. Butler advised that pending items from previous meetings would be scheduled to be addressed starting with the next Policy Steering Committee meeting. He further advised that in the next quarter, staff would start identifying the parcels for the right-of-way acquisition, station architecture concepts, landscaping for medians and around the stations, fare collection technology, award of the construction management contract, and community outreach on how the stations should look.

Public Comment:

- Joyce Roy commented that AC Transit needed to hire more operators because of missed runs on lines 12 and 51. She also presented the committee with a report by the City of Oakland on the curbside BRT alternative, noting that there were a lot of opponents of the median lane BRT because of the loss of parking, the removal of traffic lanes and it's unfriendliness to elderly and disabled individuals. *[Councilmember Kaplan requested that a member of staff sit down with Ms. Roy and review the right vs. left lane comparisons. Mr. Cunradi advised that there were a couple of reports on the District's website: 1) Oakland Bus Bulbs and 2) Conflicts with Bikes Evaluation.]*
- Tao Matthews, Northgate Neighbors, commented that the BRT was not appropriate on International Boulevard due impacts to businesses, traffic congestion, loss of jobs, and unwanted truck traffic on side streets. She added that the bus service on lines 40, 1, and the 1R would be adequate if the District used Measure B funds for upgrading the system. She said that many residents and business owners in the affected area have been left out of the process and, purportedly, were not allowed to speak at the community meetings.

DIRECTION WAS GIVEN; NO ACTIONS WERE TAKEN.

6. Schedule Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 21, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

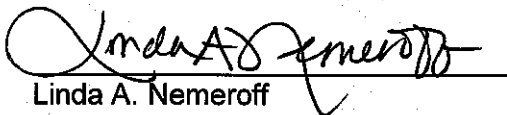
7. Future Agenda Items

There were no new items requested.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. in memory of AC Transit Director of Service Development and Planning, Cory LaVigne.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda A. Nemeroff
District Secretary