

Meeting of the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, June 29, 2017

2:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Board Room

1600 Franklin Street

Oakland, California 94612

PSC Members:

AC Transit:

President Elsa Ortiz, Chair

Director Greg Harper

Director H. E. Christian Peoples

Alameda County (Ex Officio):

Supervisor Nate Miley

Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Caltrans:

District Director Bijan Sartipi

City of Oakland:

Council Member Rebecca Kaplan

Council Member Noel Gallo

City of San Leandro:

Mayor Pauline Cutter

Council Member Corina Lopez

The East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 29, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. with Chair Ortiz presiding.

1. **Roll Call**

Committee Members Present:

President Elsa Ortiz, Chair

Director Greg Harper

Director H. E. Christian Peoples

Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

Councilmember Noel Gallo

Mayor Pauline Cutter

Councilmember Corina Lopez

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisor Nate Miley

Caltrans District Director Bijan Sartipi

AC Transit Staff Present:

General Manager Michael Hursh

General Counsel Denise Standridge

District Secretary Linda Nemeroff

Executive Director of Planning and Engineering Ramakrishna Pochiraju

2. **Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda** *(Two minutes are allowed for each speaker.)*

There was no public comment offered.

3. **Consider Approving the BRT Policy Steering Committee Minutes of March 30, 2017.**

MOTION: PEEPLES/GALLO to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

ABSENT:3: Miley, Sartipi, Lopez (out of seat)

4. **Chair's Report on Pertinent Actions of the AC Transit Board of Directors.**

Chair Ortiz reported on the following:

- Construction in the southern part of the corridor has expanded to include Zone 14 in San Leandro while work continues in Zones 8, 10 and 12 in East Oakland;
- Relocation of the EBMUD waterline in San Leandro has begun and scheduled for completion in early August;
- Area improvements, including upgrades to curb ramps and crosswalk areas with their adjacent sidewalks and drainage systems, and installing foundations for traffic signals and street lights along with new conduit connections and controllers;
- Traffic control plans are in the final stages of approval with the City of Oakland to obtain permits for work In Phase 2 - Zones 9, 11, and 13 which comprise the remainder of the work in Segment A;
- Approval by the AC Transit Board of Directors of the BRT Project Completion Plan (PCP) and its financing component; and
- AC Transit's plan to finance the debt necessary to complete the BRT project will require a more concerted effort and contributions from City Partners, Utility Partners and Funding Partners.

5. **BRT Project Updates:**

[The PowerPoint presentation given at the meeting is incorporated into the file by reference.]

a. **Construction Progress Update.**

Project Manager Mitra Moheb gave an overview of ongoing construction progress along the corridor and what is expected to be accomplished by the end of 2017.

Director Harper asked to what extent feedback on the various utility relocations was being provided to the cities. Ms. Moheb advised that there were regular meetings to communicate issues with the cities along with drawings of all utility work.

Mayor Cutter reported that the City of San Leandro had begun receiving complaints about substandard work and asked to what extent there was a punch list to follow up on some of these issues. Ms. Moheb advised that there were meetings with the contractor pouring the concrete and issues with the work were being discussed. In addition, to address problem areas, a punch list was being performed at the end of the job rather than wait until the end of the project. Mayor Cutter was appreciative of staff's proactive efforts.

Director Peeples asked why staff had not discussed the database used by EBMUD to track street excavations in its response to issues with as-built drawings and wanted to know if the various cities maintained this information and how it was communicated to EBMUD, PG&E, and other utilities. Ms. Moheb explained that the as-built drawings provided to the cities conveyed what has been done to the roadway and impacts to storm drains and sewer lines. EBMUD and the utility companies maintain their own as-built drawings. She added that because AC Transit was not moving any of their utilities, it was not obligated to provide drawings. Councilmember Kaplan encouraged staff to assume that as-built drawings would be wrong and prepare accordingly for that eventuality.

Councilmember Kaplan requested that a high level person from AC Transit check the contractors work and identify punch list work to be performed before complaints are received by the City.

Councilmember Kaplan asked if catchments were being included in the roadwork, to which Ms. Moheb responded that they were being used.

b. BRT Project Completion Plan.

Director of Bus Rapid Transit David Wilkins gave an overview of the Project Completion Plan and its funding requirements and financing component. He further advised that the schedule had slipped to December 2019 for a revenue service start date.

