
FEBRUARY 11, 2015

**AGENDA PACKET
AC TRANSIT
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015
12:30 P.M.**

INDEX OF ATTACHMENTS

1. **Minutes from January 13, 2015**
2. **Lift/Ramp Road Call Report**
3. **MCI Fleet Lift Report**
4. **Wheelchair Lift Cycling Report – MCI (6000 Series)**
5. **AAC Letter to the Board Re: Bus Design and Accessibility**

**MEETING LOCATION
AC TRANSIT
1600 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
12:30 P.M.
Oakland, California 94612**

**For additional information about the Accessibility Advisory Committee
contact Tammy Kylo, Secretary to the Committee, at 510-891-7175**

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FEBRUARY 11, 2015

**AGENDA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
AC TRANSIT
1600 FRANKLIN STREET, OAKLAND, CA 94612
12:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015
REGULAR MEETING**

AAC MEMBERS:

JANET ABELSON

SHIRLEY CRESSEY

STEVE FORT

YULI JACOBSON

JAMES ROBSON

DEBORAH TAYLOR

HALE ZUKAS, VICE CHAIR

SCOTT BLANKS, CHAIR

PAMELA FADEM

JIM GONSALVES

DON QUEEN

WILL SCOTT

MARINA VILLENA

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Staff Members and Guests
2. Order of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes for January 13, 2014 [Attachment 1]
4. Review of Lift/Ramp Road Call Report [Attachment 2]
5. Review of MCI Fleet Lift Report and Wheelchair Lift Cycling Report–MCI (6000 Series) [Attachments 3 & 4]
6. AAC Letter to the Board Re: Bus Design and Accessibility [Attachment 5]
7. Public Comments
8. Member Communications and Announcements
9. Staff Communications and Announcements
10. Set Next Agenda & Meeting Date
11. Adjournment

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ATTACHMENTS:

Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2015	[Attachment 1]
Lift/Ramp Road Call Report	[Attachment 2]
MCI Fleet Lift Report	[Attachment 3]
Wheelchair Lift Cycling Report	[Attachment 4]
AAC Letter to the Board Re: Bus Design and Accessibility	[Attachment 5]

Staff to the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager	(510) 891-7213
Kim Ridgeway, Accessible Services Specialist	(510) 891-7261
Tammy Kylo, Administrative Coordinator	(510) 891-7175

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: AC Transit will provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. Please send a written request, including your name, mailing address, phone number and brief description of the requested materials and preferred alternative format or auxiliary aid or service to Linda Nemeroff, District Secretary, AC Transit, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Written requests will be honored for the calendar year in which the request was made, but must be renewed after January 1 for the next calendar year with the same information listed above.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER: A sign language interpreter will gladly be provided for persons with a hearing impairment. If an interpreter is needed for a specific meeting, please call (510) 891-7175 at least **five days** prior to the meeting.

NO SCENTED PRODUCTS: Please refrain from wearing scented products at the meeting, as there may be persons present with environmental illnesses.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS: Speakers wishing to address subjects not listed on this agenda will be invited to address the committee under the “public comments” section of the agenda. Speakers who wish to address a specific agenda item will be invited to address the committee at the time the item is being considered. Time limitations: Individuals addressing the committee should limit their comments to three (3) minutes.

**ATTACHMENT 1
DRAFT MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE AC TRANSIT
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
JANUARY 13, 2015**

The meeting came to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

AAC members present:

Janet Abelson	Scott Blanks, Chair
Shirley Cressey	Pam Fadem
Steve Fort	Jim Gonsalves (arrived at 1:16 p.m.)
Don Queen	James Robson
Will Scott	Hale Zukas, Vice Chair

AAC members absent:

Yuli Jacobson (excused)	Deborah Taylor
Marina Villena (excused)	

Staff: Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager
Kimberly Ridgeway, Accessible Services Specialist
Mary Archer, Transit Project Supervisor

Guests: Mary Fowler
Randall Glock
Jerry Grace

2. Order of Agenda

The order of the agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Robson/Fadem approved the November 11, 2014 AAC meeting minutes.
The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES – 9: Abelson, Blanks, Fadem, Queen, Robson, Scott, Villena, Zukas

ABSTENTIONS – 1: Cressey

ABSENT – 3: Gonsalves, Jacobson, Taylor, Villena

4. Discussion of Alternative Bus Stop Lighting at Various Properties

Mary Archer, Transit Project Supervisor, reported on alternative bus stop lighting. Mary provided samples of some low tech, low cost personal illumination devices such as flashlights, lighted key chains, bike lights, reflective clothing and cell phone flash light applications. Mary also provided the Committee with a list and photos of

alternative bus stop lighting options including reflective bus stop flags, reflective tape, solar powered shelter lights, and stand-alone solar street lights, each with prices ranging from \$15 - \$9,000 per bus stop pole. Mary also reported that Muni will be incorporating one of the solar powered bus stop lighting alternatives in the next few months. Mary will keep the committee updated on status of installations.

