



Report No: 15-293a
Meeting Date: January 13, 2016

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

STAFF REPORT

TO: AC Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Michael A. Hursh, General Manager
SUBJECT: Revised 2016 Federal and State Legislative Advocacy Programs

BRIEFING ITEM

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Consider approving the District's Federal and State Legislative Advocacy Programs for 2016.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides recommendations for the 2016 Federal and State Legislative Advocacy Programs.

BUDGETARY/FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no budgetary or fiscal impact associated with this report.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Based on the Board's discussion on December 9, 2015, staff has revised the 2016 Federal and State Legislative Advocacy Programs. The additional language proposed can be found in attachments 1 and 2 and are italicized.

Each year, the AC Transit Board of Directors adopts advocacy programs to provide guidance for the District's activities in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento to influence transit legislation, appropriations, and administrative matters at the State and Federal levels. The attached programs for 2016 address on-going efforts as well as emerging issues for the coming year.

Staff solicited input to develop the attached Federal and State advocacy programs from key staff and executives. Per the Board's direction, draft programs were distributed to advocacy groups and the District's planning and funding partners to solicit feedback. Responses received were considered in developing the attached advocacy programs.

ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES:

This report is being provided to recommend areas of emphasis to guide Federal and State Advocacy efforts.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:

This report is being provided based on the District's current priorities.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS/POLICIES:

Staff Report 15-215: 2015 Federal and State Legislative Advocacy Programs

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY 2016 State Advocacy Program Draft
2. FY 2016 Federal Advocacy Program Draft

Executive Staff Approval: Beverly Greene, Director of Legislative Affairs & Community Relations

Prepared by: Estee Sepulveda, External Affairs Representative



2016 State Advocacy Program

Item	Staff Recommendation
Funding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to implement the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and future transportation authorizations that at least maintains funding level for mass transit projects and programs for bus operators in the Bay Area. 	Keep and revise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development and implementation of an expenditure plan for AB 32 cap and trade revenue that provides an equitable investment in mass transit capital improvements, operations, and infill/transit oriented development (TOD). 	Keep and revise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue and support funding for Zero Emission Bus Programs Actively participate in the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Advanced Clean Transit regulatory process. 	Keep and revise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts that create new sources of operating funds with equitable distribution to reflect urban transit needs. 	Keep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts to sustain existing transit revenues, including the State Transit Assistance (STA) program to offset the decrease in diesel fuel consumption. 	Keep and revise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support efforts that would exempt public transit providers from state sales tax. 	Keep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local ability to increase fees and gas taxes to be used for local mass transit purposes. 	Keep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support legislation and programs that would provide funding to offset the costs of global warming climate change initiatives, clean air and clean fuels and implementation of AC Transit's Climate Action Plan. 	Keep and revise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support congestion pricing strategies and legislation that provide an equitable multi-modal distribution of generated revenues. 	Keep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support legislation and programs that would provide funding for employee benefits programs. 	Combined with 3 rd section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support legislative or administrative action to remove State barriers so that 	Keep

