I’m looking forward to a good year ahead and am pleased to report on three notable projects in Alameda County that are completing system integration and testing in the first half of 2016 and will considerably improve transportation once they go live: the I-580 Express Lanes, the I-80 SMART Corridor Project and the BART Warm Springs Extension (read more about each of these projects in “Project Updates”).

Measure B and Measure BB programs are also making progress (see “Programming Updates”), and Alameda CTC is creating program guidelines to strategically allocate future Measure B and Measure BB funds to countywide improvements.

While transportation funding from our locally-generated revenues (Measure B, Measure BB and Vehicle Registration Fees) has been keeping Alameda County moving, traditional transportation funding from the state for major highway and roadway improvement projects has been on a substantial decline.

This public media outreach is estimated to generate 21 million impressions through local newspapers; radio traffic report sponsorships in English and Spanish in the Bay Area and the commute shed through San Joaquin County; online ads and social media; targeted e-blasts; and outdoor transit ads in the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin County that focus on educating the public about using FasTrak® and new Fastrak Flex toll tag requirements.

The I-80 SMART Corridor Project is set to “go live” in spring 2016. A 19.5-mile portion of the I-80 Corridor from the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge Toll Plaza to the Carquinez Bridge in Alameda County and Contra Costa County received a high-tech upgrade, and software implementation, system integration and sign testing are underway.

The BART Warm Springs Extension is 95 percent complete, and BART is currently performing rigorous system testing in the first half of this year. The new 5.4-mile transit link is set to open to the public in summer 2016, following project acceptance by the California Public Utilities Commission.
Transportation Planning Updates

Goods Movement Plan and Roundtable

Alameda CTC has developed a draft Countywide Goods Movement Plan that provides a strategic vision and identifies a set of investments to improve the efficiency of freight, will support jobs and addresses community impacts related to goods movement.

The Goods Movement Plan, scheduled for adoption by the Commission in February 2016, supports the current focus on goods movement at both federal and state levels. Federally, the Good Movement Plan will position the CTC to seek funding for goods movement projects from the recently passed Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act. The bill authorizes billions in competitive funding for freight, including a National Multimodal Freight Program and a program of Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects.

At the state level, in December 2015 Alameda CTC collaborated with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Port of Oakland and other congestion management agencies to respond to a California call for pilot projects issued by the California Air Resources Board as part of the governor’s Sustainable Freight Executive Order. Alameda CTC and partner agencies submitted 15 projects from the Goods Movement Plan to this call.

The Alameda County Goods Movement Plan is being developed in close coordination with MTC and a Bay Area Goods Movement Collective. A robust outreach effort included a series of roundtables that brought together business, government, labor and community stakeholders from across the county and region.

The fifth and final Bay Area Goods Movement Roundtable hosted by Alameda CTC and MTC on January 22, 2016 focused on The Future of Freight: Mobilizing Partners Across the Bay Area.

Policy News

Performance-based evaluation

As part of the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) update process, Alameda CTC has developed a performance-based evaluation process for the 2016 CTP, a long-range planning and policy document that guides future transportation policies and investments for all transportation modes and users in Alameda County.

The proposed performance-based evaluation process for the CTP differs from the more traditional process of selecting and applying performance measures through the travel demand model. Instead, it will culminate the performance-based planning work underway for the three countywide modal plans, the Multimodal Arterial Plan, the Transit Plan and the Goods Movement Plan, along with a supplemental analysis for freeways, since the modal plans include limited freeway analysis.

Performance measures were selected using the following criteria: can be analyzed using currently available data and tools; link to the 2012 CTP and/or to one or more of the modal plans; and directly link to one or more of the CTP goals. The measures fall under these five categories:

1. Travel efficiency
2. Transit use and active transportation
3. Transportation impacts on the environment
4. Improvements to the economy, goods movement, jobs and access
5. Connectivity and safety

Details on the specific performance measures under each category and their relationship to each plan are available on the website. Alameda CTC also hosted Transportation Open Houses in January 2016 to give public the opportunity to provide input on the plans (see page 4 for locations).

Once the Commission approves the proposed performance measures, the project team will work on developing the detailed performance evaluation process.
Finance Updates

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

In December 2015, the Commission approved Alameda CTC’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended June 30, 2015. The agency’s independent auditors, Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP, provided an unqualified, or clean, opinion to Alameda CTC on the financial statements and related information included in the CAFR.

Staff submitted the CAFR to the Government Finance Officers Association for consideration for its award for excellence in financial reporting. Alameda CTC also provided the CAFR to various regulatory agencies as required including the California Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the California State Controller’s Office, and uploaded it to the Electronic Municipal Market Access website as required by the Measure B Sales Tax Revenue Bonds (Limited Tax Bonds) Series 2014 continuing disclosure agreement.

Programming Updates

Transportation Fund for Clean Air FY2015-16 update

Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) County Program Manager funding is generated by a vehicle registration fee collected by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) to fund eligible projects that result in the reduction of motor vehicle emissions. As the TFCA Program Manager for Alameda County, Alameda CTC is responsible for annually programming the revenue generated in Alameda County.

For fiscal year 2015-16 (FY2015-16), $2.038 million was available for programming, and a Commission-approved program of projects was sent to the Air District last October. Alameda CTC is entering into funding agreements with project sponsors, and eligible project costs as of July 1, 2015 will be eligible for reimbursement. Projects funded with TFCA include shuttles, bicycle lanes and lockers, signal timing projects and trip reduction programs.

