



MINUTES

Friday, May 20, 2011
3:00 pm

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

PSC Members:

AC Transit Board:

President Elsa Ortiz, Committee Chair
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

The East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee held a meeting on Friday, May 20, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 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 (arrived at 3:09 p.m.)
Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisor Nate Miley
Bijan Sartip
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

There was no public comment offered for items not on the agenda.

3. Approval of the minutes from May 21, 2010

Director of Planning and Service Development Tina Spencer advised that since a majority of the members in attendance at the last meeting were not present, staff was recommending that the minutes be received by the Committee.

MOTION: KAPLAN/ORTIZ to receive the Consent Calendar as presented (4-0-1-4).

Ayes: Kaplan, Ortiz, Harper, Gregory – 4
Noes: None – 0
Abstain: Williams – 1
Absent: Miley, Sartipi, De La Fuente, Reed – 4

4. Chair's Report & Pertinent Actions of the AC Transit Board

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

- The Budget deficit and efforts to consolidate operations and reduce administrative costs;
- Approval of a multi-year fare structure;
- Operational efforts to function more efficiently;
- The District's budgetary goals, including Service Reliability, Financial Viability, and Staff Accountability;
- The benefits of the BRT Project to riders and affected communities;
- Changes in the composition of the BRT Policy Steering Committee;
- Issuance of a Request For Proposals for engineering and design of the BRT Project; and
- Creation of a new classification specification for Director of Bus Rapid Transit.

Information only.

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

A. Project Status Review

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

- Small Starts Update
- Project Funding Plan
- FEIS/FEIR Schedule

Discussion ensued regarding the funding gap for the project. Ms. Spencer advised that that \$26.6 million was the funding gap for the full-build project for the Oakland and San Leandro.

B. Response to Community Concerns: Project Modifications & Mitigations

Transportation Planner Jim Cunradi provided an overview of the following:

- Overview of Approach
- Dual-Sided Buses as mitigation strategy
- Parking mitigation approach
 - Measure Parking Demand
 - Adopt best technology-dual sided buses
 - Survey available parking nearby
 - Identify shortages and propose replacement lots
 - Ensure that parking revenue is maintained

Discussion ensued regarding parking mitigation and efforts to help offset the loss of parking, including the construction of parking structures. Mr. Cunradi explained that while there were no specific rules and regulations governing parking mitigation, the general consensus among parking professionals was a 15% vacancy rate during peak hours. He further added that dual door buses would lessen the impact as would advertisements and incentives to use transit. With regard to parking structures, Mr. Cunradi reported that currently no neighborhood would require one; however, some neighborhoods could need a parking lot, which would be built as part of the project and potentially turned over to the city to maintain and operate.

Councilmember Kaplan suggested a senior eco-pass as a possible mitigation measure for senior centers and wanted to know about the timeline for working with communities on specific mitigations agreements. Ms. Spencer advised that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) must have mitigations for parking and will solidify all the areas that need mitigations. She added that mitigation agreements would likely not be with specific community groups but with the city.

Councilmember Reed inquired about the costs associated with dual door buses. Ms. Spencer advised that staff had submitted a grant request for the buses that was unsuccessful; however, given that the technology was worth pursuing, staff was working with the region to help fund the difference in cost. In addition, Ms. Spencer advised that by eliminating one of the platforms, it mitigated some traffic issues and some construction costs that would offset the additional cost of the vehicle.

Councilmember Kaplan commented on the depiction of bike lanes on East 14th/International in portions of East Oakland even though this area had not been designated for bike lanes in the Oakland Bicycle Master Plan. She added that the final environmental document needed to accurately reflect where bike lanes were. Ms. Spencer advised that staff would be working with the city to ensure accuracy in the revised document.

Councilmember Kaplan suggested that for the next round of public outreach, it might be helpful to show photos of cities that actually have a BRT system up and running.

C. Next Steps in Approval Process

Director of Planning and Service Development Tina Spencer provided an update on the next steps in the approval process:

- Incorporate the Oakland Staff Recommendation into the FEIS/FEIR;
- Review of San Leandro Recommendation and incorporate into the FEIS/FEIR;
- Re-submit FEIS/FEIR for FTA review;
- Release FEIS/FEIR for public review;
- Oakland Council approval;
- San Leandro Council approval; and
- Adoption of project by AC Transit and Federal Transit Administration (NOD, ROD).

Items 5A-C were provided for Information only.

6. Discussion of the future meeting schedule

Consensus to hold future meetings quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

7. Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Kaplan requested the following:

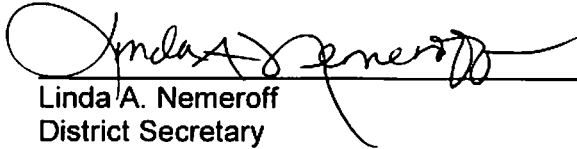
- That Pedestrian Safety be a regular topic on the agenda once the committee starts meeting more regularly. She suggested that future discussion include ways the project will enhance pedestrian safety, including lighting improvements around bus shelters as well as level boarding and perhaps guided docking;
- Information about the use of the BRT lane for emergency vehicles; and
- An update on the road paving aspects of the project and expectations.

Director Harper suggested that Gillig be given advance notice to determine whether a dual sided bus is something they are interested in bidding on.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda A. Nemeroff
District Secretary