



City of Alameda • California

May 30, 2024

Exhibit 1 - 5-A
Transportation Commission
8-28-2024

Via Electronic Mail

AC Transit Board of Directors
1600 Franklin St.
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: City of Alameda feedback on AC Transit Realign Draft Plan

Dear AC Transit Board of Directors,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the AC Transit Realign Draft Plan. The City of Alameda (City) appreciates its ongoing partnership with AC Transit. The City also appreciates AC Transit staff for their availability to answer the City's questions and for attending our local meetings.

AC Transit is Alameda's most popular public transit with 1.53 million weekday boardings annually. The City supports bus ridership through the Alameda TMA and a Free Bus Pass paratransit program with 800 enrollees taking 164,000 rides in 2023. To date, the City has issued over 1,200 EasyPasses, and this is growing by 20-30 passes weekly. Bus ridership is projected to rise significantly with 5,300 new housing units to be completed by 2030.

The City is concerned that certain aspects of the Realign Draft Plan will reduce service for our community. The proposed service reductions will significantly affect Alameda bus riders. Based on these concerns, the City of Alameda respectfully direct the AC Transit Board's attention to the following priorities:


- 1. Keep Line 51A in Alameda; do not replace it with a new Line DB6.** Line 51A is essential, as this is Alameda's most-ridden line with nearly 6,000 daily boardings. Replacing the 51A with Line DB6 will remove direct, frequent service to Kaiser Oakland. Furthermore, if the DB6 is not prioritized at the level of the 51A, then service reliability and frequency could suffer, potentially impacting this critical bus line for our community.

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- 2. Increase Frequency on Line DB19.** AC Transit should work with the Alameda TMA to deliver 30-minute frequency on Line 19. The 60 minute-frequency for Line DB19 does not replace the direct connection to Kaiser Oakland currently provided by the 51A. Moreover, 500 new housing units with EasyPasses will come online along this route by 2027 to justify increasing service to 30-minute headways.
- 3. Provide 15-minute service to Alameda Point (Line DB96).** AC Transit should work with Alameda TMA to deliver 15-minute frequency to Alameda Point, which is an Equity Priority Area, Priority Development Area, and where the City has approved over 800 units of new housing including 200 units of lifeline affordable housing. Providing 15-minute headways on a single line helps the affordable housing developments meet crucial funding prerequisites. AC Transit should also consider extending Line DB96 to Coast Guard Island (Dennison Street) where many Alamedans work.
- 4. Route Line DB20 along Pan Am Way instead of Main St.** The City believes this rerouting would provide better access to key destinations including Alameda Point Collaborative, Seaplane Lagoon ferry terminal, and commercial businesses in Alameda Point.
- 5. Ensure seat availability and expand morning hours on Line DBW.** We understand AC Transit's equity and efficiency reasons for combining Line OX and W into the DBW, but it will create longer rides for some riders. AC Transit should ensure sufficient capacity so that West End riders in our Equity Priority Areas can get seats. This can be accommodated in part by expanding the DBW's morning hours from 7:00-8:00 am to 7:00-9:00 am, which will enable caregivers to catch this bus after school drop-off.
- 6. Route Line DB21 to Mecartney and Maitland.** We recognize AC Transit's decision to discontinue Line 21 service to the Oakland Airport due to low ridership. AC Transit should continue to evaluate potential ridership based on airport usage. In addition, we request extending DB21 on Mecartney Rd to Maitland Drive to retain public transit access for the otherwise isolated Old Bay Farm neighborhood.

We look forward to working with AC Transit on addressing these priorities. Please contact Lisa Foster, Acting Transportation Planning Manager at 510-747-6833 for questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Allen Tai, AICP
Planning, Building, and Transportation Director

cc: Alameda City Council
Jennifer Ott, City Manager, City of Alameda
Lisa Foster, Acting Transportation Planning Manager
Alameda Transportation Commission
Lucy Gigli, Alameda TMA