11 Alameda County Cities Have Unanimously Approved the 2014 Transportation Expenditure Plan

Shaping the Future of Transportation in Alameda County

Community Voices: Mark Estes

On the Move – Around Alameda County: High-Tech Improvements Underway on I-80 Corridor; Altamont Corridor Express Train Continues to Benefit from Measure B Funds

What’s Ahead

May Is Bike Month!
Bike to Work and Bike to School Day — May 8
Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Webinar at Alameda CTC — May 21
Alameda CTC Commission Meeting — May 22

www.AlamedaCTC.org

Alameda CTC Bonds Sale Saves Taxpayer Dollars and Delivers Projects Ahead of Schedule

Alameda CTC started off 2014 with a AAA rating from both Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor’s rating services on its Sales Tax Revenue Bonds (Limited Tax Bonds), Series 2014 – the only agency of its kind throughout the state of California to have the double AAA ratings. In March, Alameda CTC sold $137,145,000 (par value) of the Alameda County Transportation Commission Sales Tax Revenue Bonds (Limited Tax Bonds), Series 2014 through a syndicate led by Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Strengthened by their AAA rating, the bonds sold quickly at an all-in true interest cost of 1.587 percent. This allows Alameda CTC to access capital and deliver key infrastructure projects earlier than waiting for sales tax revenue to be collected. “This low interest rate, and the popularity of these bonds, is further proof of Alameda CTC’s excellent stewardship of public funds,” said Alameda CTC Chair, Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “I am tremendously proud of Alameda CTC’s financial stewardship of public funds,” said Alameda CTC Chair, Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “I am tremendously proud of Alameda CTC’s excellent stewardship of public funds,” said Alameda CTC Chair, Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “I am tremendously proud of Alameda CTC’s excellent stewardship of public funds,” said Alameda CTC Chair, Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “I am tremendously proud of Alameda CTC’s excellent stewardship of public funds,” said Alameda CTC Chair, Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “I am tremendously proud of Alameda CTC’s excellent stewardship of public funds.”

Following this AAA rating, Alameda CTC was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2013. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment.

Shaping the Future of Transportation in Alameda County

Since Alameda CTC approved the detailed 30-year Transportation Expenditure Plan at the January 23 Commission Meeting, 11 of Alameda County’s 14 cities have unanimously approved the Plan, and staff is scheduled to present and seek approvals from the remaining cities. The next step is to seek approval from the County Board of Supervisors to place it on the November 2014 ballot for approval by voters.

This detailed Plan, an augmentation and extension of the current Measure B, will:

• Expand BART, bus and commuter rail for reliable, safe and fast services, including BART expansion and improvements within Alameda County, bus service expansion, and commuter rail service improvements.
• Keep fares affordable for seniors, youth and people with disabilities, including affordable senior shuttles, vans and services that help keep seniors independent, and critical funding for student transit passes to ensure youth can affordably get to school. It also funds reliable and inexpensive transportation for people with disabilities.
• Provide traffic relief, including funds to every city in the County to repave streets, fill potholes, and upgrade local transportation infrastructure. It also invests in aging highway corridors to upgrade on- and off-ramps, using modern technology to manage traffic and improve safety.
• Improve air quality and provide clean transportation by reducing pollution using innovative technology and expanding bike and pedestrian paths, and BART, bus and commuter rail expansion and operations.
• Create good jobs within Alameda County by requiring local contracting that supports residents and businesses in Alameda County.

The 30-year Plan includes strict accountability measures to ensure all $8 billion for County transportation improvements are spent on approved projects. It requires open and transparent public processes to allocate funds, annual independent audits, an independent watchdog committee made up of people who live in Alameda County and annual compliance reports distributed to the public that detail costs and how specific performance measures are met.
Get Ready to Spring Into Motion – May is Bike Month!

Winter is behind us, it’s time to spring into motion. Bicycling and walking are essential components of Alameda County’s transportation system. Alameda CTC and Measure B have been supporting active transportation (biking and walking) in a variety of strategic ways, and data collected through the Alameda CTC bicycle and pedestrian count program suggest that levels of cycling and walking are growing, and that the diversity of cyclists is increasing. From 2010 to 2013, bicycling in the county increased 17 percent. Efforts to make our communities more walkable and bikeable include targeted grant programs and funds to each city for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. We also require all local jurisdictions that receive transportation sales tax funding to adopt a “complete streets policy” to ensure that our streets are safe, convenient and inviting for all users.

To continue and expand this investment in active transportation, the 2014 Transportation Expenditure Plan includes $465 million for bicycle and pedestrian paths, safety projects and educational programs — more than doubling the existing investment. In addition, 15 percent of the $2.3 billion in funding for city and county streets will support bicycle and pedestrian investments.

