

# East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee



## MINUTES

Friday, September 16, 2011  
4:00 pm

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

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### 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 Ursula Reed

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Caltrans:**  
District Director Bijan Sartipi

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The East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee held a meeting on Friday, September 16, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with Chair Ortiz Presiding.

### 1. Roll Call

#### Committee Members Present:

President Elsa Ortiz  
Director Greg Harper  
Director Mark Williams  
Vice Mayor Michael Gregory  
Councilmember Ursula Reed  
Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan  
District Director Bijan Sartipi

#### Committee Members Absent:

Supervisor Nate Miley  
Vice Mayor Ignacio De La Fuente

#### AC Transit Staff Present:

Director of Planning and Service Development Tina Spencer  
Transportation Planner Jim Cunradi  
District Secretary Linda Nemeroff

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

There was no public comment offered.

### 3. Approval of the minutes from May 20, 2011.

**MOTION: KAPLAN/GREGORY** to approve the minutes as presented (5-0-1-2).

Ayes: Councilmember Kaplan, Vice Mayor Gregory, Directors Harper, Williams, President Ortiz – 5

Noes: None – 0

Abstain: District Director Sartipi – 1

Absent: Supervisor Miley, Vice Mayor De La Fuente – 2

#### **4. Chair's Report on Pertinent Actions of the AC Transit Board *Presented by Elsa Ortiz***

AC Transit Board President Elsa Ortiz reported on recent Board actions and ongoing efforts, including:

- The adoption of a two-year balanced budget aimed at preserving the highest level of service possible to riders;
- The approval of new contracts with IBEW and AFSCME with similar provisions approved for unrepresented employees;
- The search for a new General Manager and General Counsel; and
- Approval of a \$1.6 million contract amendment with Cambridge Systematics to conduct additional engineering work associated with the center-running dual door bus project.

**Information only.**

#### **5. Briefing/Information Items *Presented by AC Transit Staff***

##### **A. Project Status Review**

Director of Service Development and Planning Tina Spencer provided an overview of the following:

- Update on the recruitment of a BRT Director for engineering and construction;
- Procurement of a design team;
- Branding;
- Program management/project controls;
- Right-of-way consultants;
- Vehicles;
- Delays associated with the dual door project which provided an opportunity allow extensive project development with City and Caltrans input;
- Agreement with key city staff and community stakeholders on major concerns;
- Upcoming third party agreements;
- Reductions in traffic and parking impacts along the corridor; and
- BRT Project schedule.

Ms. Spencer further presented information on the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), the Downtown Oakland-San Leandro (DOSL) Alternative, and the budget and funding plan for the project.

President Ortiz inquired about the stability of federal funding. Ms. Spencer advised that it was unlikely that funding for the project would be impacted due to its high ranking.

##### **B. Response to Community Concerns: Project Modifications & Mitigations**

Project Manager Jim Cunradi provided an overview of community concerns and mitigations with regard to:

- 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Havenscourt and International Boulevard; and
- 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and International Boulevard.

Councilmember Gregory asked if there was a way to encourage safe routes to schools within the BRT corridor. Ms. Spencer advised that while this was not an AC Transit issue, through the study of the corridor issues had been identified that the

cities weren't aware of. She added that the District would like to help the cities accomplish some of their ancillary needs.

Mr. Sartipi commented that while he did not have specifics available, Caltrans staff was concerned about the number of intersections impacted and was waiting for traffic studies to be provided. Mr. Cunradi reported that in areas where traffic impacts could not be mitigated, the BRT was compromised. He added that the use of dual-sided buses would also provide some small benefits to traffic. He added that staff would provide new traffic data to Caltrans in the near future.

Councilmember Kaplan thanked staff for their efforts to work with Allen Temple to resolve the parking issues and the identification of a site to provide accessible public parking. She further commented on an idea for a senior eco pass program for some of the senior facilities along the corridor. She added that it could divert people from paratransit and possibly save money.

### **C. Next Steps in Approval Process**

Project Manager Jim Cunradi provided an overview of the outreach schedule for the project:

- September 2011 - Engineering drawings updated to accommodate dual-sided buses
- October 2011 – Revised project AFEIS delivered to FTA
- January 2012 – FEIS released for public review with public meetings in Oakland and San Leandro
- April 2012 – Agency Public Hearing on FEIS/R Certification
- August 2012 – Record of decision

Mr. Sartipi requested that the traffic reports be submitted to Caltrans within the next two weeks to ensure there would be no delays in the work Caltrans had to perform before January.

Director of Service Development and Planning Tina Spencer provided an overview of the next steps:

- Establish parameters for third party agreements, including maintenance, operations and recapitalization;
- Begin preliminary engineering; and
- Right of way planning and acquisition.

Councilmember Kaplan wanted to make sure that guided docking for level boarding was taken into account during the engineering phase of the project and during vehicle selection.

In addition, she wanted to ensure that the following items were taken into consideration:

- Good pedestrian lighting at and around bus stops;
- Trade fewer bulbouts for more lighting;
- That bike lanes were not depicted in areas of Oakland where bike lanes were not permitted;
- That there be sufficient electrical conduit in the median to support lighting and Nextbus;

- Safety personnel; and
- Traffic alignment and potential mitigations on East 12<sup>th</sup> near Fruitvale and High Street.

Councilmember Gregory thanked Mr. Sartipi for helping with Safe Routes to Schools because of the value it lends to the success of the project and the overall goal of complete streets.

In addition, Councilmember Gregory asked staff to elaborate on the Request for Proposals concerning branding. Ms. Spencer advised that it was predicated on focus groups, meetings within the community and the understanding of how the community views the service. She added that it would create an identity for the BRT Project and also look at on-street treatments that would reinforce the brand throughout the corridor. Councilmember Gregory commented that the branding should be developed sooner rather than later as it would help make the project and service more desirable.

Lastly, Councilmember Gregory commented on the need for security and for passengers to feel safe using the service. He added that pedestrian scale lighting would be important in making patrons/pedestrians feel safe.

Director Harper commented that Measure B3 was going to be focused more on transportation and less on ancillary things. Ms. Spencer advised that AC Transit has a project in the Countywide Plan for additional streetscape and bike/pedestrian improvements on the corridor.

**Items 5A-C was provided for Information only.**

**6. Schedule Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

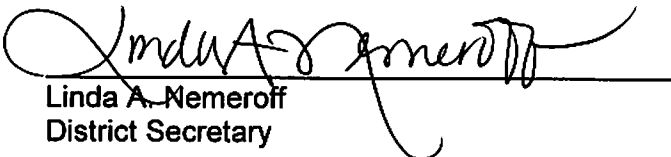
**7. Future Agenda Items**

- Councilmember Kaplan requested updated graphic depictions of the project and new publicity materials which reflected the concept of dual-door buses.
- Councilmember Gregory commented that he was looking forward to the report on branding.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Linda A. Nemeroff  
District Secretary