

10/16/19 City of Alameda-AC Transit ILC Meeting Notes

ILC Attendees – Knox White, Ortiz

Michael Hursh, AC Transit General Manager,

Andrew Thomas, City of Alameda Planning Director

Gerry Beaudin, City of Alameda Assistant City Manager

Announcements/Public Comments - None

Local Transbay Restrictions

- Knox White
 - Can we look at the travel time on Alameda?
 - Berman - It's a mixed bag; and difficult compare between old and new
 - Knox White - Guess is that the changes in the policy have not affected the OX operations
 - Look at timepoint to timepoint data.
- Ortiz - Why did we do this?
 - Del Rosario - Policy decision by the board when there is underlying local service
 - Knox White - Shouldn't eliminate local riders on the OX if it travels on Bay Farm with no impacts
- Public Comment - Maria Gallo - Look at the meeting notes for rider complaints.
- Gail - Should not only look at the OX, but also the W
- Knox White - Try to resolve before next ILC and does not need to come back if resolved by then.
 - Del Rosario - We will look at immediately

Disabled Seating Awareness

- Ortiz - We can't force passengers to give up their seats?
 - Hursh - Yes
- Knox White - Good example of AC Transit taking action
- Public - Does the public know the policy?
 - Hursh - Better campaign and be more aggressive

School Route Prioritization and Communication

- Ortiz - Bad look and a liability
- Hursh - We have a policy to prioritize school service
 - Asked staff to work on communication improvements
- Knox White - do we have all of the contacts for each of the schools?
- Ortiz - Portantino bill - will mandate schools to start later and force AC Transit to have two buses instead of one in operations to serve both schools; will start asking the legislators for money
 - Knox White - Confident AC Transit can get support for funding
- Knox White - Buses can still operate but at a different time? Could Alameda lose service?
 - Hursh - Unclear at this point until we do the planning
 - Ortiz - Will look at the whole system
 - Knox White - will we have the same hours

COA - Goals & Objectives

- Knox White - Provided high-level goals and objectives
 - 85% of Alamedans live within a quarter mile of high-quality service
 - Everyone should have a seat
- Ortiz - Which comes first? Is it the housing or the transportation?
 - Knox White - wants to see a plan for Alamedans
- Ortiz - Cost needs to be associated with the goals
 - Eshleman - We can look at different alternatives and different levels of coverage
 - Knox White - We can look at different rates for different neighborhoods
- Thomas - Want to know how much it will cost and how can we start finding the money?
 - Ortiz - AC Transit provide service to 13 cities and the other cities will want the same thing
 - AC Transit is one whole agency and the way to supplement costs would be through partnerships
 - Thomas - Agrees. Come up with a vision and goal.
 - Knox White - Understand that there are funding needs, but still need a plan
- Kevin - will this be cost-neutral?
 - Eshleman - Look at a vision and phasing; RM3 will be included at least
 - Hursh - Hopes to expand to the entire network?
- Connelly (WETA) - What is the timeline?
 - Robert - Implementation in 2021
- Knox White - Should incorporate the ferry as a zone that may not need transbay coverage and look at local feeder to ferries if they are feasible trips
- Maria Gallo – It's been a long time to look at ferry service to other areas. If we want this plan to last for 10-20 years, is there a sufficient customer base to look at midday trips on ferry or bus?
- Payne - #1 complaint is no buses to the Main Street Ferry Terminal
 - Knox White - Understands there is a vocal group pushing for this
- Knox White - Need to look at the performance metrics to determine which services are important
- Eshleman - Ferry hub in Alameda Point will be more of a destination with lots of development
- Connelly - Need a connection between Alameda Point to Alameda in addition to the connection to Oakland; no bus to go across town.
- Connelly - What are the next steps? Do we have a strategic plan?
 - Del Rosario - develop goals for approval based on the strategic plan
- Knox White - Similar start to Seattle
 - Ortiz - Seattle had a sales tax
- Del Rosario - We can add to the metrics
- Knox White - Can we get this approved in Alameda by December?
 - Hursh - Concerned about the other cities.
 - Knox White - We need to get this resolved soon so we can get the plan going; if we can't get going, we are stuck and need to figure out how to get

- better transit for the council
- Thomas - Can we bring this goal separately to council and not commit AC Transit to a plan?
 - Hursh - Agree provided there is no funding
 - Knox White - Ok with this.
- Gail - Wants to have a survey effort first and to go to commission before to council
- Ortiz - Wants more time because of BRT
- Beaudin - Get to council later this year and then have the conversation come back to the ILC
 - Hursh - Likes the idea of a survey to help dictate the plan
- Thomas - We're in agreement that there is a process
- Knox White - Next steps - Alameda will develop a goal and bring back to the committee and AC Transit for feedback though goal could be approved by Alameda

Ridership Complaints and Missed Runs

- Gail - what is AC Transit doing on the recruitment side?
 - Hursh - Big hiring campaign; increasing training capacity; starting a driver boot camp (40 operators); industry problem
 - Hursh - Created a recruitment bus

New Developments

- Thomas - Line 96 - Needs the development to pick up on Line 96 and also Line 19; developments are progressing for both Alameda Point Site A and Northern Waterfront
- Goodwin - Gave an overview of Clipper use for the Alameda TMA
 - Atchinson - Improving outreach to employers. Challenges include: lots of free parking; lots of Alamedans work at the point, line 96 service is not up to par yet

Safety Corridor Projects

- Funding
 - Knox White - Encourage for funding in the core and not for the mega-commute
 - Elsa - Return to source
 - Hursh - Agrees; advocating to help the core existing service
 - Knox White - Do we have language to take to the cities?
 - Elsa - State Sen. Jim Beall is taking the lead at the state, which may favor Santa Clara and will start the inclusion of pet projects.
 - Hursh - Large gap to cover between transit agencies and proponents' strategy.
 - Ortiz - Mayors and councils are concerned.
- AC Transit will confirm the next date