**Thursday, May 8 is Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Day.** Below are a number of additional programs supported by Alameda CTC and our partners to help support safe bicycling in Alameda County, whether it is your first time commuting by bike, or you do it all the time.

Alameda CTC supports the innovative BikeMobile, which is part of the Safe Routes to Schools program. The BikeMobile, along with its bicycle mechanic staff, visits schools and community organizations and events to deliver no-cost hands-on bicycle repair and bicycle safety training to promote riding bikes to school. Learn more at www.BikeMobile.org, or request the BikeMobile to attend your school or event.

As you prepare to bike to work on Thursday, May 8, or bike to school during one of the many Bike to School days in May, consider taking one of the many upcoming FREE bicycle safety and education classes in cities throughout Alameda County. Family cycling workshops, free adult “Urban Cycling” and “Learn to Ride” classes and safety seminars are listed at BikeEastBay.org.

Recently, Alameda CTC awarded $240,000 in Measure B Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Funds to the nonprofit Cycles of Change for the Bike-Go-Round/Neighborhood Bicycle Centers education and distribution program. This program encourages bicycle transportation among youth and low-income individuals living near transit centers – to improve connectivity and access. Cycles of Change is conducting 24 bicycle education and distribution programs over the next two years to promote safe riding and bicycle maintenance.

Repair, distribution and training services are also available three days a week through the program’s Neighborhood Bicycle Centers to promote education and support to 3,000 low-income bike commuters.

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**Community Voices**

**MEET MARK ESTES**

Mark Estes works at the Alameda County Law Library, nearly a 10-mile commute one way from his home. He gets to work using a variety of transportation options. He rarely uses his car and more often than not rides his bicycle, motorcycle or public transit.

What Mark enjoys the most about biking to work is the friendships and comradery that occur along the way: “When I bike to work, I see pedestrians or other cyclists, and we exchange smiles. This makes for the best travel experiences. I have seen little dogs on the front of electric scooters, parents walking with children to school pushing a stroller, a stroller full of passengers daily. I smile back at me as I wave at them across the crosswalk in front of me. I see a lot of people from so many diverse backgrounds that it always brightens my morning,” he says. “And what I love about riding BART is hearing all the different languages and voices together.”

“I’m really excited about the new bike and walking path along the BART right-of-way near the Oakland Coliseum that is under construction (the Bay Greenway project).” Complete the project with design criteria that really encourages commuting, not simply recreational riding and pedestrian activities, should bring a lot more people onto bicycles for their commute around the Oakland area.”

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**High-Tech Improvements Underway on I-80 Corridor**

Construction of the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility Project (I-80 ICM) along San Pablo Avenue from Contra Costa through Alameda County, and on the on-ramps along the I-80 Corridor between the Carquinez and Bay Bridges is continuing on schedule. When activated in early 2013, I-80 ICM will provide significant safety and efficiency improvements to this nearly 20-mile corridor by reducing congestion and secondary accidents with the provision of detailed, real-time traffic information along the entire corridor. Developed in collaboration with Caltrans, cities, 40 cities, two transit agencies and four regional agencies with jurisdiction over this corridor, Alameda CTC and our partners are excited about the significant benefits that this high-tech ICM project will bring to commuters, transit and business in this busy corridor. Go to www.AlamedaCTC.org/Go80 to view a video about the project.

**Alamont Corridor Express train continues to benefit from Measure B Funds**

The Alamont Corridor Express (ACE) provides passenger rail service from the Central Valley to Silicon Valley.

The train operates weekdays, with stations in San Joaquin County, Alameda County and Santa Clara County. The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission owns and operates the ACE train. Measure B funds have continuously supported major projects of the ACE service, which transports over 4,000 passengers daily.

ACE has had a milestone year, celebrating 15 years of continually improving service, carrying over a million riders a year on just four weekday round-trip trains and completing the largest capital project in the ACE program history. Alameda CTC’s Measure B funds have contributed to the construction of ACE’s new power and Maintenance Facility, which will begin full operation in the second quarter of this year. The facility houses an oil/water separator building, train wash, a 20,000-gallon diesel storage tank, a 30-ton bridge crane, an under-floor wheel prover, numerous run-around tracks and has room for future expansion. The Layout and Maintenance Facility has already qualified to obtain LEED silver certification by including sustainable energy elements such as rain-water harvesting, drought-tolerant landscaping, high-efficiency HVAC units, rooftop-solar paneling and may have enough points to reach the LEED gold standard.