Measure B and Measure BB programs update

Alameda CTC is responsible for administering the Measure B and Measure BB programs. There are two types of program distributions: 1) monthly formula allocations to 20 eligible local jurisdictions and transit agencies known as direct local distributions (DLDs) funds and 2) reimbursement-based discretionary grants.

DLD recipients use their allocations to implement locally prioritized transportation improvements through their local transportation, bicycle/pedestrian, mass transit and paratransit programs. In FY2014-15, DLD recipients received approximately $83 million in total distributions — $69.5 million in Measure B and $13.5 million in Measure BB funds. Alameda CTC reimbursed project sponsors approximately $2.2 million in Measure B grant funding.

Currently, Alameda CTC is developing program guidelines to strategically allocate future Measure B and Measure BB funds to countywide improvements. Programming for Measure B and Measure BB funds will be made through upcoming updates of Alameda CTC’s Comprehensive Investment Plan.

Contracting opportunities

Alameda CTC is in the process of reviewing proposals for the toll system integration design and installation services for the I-680 Sunol Express Lane – Northbound from South Grimmer Boulevard to North of State Route 84 Project and the overall transportation monitoring and modeling services project.

Alameda CTC anticipates issuing an invitation for bids for maintenance services for the East Bay Greenway Project – Segment 7A and requests for proposals for several administration contracts related to information technology, media and public relations, paratransit coordination services and contract equity support services in early 2016. For more information, visit the Contracting Opportunities web page.
Outreach and Events

Alameda CTC hosts or participates in the following events during January and February.

- Transportation Open Houses:
  - January 10 – Dublin Library community room
  - January 23 – Hayward City Hall rotunda
  - January 31 – Fremont Library in Fukaya Room A
  - January 12 – Tri-Valley Quality Impact Award in Oakland

- January 13 – I-580 Express Lanes discussion with the Sunrise Rotary of Tracy

- January 20 – Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) webinar at Alameda CTC: All About Guidance #2 – Using Guidance Effectively

- January 21 – I-580 Express Lanes discussion with the Central Valley Association of Realtors in Tracy

- January 22 – Goods Movement Roundtable at Alameda CTC

- January 28 – I-580 Express Lanes discussion with the Tri-Valley Rotary in Pleasanton

- February 4 – I-580 Express Lanes discussion with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee; 3rd Annual Transportation Executives Regional Forum in Oakland

- February 6 – League of Women Voters of the Bay Area’s Annual Regional Meeting: A Forum on Transportation at Maple Hall in San Pablo

- February 10 – California Freight Advisory Committee at Alameda CTC with an update on goods movement in the Bay Area

- February 17 – APBP webinar at Alameda CTC: Planning for Facility Maintenance and Management Costs

- February 22 – Paratransit Strategic Planning Workshop at Alameda CTC: Countywide Transit Plan and Paratransit Needs Assessment

Other News

Insurance for your commute: Guaranteed Ride Home program

The Alameda County Guaranteed Ride Home Program does just what it says. It guarantees you a ride home from work if you are enrolled in the program and have an emergency. You can feel comfortable taking the bus, train or ferry, carpooling, vanpooling, walking or bicycling to work, knowing that you will have a ride home in case of illness, family crisis, unscheduled overtime or an unexpected emergency. The goal of this program is to reduce single car drivers by providing the option and ease to get home in an emergency when taking transit, carpooling and more.

This program is available to all people over 18 years old employed within Alameda County. Participants do not have to live in Alameda County.

Registration: To receive reimbursement for your commute emergencies, register at http://grh.alamedactc.org/register

Current GRH participants: If your information has changed over the last year, please update your email address and/or employment at http://grh.alamedactc.org/update-your-account/

Help spread the word by sharing this information with friends and coworkers.

Webinar: Planning for Facility Maintenance and Management Costs

On Wednesday, February 17, from 12 to 1 p.m. (PST), join us for an Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals free webinar at Alameda CTC, 1111 Broadway, Suite 800. The topic is “Planning for Facility Maintenance and Management Costs.” Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. Alameda CTC hosts the event and covers the registration fee, so attendance is free.

Committee Activities

January advisory committees

In January, several community advisory committees met. Highlights include:

- January 7 – The Alameda County Technical Advisory Committee approved the 2016 Countywide Transportation Plan performance measures. The committee also received information on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s request for new non-exempt 2017 Transportation Improvement Program projects and the Alameda County Federal Inactive Projects List.

- January 7 – The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee reviewed Measure B and VRF bicycle/pedestrian grant progress reports and the City of Emeryville’s Christie Avenue Bay Trail Gap Closure Project. Also, the committee received updates on the Safe Routes to Schools Program, Bicycle Safety Education Program and the IBike campaign, as well as e-bike legislation.

- January 11 – The Independent Watchdog Committee received both an update on program compliance and an overview and update on delivery and implementation of Measure B and Measure BB projects and programs. Committee members discussed the process for identifying issues and the form associated with that process.

- January 12 – The Paratransit Technical Advisory Committee received an update on the Direct Local Distribution Paratransit Program estimates, reviewed draft implementation guidelines and performance measures for fiscal year 2016-17 (FY2016-17), discussed potential changes to the Hospital Discharge Transportation Service (HDTS) and Wheelchair Scooter Breakdown Transportation Service (WSBTS) Program and exchanged technical information.

- January 25 – The Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee reviewed draft implementation guidelines and performance measures for FY2016-17, received an update on Paratransit Gap Grant Cycle 5 extensions and progress reports and discussed potential changes to the HDTS and WSBTS Program. The committee also received member reports and an outreach update.