Regional Collaboration for Safer, Cleaner and More Efficient Goods Movement

Happy New Year! Alameda CTC in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) hosted the Future of Freight Roundtable in December, bringing together government leaders, business representatives, industry experts and community partners to further the 10-year vision for goods movement investments - supporting efficient connectivity, mobility, safety and emissions reductions in the Bay Area. “All goods that move through the Bay Area from and to the Port of Oakland must move through Alameda County,” said Alameda CTC Chair Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland City Councilmember At-Large. “Through this work we can help move our goods more efficiently to improve the health of our economy and our communities.”

Just this month, MTC, considered a 10-year funding strategy for goods movement investments.

“We are excited to embark upon a 10-year roadmap to get the region to support the efficient movement of goods necessary for everyday life in the Bay Area,” said Alameda County Supervisor and Alameda CTC Commissioner Scott Haggerty. “This roadmap represents an unprecedented level of collaboration at the regional level - including Alameda CTC, MTC, the Port of Oakland, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Caltrans, the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, community organizations and congestion management agencies throughout the Bay Area and beyond, including partners in our greater megaregion.”

The roadmap will fund various projects and programs developed during Alameda CTC and MTC roundtable discussions held over the past three years including:

- More efficient and safer options to move goods;
- The Cool Port project - an innovative refrigerated warehouse served by major rail lines and trucks that will expand the Port’s capacity to export United States produce and meats; and
- Emission reduction programs to further improve air quality in Bay Area neighborhoods.

Following December’s Roundtable, Alameda CTC honored State Senator Jim Beall for his work to pass Senate Bills 1 (the first significant increase in state transportation funding in more than two decades!) and Senate Bill 595. Senate Bill 1, or the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, went into effect in November providing an average of $5.4 billion per year for state and local road, transit, bicycle and pedestrian safety and congestion relief projects. It also helps fund popular programs like Safe Routes to Schools.

Over one-third of all jobs in the Bay Area are related to goods movement, and almost $1 billion in freight flows through the Northern California megaregion. These new funding streams provide an opportunity to achieve important investments in our goods movement system.
Improving Your Commute With New State Funding

Alameda CTC is working hard to improve your commute. With grant funds from Senate Bill 1, we will be able to fast track the following projects so that you can move around the county and the region faster, no matter what transportation method you choose.

Global Opportunities at the Port of Oakland (GoPort) will improve safety and allow goods to move through the Port at a quicker pace, helping increase jobs and minimize truck bottlenecks and back-ups! Work will include realigning and grade separating the 7th and Maritime Street intersection, reconstructing the existing railroad underpass between I-880 and Maritime Street, adding intelligent transportation systems (ITS) along major roads leading into the Port and relocating existing utility facilities and reconstructing the Bay Trail segment along 7th Street for easier pedestrian and bicycle access to businesses and parks along the San Francisco Bay. These changes will improve efficiency, minimize truck wait times and reduce emissions.

SR-84 Widening and SR-84/I-680 Interchange Improvements to reduce congestion, increase safety and improve the commute for travelers from South County to the Tri-Valley. Senate Bill 1 funding would help Caltrans and Alameda CTC turn SR-84 into a true expressway while also improving interchange ramps with I-680 and extending the southbound I-680 express lanes northward by about two miles.

Transforming major roads in Alameda County to improve the flow of traffic for drivers, transit users, cyclists and pedestrians along San Pablo Avenue in North County and the East 14th Street and Mission corridor in Central and South County. Alameda CTC has begun work to identify projects that will facilitate improvements for faster transit, local goods movement deliveries, and safe walking and biking facilities.

The annual Safe Routes to School Golden Sneaker Contest is coming up February 26 - March 9. The Golden Sneaker Contest is a two-week classroom competition that encourages students, parents, teachers and administrators to take the healthy route to school by choosing active or shared transportation options including walking, biking, rolling, skating, scooting, carpooling or taking transit. Even if you have to drive your child...
Resolve to Carpool Instead in 2018

Save money and save time in 2018 by carpooling! For a limited time, 511 Carpool will pay for your first trip or give you a bonus for the first trip you drive using the carpool app Scoop.

Ready to start saving?

1. Download the Scoop app at the Google Play or Apple Store.
2. Set up your account. Your chances of matching increase if you select ride or drive.
3. In your account, click "Pricing & Payments," "Activity" and select "add referral code."
4. Enter Carpool511.
5. Schedule a trip! Tip: Your chances of matching increase if you select ride or drive.

Learn more here.

