

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Tess Lengyel, Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Policy

T: 510.208.7428

E: tlengyel@alamedactc.org

www.alamedactc.org

Student Transit Pass Pilot Program Launched in Alameda County

Free and Low-Cost Transit Passes Help Students Get to School

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) launched the inaugural [Student Transit Pass Pilot Program](#) in time to help thousands of Alameda County middle and high school students get to school and afterschool activities and jobs, and learn more about transit choices.

The cost of transportation to school is often cited as a barrier to school attendance and participation in afterschool activities and jobs by middle and high school students. In recognition of this, Measure BB, the 2014 voter-approved Alameda County transportation sales tax included funding to test a variety of pilot transit pass programs throughout the county. The Student Transit Pass Pilot Program, launched last month in time for the start of the 2016-17 school year, aims to reduce barriers to transportation access to and from schools, improve transportation options for Alameda County's middle and high school students and build support for transit in Alameda County.

"The program just started and we are already seeing a positive impact," says Alameda CTC Chair Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland City Councilmember At-Large. "Many of our families now don't have to worry about the burden of the transportation cost of getting their children to school, which can really help attendance. And those schools with free and universal pass pilots can take their students on educational field trips not otherwise possible." She continues, "We are collecting significant data to identify a sustainable program for the future. The long-term vision is to remove the burden of transportation costs to get to school and afterschool activities and jobs and to build the next generation of transit riders."

Five different types of 3-year pilot programs were launched at 11 schools throughout Alameda County – in Berkeley, Livermore, Oakland, San Leandro and Union City. Four of the five pilots include free or reduced price transit passes, while the pilot being tested in two Berkeley schools will test the impact of increased transit information and training on students' transit use. All programs include a designated on-site coordinator at each school, and transit information and training.

"It is collaborative efforts like this that help address the pervasive issues obstructing the well-being of so many of our students across the County," says Alameda County Superintendent of Schools L. Karen Monroe. "The efforts of my predecessor, Sheila Jordan, were instrumental in securing this critical funding for the Affordable Student Transit Pass program. And over the

past year, we at Alameda County Office of Education have supported the efforts of Alameda CTC to ensure all school districts in the County have had the opportunity to provide input on this important strategy to reduce what can be a serious barrier to educational access in our most impacted communities.”

Students at three Oakland schools — Fremont High, Castlemont High and Frick Middle School — have received free passes on Clipper cards for use on AC Transit at any time. Access to BART will be added in early 2017. This pilot is testing the utilization of free and universal passes, and the sustained impact of passes during the transition from middle to high school, as Frick feeds into Fremont and Castlemont. To date, nearly 1500 Oakland students have obtained free passes.

Students in select grades (8th-10th) at John Muir Middle School and San Leandro High School have received free transit passes on Clipper cards, to test the effectiveness in selected grades and the sustainability of use during transition from middle to high school.

Students at Cesar Chavez Middle School and James Logan High School in Union City have received discounted Clipper cards for use on AC Transit and/or flash passes (stickers on their student IDs) for use on Union City Transit.

Livermore students at East Avenue Middle School and Livermore High School receive discounted or free means-based flash passes for use on LAVTA. Students who qualify for Free/Reduced Price Meals are eligible to receive the flash pass for free.

Pilot schools were chosen by Alameda CTC based on criteria including need, high presence of regular transit service within a quarter-mile of the school, and readiness.

The affordable Student Transit Pass Program was one of the key priorities outlined in Alameda CTC’s 2014 Transportation Expenditure Plan, approved by more than 70 percent of Alameda County voters in November 2014. Measure BB also funds the countywide [Safe Routes to Schools program](#), which encourages adoption of safe and healthy transportation habits among the county’s youth.

For more information about the Student Transit Pass Pilot Program, visit <http://www.alamedactc.org/studentpass>

About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

Alameda CTC coordinates countywide transportation planning and delivers essential, voter-supported transportation improvements in every city throughout Alameda County. Funding sources for Alameda CTC’s expenditure plans include Measure B, approved by 81.5 percent of county voters in 2000, and Measure BB, approved by more than 70 percent of voters in 2014. For more information, please visit the Alameda CTC website at <http://www.alamedactc.org>.

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