After some discussion the Committee offered the following considerations:

- Develop community and driver outreach and surveys to get feedback about which bus stops are most in need of additional lighting.
- Review the bus stop database to ensure lighting is one of the attributes captured.
- Work with the Marketing Department to create correspondence to the public suggesting options for personal illumination while at bus stops, including language on the AC Transit website and e-news blast.

The Committee asked for a report on these efforts at a subsequent meeting.

5. Update on Upcoming Vehicle Demonstrations and Joint Board Meeting in February

The Committee has a joint meeting with the Board of Directors on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm in the 4th Floor Conference room, which will begin with a demonstration of a 1300 and 1400 series buses as well as a WestCat vehicle that has a 1:6 ramp.

Pam Fadem requested that the most recent letter to the Board from the AAC regarding accessibility concerns of the bus configuration be added to the February 11, 2015 packet.

The Committee decided to hold a brief AAC meeting prior to the Joint Board meeting, which will commence at 1:00 pm.

6. Report on Driver Training Participation

Kimberly Ridgeway, Accessible Services Specialist, reported that the 2nd AAC/New Bus Operator (NBO) training class was held on January 7, 2015. AAC Members Janet Abelson, Shirley Cressey, and Don Queen were in attendance. The training began with introductions, followed by the Committee members explaining their expectations of AC Transit and bus operators. The training concluded with the 15 NBO's experiencing hands on training with each of the Committee members. Janet, Shirley and Don all commented on how receptive, enthusiastic and highly motivated this class of trainees was and how they each enjoyed the experience.

7. Selection of Two Volunteers for NBO Training Classes (Feb 4, Mar 11)

Kimberly Ridgeway, Accessible Services Specialist, stated that the next two AAC/NBO classes are scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th and Wednesday, March

11th. Kimberly stated that she would send a reminder email to solicit 2-3 volunteers for each of the upcoming dates.

8. Chair's Report

None.

9. Board Liaison Report

None.

10. Review of Lift/Ramp Road Call Report

The report for the period of November 2 – December 20, 2014, showed 23 lift/ramp road calls. Of these 23 road calls, ten were chargeable or mechanical. Pam Fadem reiterated that several road calls were due to debris in the tracks and stated that drivers should be provided with a brush to be able to remove debris from the ramp in order to avoid a road call.

11. Review of MCI Fleet Lift Report and Wheelchair Lift Cycling Report – MCI (6000 Series)

The Committee reviewed the MCI Fleet Lift Report and Wheelchair Lift Cycling Report. Drivers are continuing to do a great job in cycling the lifts during the pre-trip with the average percentage of cycled lifts above 93% daily. The Committee will continue to see this report through February 2015.

12. Service Review Advisory Committee (SRAC) Report

Janet Abelson reported that the SRAC met on January 6, 2015 and received reports on the East Bay Paratransit Broker Office Relocation, Emergency Planning, and Implementation of the Interactive Voice Response System (IVR). The next SRAC meeting will be held on March 3, 2015.

13. Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) PAPCO Report

None.

14. Public Comments

None.

15. Member Communications and Announcements

Steve Fort reported that the Automated Voice Announcement (AVA) and the GPS system on Line 12 are not in sync. The AVA stated that the bus is at the end of the line when it's at Alston and Shattuck but the route continues on. Staff responded that this information will be forwarded to the AVA department.

16. Staff Communications and Announcements

Mallory Nestor-Brush, Accessible Services Manager, stated that the District Secretary is no longer automatically sending Board Agendas electronically and those who would like to receive them should sign up for AC Transit e-news.

Mallory also stated that 2015 is the 25th Anniversary of the ADA and stated that this year would be a good time to highlight people with disabilities riding AC Transit.

Kimberly Ridgeway, Accessible Services Specialist, asked each Committee member to indicate if he/she would like to continue as an AAC member in the upcoming year by show of hands. Each member in attendance responded in the affirmative. This information will be forwarded to the District Secretary. Recruitment to fill the empty AAC spot will begin January 1, 2015.

17. Set Next Agenda & Meeting Date

The next AAC Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1600 Franklin Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Oakland, CA.

18. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 2
 Lift /Ramp Road Call Report
 December 21, 2014 – January 24, 2015

Coach Series	Type	Date	Coach #	Line #	Operator Length of Service	Problem Reported	Problem Found <i>* Indicates Chargeable</i>
4000 (NABI)	Lift	12/31/15	4056	57	25-60 mos.	B.O. LIFT, BURNING SMELL	B.O. HYDRAULIC POWER UNIT*
4000 (NABI)	Lift	1/22/15	4090	O	60+ mos.	KNEELER STUCK ON RAISE	KNEELER VALVE B.O.*
6000 (MCI-Ricon)	Lift	1/15/15	6039	U	60+ mos.	KNEELER ALARM ON	OPERATOR ERROR
6000 (MCI-Ricon)	Lift	1/13/15	6076	OX	60+ mos.	STUCK LIFT	OPERATOR ERROR
1000 (VH-Ricon)	Ramp	1/16/15	1036	51A	12-24 mos.	SECUREMENT DRAWER LATCH B.O	ROAD HAZARD
1000 (VH-Ricon)	Ramp	1/20/15	1036	45	60+ mos.	SECUREMENT DRAWER B.O.	ROAD HAZARD
1000 (VH-Ricon)	Ramp	1/5/15	1043	F	25-60 mos.	BROKEN DRAWER	B.O. DRAWER LATCH AND MOTOR*
1000 (VH-Ricon)	Ramp	12/26/15	1043	72	25-60 mos.	B.O. RAMP	RAMP CHECKED OK
1000 (VH-Ricon)	Ramp	1/20/15	1051	45	60+ mos.	STOW LIGHT ON, BUS WON'T MOVE	DEFECTIVE FUSE AT LOGIC CONTROLLER *
1000 (VH-Ricon)	Ramp	1/14/15	1065	18	60+ mos.	DOOR WON'T OPEN FOR RAMP	NO PROBLEM FOUND
1300 (Lift U)	Ramp	12/29/15	1362	74	25-60 mos.	RAMP WON'T DEPLOY	PULL RING/LATCH B.O.*
1400 (Lift U)	Ramp	1/12/15	1437	73	25-60 mos.	W/CHAIR DAMAGED RAMP	ROAD HAZARD
1400 (Lift U)	Ramp	12/31/15	1448	45	60+ mos.	WARNING LIGHT & AND INTERLOCKS	RAMP CHECKED OK
5000 (VH-Ricon)	Ramp	12/29/15	5014	31	60+ mos.	KNEELER WON'T RAISE	B.O. KNEELER SWITCH*

Coach Series	Type	Date	Coach #	Line #	Operator Length of Service	Problem Reported	Problem Found * Indicates Chargeable
5100 (VH-Ricon)	Ramp	12/23/15	5128	212	25-60 mos.	REAR DOOR OFF HINGE	DEBRIS UNDER RAMP
4000 (NABI)	Lift	12/31/15	4056	57	25-60 mos.	B.O. LIFT, BURNING SMELL	B.O. HYDRAULIC POWER UNIT*
4000 (NABI)	Lift	1/22/15	4090	O	60+ mos.	KNEELER STUCK ON RAISE	KNEELER VALVE B.O.*

Operator Length of Service Totals:

0-6 Mos: **1** Operator; 7-12 Mos: **0** Operators; 12-24 Mos: **1** Operators; 25-60 Mos: **3** Operators; 60+ Mos: **18** Operators
 (63) (27) (131) (163) (866)

Series	Year Added	Type	Qty
1000	2003	True Low Floor Standard (40 ft.)	95
1200	2008	True Low Floor Standard (40 ft.) <Van Hool>	27
1300	2013	Standard Low Floor (40 ft) Gillig	65
1400	2014	Standard Low Floor (40 ft) Gillig	30
2000	2003	True Low Floor Articulated	47
2100	2006-2009	Suburban Articulated	33
2200	2013	Standard Low Floor (60 ft.) <New Flyer>	23
4000	2000-2002	Standard Low Floor (40 ft.) <NABI>	47
5000	2006	Low Floor Standard (30 ft.)	51
5100	2009	Low Floor Standard (30 ft.)	39
6000	2000-2003	Commuter Coaches <MCI>	46
6100	2013	Commuter Coaches (40 ft.) <Gillig>	54
FC	2010	Fuel Cell Standard (40 ft.)	12
<i>Total</i>			569
<i>* Please note the 7200's are classified as 4000 series buses.</i>			

ATTACHMENT 3**MCI FLEET LIFT REPORT – JANUARY 24, 2015**

Listed below is the weekly report of the MCI wheelchair lift status at All Divisions.