Regional Measure 3

On January 24th, the Bay Area Toll Authority authorized Regional Measure 3 (RM 3) to appear on the June 5, 2018 ballot in each of the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties. If approved by a majority of voters, this measure would fund major roadway and public transit improvements via an increase in tolls on the Bay Area’s seven state-owned toll bridges. RM 3 was authorized by the State Legislature by Senate Bill 595 (authored by Senator Jim Beall of San Jose) and signed into law by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in 2017.

Click here to review the complete Regional Measure 3 Expenditure Plan.

Express Lanes on the Fast Track

Alameda CTC will help ease your commute thanks to the construction of the I-680 Northbound Express Lane. The project will widen the existing freeway, construct a roughly nine-mile express lane on northbound I-680 from Auto Mall Parkway to SR-84, and upgrade the adjacent southbound I-680 express lane for easier access. In addition to reducing traffic, these improvements will also provide more reliable travel times and encourage ride sharing and the use of public transit, on one of the top 10 most congested freeway corridors in the Bay Area.

The construction contract was awarded to Concord-based Bay Cities Paving & Grading, Inc. “Alameda CTC is keeping its pledge to residents and businesses by delivering critical transportation improvements and supporting local jobs with funding from Measures B and BB,” according to Alameda CTC Executive Director Arthur L. Dao. “It’s not every day that more than $100 million in local construction work hits the street!”

I-580 Express Lanes a Huge Hit in the Tri-Valley

Improving access with the East Bay Greenway, which will encourage commuters to walk or bike along the 16-mile stretch from Lake Merritt BART in Oakland to South Hayward BART. Alameda CTC recently completed an extensive public outreach process as part of the environmental review and is continuing to work to secure funding to leverage the Measure BB funds committed the project. Alameda CTC will be submitting grant applications for Senate Bill 1 funds to help close the funding gap. When complete, the project will consist of a multiuse pathway with a protected bikeway with adjacent sidewalks. The path, once constructed, will link to BART stations from Oakland to South Hayward.

Click here to review the complete Regional Measure 3 Expenditure Plan.
About Alameda CTC

The Alameda County Transportation Commission plans, funds and delivers transportation programs and projects that expand access and improve mobility to foster a vibrant and livable Alameda County. Funding sources for Alameda CTC’s expenditure plans include Measure B, approved by 81.5 percent of county voters in 2000; Measure F, a Vehicle Registration Fee approved by 63 percent of county voters in 2010; and Measure BB, approved by 81.5 percent of county voters in 2014. 

Alameda CTC Leverages Funding To Deliver Solutions

Alameda CTC has delivered transportation solutions throughout Alameda County by strategically leveraging local sales tax dollars with regional, state and federal funds over $3 billion. This year, passage of Senate Bill 1 and Senate Bill 595, authored by Senator Beall, offers new opportunities for Alameda CTC to attract state and regional funds to deliver the transportation projects promised to voters with Measure BB funds, approved by voters in 2014.

The I-580 express lanes are now the most heavily used in the Bay Area with over 14.5 million trips since the lanes opened in February 2016. More than 5.1 million trips used the lanes as carpools or clean air vehicles for free and over 9.4 million chose to pay the toll to take advantage of the express lanes. Tolls collected will be used by Alameda CTC to operate and maintain the express lanes and make repairs.

Addressing Traffic Relief Along I-580 in Oakland

Help is on its way for another section of I-580 - the commute from the Bay Bridge toll plaza to SR-238, which is one of the top 25 most congested corridors in the region. In late October, Alameda CTC approved $200,000 in funding to conduct a Design Alternative Assessment in partnership with MTC. The assessment will evaluate the feasibility of adding a bus lane, carpool lane or express lane on all or a portion of this part of 580 to help improve overall flow to and from the Bay Bridge during commute hours. Stay tuned for assessment results and a proposed plan in fall 2018!

Berkeley’s Hearst Avenue Complete Streets Project is Complete!
The City of Berkeley held a ribbon-cutting event on January 26 to celebrate the completion of the the Hearst Avenue Complete Streets Project. Funded by a 2013 One Bay Area (OBAG) Grant from Alameda CTC and MTC, the project improves safety and access for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders in the Downtown Berkeley area on Hearst Avenue from Shattuck to La Loma. The project includes new bicycle lanes, pavement markings, sidewalk and ADA-compliant curb ramps, and upgraded traffic signals, pavement and bus stops.

Alameda CTC was charged with distributing Alameda County’s share of federal OBAG funding. The OBAG program supports Alameda CTC’s Sustainable Communities Strategy by linking transportation dollars to land-use decisions - fostering and targeting transportation investments to support housing near transit, active transportation and environmental stewardship.