Chair Ortiz asked if the December 2019 revenue start date was firm to which Mr. Wilkins responded that it was a firm date. He added that staff can only estimate what it is going to find with respect to unforeseen conditions and part of the schedule contingency was meant to account for that. President Ortiz commented that at some point, the schedule needed to accelerate, noting that after six months only 8% of the work had been completed.

Councilmember Kaplan agreed that the pace of the work needed to pick up. She asked if the full scope of the project had been communicated to the utility companies in terms of scheduling. Mr. Hursh advised that utility companies were aware of the project and it was the unknown utility conditions that were creating delays. He felt if AC Transit had franchise rights, it would be a lot cheaper for the District which was bearing the financial risk for unknown conditions. Councilmember Kaplan suggested that an item be

agendized for September for the Oakland City Council to address the issue. She felt it was a policy-issue that for-profit utilities bear the cost of correcting the problems that they created.

Councilmember Gallo sought assurance that commitments made to the neighborhoods and businesses along International Boulevard were met. Mr. Hursh advised that AC Transit was committed, and to demonstrate its commitment, was prepared to borrow \$36 million to ensure the project was built to meet the commitments that were made. Councilmember Kaplan acknowledged that there could be further cost savings if the construction schedule were accelerated.

Director Harper mentioned that the Transbay Joint Powers Authority issued bonds that were purchased by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which made money off of the transaction. He suggested a similar approach for this project.

Councilmember Gallo inquired about cost mitigations, in particular the alternative pavement sections. Mr. Hursh assured him that AC Transit was committed to the lifetime of the payment and that engineers had verified that the pavement would last and would be safer for the aging EBMUD utilities underneath it.

Mayor Cutter asked if it was appropriate for San Leandro, Oakland and AC Transit and perhaps the Alameda County Transportation Commission to seek cooperation from Caltrans in helping to pave the roadway since they would have to repave it anyway. She felt this could help with the project's bottom line. Mr. Hursh advised that staff would investigate this alternative and asked elected officials to assist in Sacramento to assist with Caltrans.

c. Community Outreach Update.

External Affairs Representative Claudia Burgos gave an update on current outreach activities and participation in job fairs.

d. Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy Workforce Goals.

Associate Management Analyst Phillip Halley gave an update on Local Hire, Apprentice Utilization and Disadvantaged Worker participation goals. Andrea Lowe of A Squared Ventures was also available to address questions.

Councilmember Lopez expressed concern with the progress to date toward reaching the workforce goals and wanted to know what the timeframe was for improving the numbers. With regard to local hiring, she also asked how many San Leandro residents were working on the project. Mr. Hursh advised that Staff would research these questions and follow-up with a written response.

Councilmember Kaplan wanted to make sure that real action was being taken with respect to the goals and meeting the minimum threshold. She was also interested to know what else staff believes could be done to improve the numbers. Chair Ortiz advised that the AC Transit Board was concerned about the numbers and was trying to remedy the situation. Mr. Hursh advised that the progress toward the goals would be provided monthly to the AC Transit Board as well as at PSC meetings. In addition, prime contractors and sub-contractors had been asked to provide evidence of their good faith efforts.

Councilmember Gallo commented that the area where the BRT was being built had the highest unemployment rate in Oakland at 9%. Councilmember Kaplan offered that AC Transit should also be looking at a career path for apprentices on the project to become bus operators.

Councilmember Lopez asked if AC Transit advertised job opportunities in San Leandro's local newspaper. Director of Legislative Affairs and Community Relations Beverly Greene advised that staff was looking to advertise in local and ethnic papers. Councilmember Kaplan urged staff to act sooner rather than later.

6. Schedule Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

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

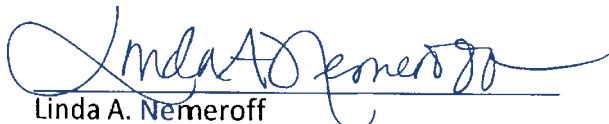
The Committee requested an update on hiring and advertising for jobs.

Councilmember Kaplan requested a discussion of alternatives for a different northern route such as MLK or Adeline that would extend the BRT into Berkeley.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda A. Nemeroff
District Secretary