November 16, 2011

Mayor Mark Green
Chair
Alameda County Transportation Commission
1330 Broadway, Suite 300
Oakland, Ca. 94612

Dear Mayor Green and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Alameda County Transportation Commission on the Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP) that will be discussed in the upcoming Commission meetings. The Board of Directors of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) made the following recommendations at their meeting this evening concerning the extension and augmentation of the transportation sales tax in Alameda County:

1. That not less than seventy percent (70%) of revenues generated under the TEP be dedicated to spending on programs, as defined in the initial ACTC staff proposal.

Programs under this definition include transit operations, paratransit operations, local street and roads allocations, bicycle and pedestrian facility allocations, the sustainable transportation linkages program, the freight and economic development program, and the technology, innovation and development program.

2. That the following percentages of revenue generated under the TEP be devoted to transit and paratransit:
   a. All transit operating 22.0%
   b. AC Transit operating (portion of a) 17.3%
   c. All paratransit 10.5%
   d. AC Transit paratransit (portion of c) 4.5%

3. That any revenue used to support free or reduced cost youth bus pass programs not be considered part of the transit operating program or reduce funds for transit programs or projects, and instead be funded through a separate line item.

4. That all transit operating funds be distributed on a pass through, rather than a competitive grant, basis to eligible transit agencies and that competitive grant funding for transit projects be included in the Sustainable Transportation and Local Land Use Linkages program and/or the Technology Innovation and Development Program.
5. That if tax revenues for a given year fall short of revenue projections, funding amounts for projects and programs should be reduced proportionately.

6. That District High Priority Projects as established by the Regional Transit Plan and the Short Range Transit Plan are included in the TEP as high priority projects. These High Priority projects are the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit, College-Broadway corridor improvements, and Grand-Macarthur BRT.

AC Transit’s ACTC Steering Committee representative, Director Greg Harper, plans to attend the Steering Committee meeting tomorrow and can answer questions about this letter at that time.

Sincerely,

Mary V. King
Interim General Manager
AC Transit

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