

Memo: November 18, 2015
To: Transportation Commission
From: Eric Schatmeier
Subject: Transit Priorities

BACKGROUND

In the spring, the Commission appointed a 3-member subcommittee to identify transit priorities as input to AC Transit's then-upcoming Service Expansion Plan. Although a subcommittee meeting was scheduled by staff to discuss these issues, the meeting was subsequently cancelled because of staff personnel changes and at the last Commission meeting staff indicated that staff support for a rescheduled meeting could not be provided. As a result, the subcommittee met on an informal basis in August. Each subcommittee member was invited to contribute to a list of possible priorities and each item on the resulting list was considered at the subcommittee meeting.

FINDINGS

As a result of this discussion, the subcommittee identified three specific priorities. They are:

1. Funding should stay local. Budget savings from cuts in Alameda service should result in additions elsewhere within the city.
2. Maintain existing Route O on Santa Clara and, if shortened, savings should stay local as in #1.
3. In the absence of transfers, maintain direct service to Fruitvale BART despite its additional cost. (On this last point, I discussed at the October ILC meeting, the possibility of costing free transfers for Clipper Card holders within the city limits. This has the potential of reducing redundant service to Fruitvale and reallocating hours saved to, for example more frequency on overcrowded existing routes.)

In addition to the above, the subcommittee expressed its preference from amongst three new local route alternatives in the SEP, for the Northern Waterfront routing.

RECOMMENDATION

Although circumstance dictated that the SEP process go forward without subcommittee input and Commission ratification of priorities, discussion and ratification should be agendized for the January Commission meeting.