

Special Meeting: East Bay Bus Rapid Transit  
Policy Steering Committee



**MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

10:00 a.m.

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

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**PSC Members:**

**AC Transit:**

Director Elsa Ortiz, Chair  
President Greg Harper  
Director Joel Young

**Alameda County (Ex Officio):**

Supervisor Nate Miley

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Caltrans:**

District Director Bijan Sartipi

**City of Oakland:**

Councilmember Noel Gallo  
Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

**City of San Leandro:**

Councilmember Michael Gregory  
Councilmember Pauline Cutter

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The East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Policy Steering Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday, April 30, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. with Chair Ortiz Presiding.

**1. Roll Call**

**Committee Members Present:**

Director Elsa Ortiz, Chair  
President Greg Harper  
Director Joel Young  
Councilmember Pauline Cutter  
Councilmember Noel Gallo  
Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

**Committee Members Absent:**

Supervisor Nate Miley  
Councilmember Michael Gregory  
Caltrans District Director Bijan Sartipi

**AC Transit Staff Present:**

General Manager David J. Armijo  
Interim General Counsel Denise Standridge  
District Secretary Linda Nemeroff  
Chief Planning and Development Officer Dennis Butler  
Director of BRT David Wilkins

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment offered.

### **3. Chair's Report on pertinent actions of the AC Transit Board of Directors**

Chair Ortiz reported on the following actions/activities which occurred since the last Policy Steering Committee meeting:

- On April 23, 2014, the AC Transit Board of Directors approved the supplemental environmental document, which outlines changes in the project since the approval of the Record of Decision by the Federal Transit Administration in 2012. No update of the Environmental Impact Statement was required.
- On April 23, 2014, the AC Transit Board of Directors approved the selection of the lead artists for the BRT Project.
- Ongoing collaborative efforts between staff at the City of Oakland and AC Transit to refine new draft business/parking impact and mitigation plans.

Chief Planning and Development Officer Dennis Butler introduced a video highlighting the features and benefits of the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Project. Multi-lingual versions of the video are in development. In addition, Mr. Butler advised that while the 65% Design Plan has been delayed, he did not anticipate any delays in the approval process or in the delivery of the project.

With regard to the video, members of the Committee offered the following comments:

- The guided docking and level boarding features should be included;
- Locations shown in the video should be relevant to the project corridor;
- More emphasis should be given to the cooperative efforts between the cities and AC Transit, including the significance and value of the project to the local community; and
- More focus on connectivity, customer service, and growth for the local community.

Director of BRT David Wilkins advised that the video would be used for community outreach and outreach to businesses and would be available on the website and at the BRT Information Center. Councilmembers Kaplan and Cutter offered to display the video on their city's television channel.

#### **Discussion Items (Workshop):**

### **4. Business Impact Mitigation Plan**

Director of BRT David Wilkins gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Business Impact Mitigation Plan [copies of the slides are incorporated into the file by reference] and the five major sections of the plan.

Councilmember Gallo requested information that clearly identifies the ownership of businesses in the Oakland Council District 5 area from Fruitvale to Seminary Avenue, noting that it would be helpful in terms of notifying businesses of the need to make necessary repairs and/or cleaning.

#### ***City of Oakland Business Sustainability Program***

Aliza Gallo, City of Oakland Economic Development Manager, gave an overview of the proposed City of Oakland Business Sustainability Program and its major components. She advised that the city was looking to AC Transit to possibly underwrite the regular construction impact program as well as the Business/Merchant Technical Assistance Program element of the Business Sustainability Program. She added that city staff has presented a proposal to AC Transit staff to request an allocation of project savings to fund

the Technical Assistance Program. In addition, the Oakland City Council will also be asked to contribute funding and dedicate resources in July.

With regard to mitigation efforts, Councilmember Cutter suggested that businesses receive advertising on buses along the route and bus passes that can be used by customers to travel to and from the business.