Total All Divisions Lifts	<u>46</u>
Working Lifts	<u>46</u>
B.O. Lifts waiting repair	<u>0</u>
P.M. inspections remaining	<u>0</u>
P.M. inspections complete	<u>3</u>
Roadcalls	<u>0</u>

B.O. by Division

Emeryville	E. Oakland	Hayward
0	0	0

Repaired by Division

Emeryville	E. Oakland	Hayward
0	4	2

P.M. Inspections Due by Division

Emeryville	E. Oakland	Hayward
0	0	0

P.M. Inspections Completed by Division

Emeryville	E. Oakland	Hayward
0	2	1

ATTACHMENT 4
Wheelchair Lift Cycling Report
December 21, 2014 – January 24, 2015

Date	Number of Lifts Cycled	Percentage of Fleet
12/22/14	80	87%
12/23/14	84	91%
12/24/14	87	95%
12/26/14	85	92%
12/29/14	88	96%
12/30/14	87	95%
12/31/14	85	92%
1/2/15	88	96%
1/5/15	88	96%
1/6/15	88	96%
1/7/15	86	93%
1/8/15	86	93%
1/9/15	92	100%
1/12/15	82	89%
1/13/15	85	92%
1/14/15	85	92%
1/15/15	84	91%
1/16/15	84	91%
1/20/15	85	92%
1/21/15	80	87%
1/22/15	83	90%
1/23/15	82	89%
12/22/14	80	87%
12/23/14	84	91%

Note:

- This report is for the MCI fleet only (46 active vehicles).
- Coaches are put into service twice a day.
- This report is only for vehicles in service on dates listed.
- MCI's Operate only Monday – Friday.

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ATTACHMENT 5
AAC Letter to the Board Re: Bus Design and Accessibility

070814 – AAC Gillig Letter

To: Greg Harper, President and all AC Transit Board Members

From: Scott Blanks, Chair AAC

Re: Gillig bus accessibility

Now that 65 of the new model Gillig buses have been on AC Transit routes for approximately one year, members of the AAC and many members of the public have experience on daily routes that we feel is important to share with the Board before more of these buses are delivered and put out on the road. We have specific recommendations for bus modifications that we hope AC Transit will consider to insure that seniors and people with disabilities can enjoy a “Better Ride” as the current campaign advertises.

As a brief reminder, we point you to the November 16, 2012 AAC letter to the Board regarding the prototype of the Gillig bus. We raised many concerns about accessibility at that time. Now that the buses are on the road, here are the specific problems with access that AAC members and members of the public report:

- Front entry ramp is too steep, making entry and exit very difficult.
- Angle from front entrance past wheel well into the bus aisle is too tight to safely navigate for people with walkers, wheelchairs and other mobility aids.
- Bus aisle is too narrow. If a person in a standard size wheelchair enters the bus facing forward, it is either very difficult or impossible to turn around and back into the wheelchair securement area. AAC members have had to remove foot rests from wheelchairs to make these maneuvers. This is neither safe nor is it possible for many people.
- Because of NARROW AISLE, when both wheelchair securement areas are occupied, there is little room left for walking passengers to pass by to the rest of the seating areas. This creates terrible congestion at front of the bus.
- The flip seats in the wheelchair securement areas are too wide when they are flipped up, preventing wheelchairs from parking out of the aisle.

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- Modesty Panels behind wheelchair securement areas are so wide, that they prevent strollers, shopping carts or even large walkers from being able to pass through. Again, this leads to front of bus congestion and the only two wheelchair securement areas are often utilized by those without mobility needs.
- Rear stairs lack any hand rail or bannister. This makes the stairs many passengers, especially seniors and all with any mobility concerns. We have seen young people slip on these steep stairs.

The AAC would like to recommend the following modifications that could be made to the current fleet and some changes that we think are possible to make to future buses before they are delivered to AC Transit:

1. Narrower modesty panels to allow walkers, strollers, shopping carts and passengers to navigate past the first 8 seats on the bus.
2. Change the flip seats (both front and rear) to individual rather than attached seats and to a narrower seat that folds closer to the bus wall.
3. Add stanchions or banisters to steps for safety.
4. Widen the rear door. This would resolve the steep front ramp, sharp angle and front of bus congestion. so wheelchairs can enter there.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to conversation with the Board about these recommendations. Our concern is for the safety and accessibility of our fleet as the Gillig bus becomes the 'bus of the future' for AC Transit. Unfortunately it does *not* provide a "Better Ride" for seniors or people with disabilities. In fact, it makes it a more difficult and uncomfortable ride for all AC Transit customers.

Regards,

Scott Blanks, Chairperson, AAC