<p>Medicaid transportation funds can be used for public transit services, including ADA paratransit services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support funding and coordination between Health and Human Service (HHS) agencies and other transportation agencies to provide services to HHS clients. • Support efforts to provide funding for essential services including, but not limited to, services for access to work, school or medical facilities. • Support funding initiatives that maintain the fiscal integrity of the District and that all mandates that require funding are sufficiently funded by mandating agency. relieve the fiscal burden of mandatory regulations. 	<p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep and revise</p>
<p><u>Equipment and Operations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support legislation or administrative action that would direct Caltrans to establish and maintain HOV and HOT lanes on state highway routes and to improve existing HOV lane management to maximize throughput. • Support incentives to provide bus contra flow lanes on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge to/from the Transbay Terminal. • Support legislation to exempt public transit vehicles from state and local truck route ordinances. • Support legislation or administrative action that would direct Caltrans to permit permanent use of freeway shoulders by public transit buses. 	<p>Keep and revise</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p>
<p><u>Transit Incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support legislation to provide incentives for employees and employers to use public transportation to commute to work, including tax credits for purchasing transit passes. • Support Clean Air Initiatives that encourage increased public transit use. • Support incentives that would give auto insurance credits to heavy transit users. • Support legislation to provide incentives for local governments and developers to incorporate transit passes into the cost of housing. 	<p>Keep and combine with 1st section.</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p>
<p><u>Environment and Transit Supportive Land Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts that provide a new form of tax increment financing that promotes economic investment through transit-oriented development, and requires the approval of all affected taxing entities. • Advocate for transit-supportive legislation that addresses climate change, healthy communities and environments. 	<p>Recommend to remove; SB 628 (Beall) signed into law</p> <p>Keep</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster transit supportive land use initiatives that require coordination with transit providers in the initial stages of local planning or project development that impacts transit, including density level decisions or TODs; and advocate for the required use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transit streets agreements, and ○ Complete streets plans in which local transportation plans anticipate use of all modes. • Support legislation that requires reporting of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) annually through DMV renewal. • Support improvement to the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal/EPA) screening process to better reflect the disadvantage communities of the East Bay. 	<p>Keep</p> <p>Recommend to remove pending outcome of Caltrans, CTC Pilot VMT Program</p> <p>Add</p>
<p><u>Policy Interests</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support simple majority vote for local transportation ballot tax initiatives. • Support legislation to allow District to ban persons for specified offenses from entering district property, including buses. • Seek revisions to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) grandfather clause that supports the direct representation of transit properties on local transportation policy boards MPOs. • Support legislation for STA formula reform that includes federal operating funding as eligible revenue. • Support efforts that maintain existing Workers' Compensation regulation. • Consider efforts to reform tort general damages. • Monitor actions regarding the pension reform law (PEPRA). • Support legislation that requires jurisdictions to install Transit Signal Priority equipment in order to receive money for traffic signal upgrades. • Support efforts to authorize AC Transit to enforce parking and moving violations in bus-only lanes and bus stops through forward-facing cameras and contracted county law enforcement departments. • Seek to clarify treatment of independent transit agency retirement systems. • Support legislation that reduces liability for common carriers. 	<p>Keep</p> <p>Keep and revise</p> <p>Keep and revise</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Add</p> <p>Add</p> <p>Add</p> <p>Add</p> <p>Add</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support efforts to increase the gas tax or to increase other revenues to replenish and sustain long-term growth of the Highway Trust Fund/Mass Transit Account.• Support transportation authorization reform that emphasizes greater funding levels to urban mass transit systems, and oppose efforts to reduce spending on transit formula programs, and support stronger performance criteria.• Support FTA and Congressional efforts to make State of Good Repair for transit bus systems a strategic priority and include more funding.• Support increased funding for Small Starts programs and broad funding eligibility for BRT projects in federal transit programs, including New Starts and Small Starts programs.• Seek revisions to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) grandfather clause that supports the direct representation of transit properties on local transportation policy boards MPOs.• Support legislation through MAP-21 the federal highway and transportation authorization for safety requirements based on agency size and transportation mode.	<p>Keep</p> <p>Keep and revise</p> <p>Keep and revise</p> <p>Keep and revise</p> <p>Keep and revise</p> <p>Keep and revise</p>
<p><u>Other Advocacy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for transit-supportive legislation that mitigates global warming climate change and/or calls for environmental stewardship and related funding.• Support funding and coordination between Health and Human Service (HHS) agencies and other transportation agencies to provide services to HHS clients.• Support modal parity in the commute tax benefits.• Support legislation that relieves the fiscal burden of mandatory regulations.• Support legislation that encourages Single Payer health insurance.• Advocate for American with Disabilities Act improvements• Monitor actions regarding the pension reform law (PEPRA).	<p>Keep and revise</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Keep</p> <p>Add</p>