With regard to the City of Oakland Business Re-establishment Fund, Councilmember Kaplan maintained that the Conditions of Approval required the project to fund business interruption and re-establishment. Chair Ortiz pointed out that the Federal Transit Administration placed limitations and restrictions on how business mitigation funds were used and wanted assurance from the District's General Counsel that she was participating in meetings and decisions regarding this issue in order to ensure the District's compliance with FTA rules. Interim General Counsel Denise Standridge advised that she had been consulted and was actively participating in the process.

President Harper was skeptical of the use of value engineering as a means to control costs and strongly urged the Committee's review of any changes to the project, noting that it may not be worth it to sacrifice long-term amenities for short-term benefits. He added that value engineered changes should be circulated for approval by all involved, otherwise problems/litigation may surface later on. Councilmember Kaplan concurred.

Councilmember Gallo commented that various business groups and the public had all received different (not necessarily wrong) information, which was creating confusion and unnecessary objections and debates. He stressed the importance and need for a clear, well defined and consistent plan with a timeline that business owners and merchants could rely on. He added that any legal issues also need to be worked out before an issue comes before the Committee. He asked General Manager Armijo to ensure the Committee has received specific, concrete information; otherwise confusion within the community would continue.

Director Young inquired about business mitigations and costs. Mr. Wilkins advised that a total of \$8 million was projected to be allocated for the Business Impact Mitigation fund for Oakland and San Leandro. In addition, Ms. Gallo discussed City's Business Sustainability Program and the funding and services that could be available.

**Public Comment:**

- Andy Nelson, EBAYC, distributed a proposal for the International Boulevard Merchants Joint BRT Business Impact Mitigation (distributed handout). He appealed to the Committee to consider the businesses in addressing the impacts during the project.
- Maria Campos, business owner, complained about the loss of parking and traffic impacts to her business and the surrounding area. [Mr. Wilkins advised that he has spoken to Ms. Campos about many of her concerns and that staff would meet with her again to revisit the issues raised.]

The item was presented for information only.

**5. Parking Impact Mitigation Plan**

Senior Project Manager Mitra Moheb gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Parking Impact Mitigation Plan [copies of the slides are incorporated into the file by reference].

Councilmember Kaplan wanted to make sure the Committee discussed the policy issues of loading zones, enforcement, dealing with broken down cars, etc. She also asked that staff have a conversation about the new Environmental Protection Agency requirements concerning sewer laterals, noting that it may make sense to integrate this work into the project.

With regard to the relocation of commercial loading zones, Ms. Moheb advised that, in some areas, two loading zones on the same block will be merged into one, while in other areas; the zone will be moved to the end of the block or around the corner. Councilmember Kaplan felt it would be helpful if businesses had a physical depiction of where the loading zones would be placed. She also felt that solutions to the problem needed to be realistic and that communication with businesses needed improvement. Mr. Wilkins advised that no loading zones would be eliminated through the Parking Mitigation Plan. He added that most of the existing zones were too small and the new zone configurations would be more useful/practical.

Councilmember Gallo again commented that there was a lot of information that was not being provided to merchants and residents. He suggested that Committee members have a walk-through of the parking and loading zones with staff to gain a better understanding of the issues.

City of Oakland BRT and ADA Programs Manager Christine Calabrese commented that the development of the Parking Impact Mitigation Plan was only in its initial phase and was under review by staff. She added that staff was not yet ready to address any specific item at this point, but would come back to the Committee with an evolved plan later on.

**Public Comment:**

- Andy Nelson commented on the need to meet with the communities regarding parking proposal for several reasons, but primarily because of the number spaces being moved or taken away. He said it will be a big change and in his opinion, staff and the community need to work together to combine their experience and expertise.
- Maria Campos asked if spaces for disabled parking are being planned and if the lease term for the parking lots and garages was just for the construction period. In addition, she commented that with only one lane for vehicle traffic, she couldn't see there being space for loading or parking. It was also her opinion that if parking was too far away from the businesses, the clients would not come.

The item was presented for information only.

**6. Confirm date and time of next meeting**

No meeting was scheduled at this time.

**7. Future Agenda Items**

No new items were requested.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Linda A. Nemeroff  
District Secretary