



**Community Recommendations for the
Alameda County Transportation Commission
Student Transit Pass Program- April 21, 2015**

Last November an unprecedented coalition of clergy, bus riders, young people, students, labor, community and environmental groups came together to pass Measure BB, which has helped reinvest in transportation throughout Alameda County. Part of the promise that motivated our organizations and voters from across the county to pass Measure BB was the creation of a Free Youth Bus Pass for children and young people who are transit dependent.

In order to fulfill that promise and make sure that voices of the very people most impacted by this program are included in the creation and implementation of this program to create a Free Youth Bus Pass we are recommending that the following be included in ACTC's Request for Proposals and that all proposals to implement the Youth Bus Pass Pilot must integrate these priorities:

1. LOCATION - Prioritize our youth, prioritize working families

It is critical to our groups that we ensure this Free Youth Bus Pass (FYBP) Pilot Program targets families and youth living in the most economically challenged parts of the County. ACTC shall target the zip codes with the **highest rates of poverty, unemployment and youth under the age of 30** in each of 5 Supervisors' districts throughout the County for the initial phase of the Free Youth Bus Pass Pilot Program

2. AFFORDABILITY AND ELIGIBILITY – Truly FREE access for students and youth

In 2015 Alameda County, getting a young person to school can strain a family's budget. One bus to school and one bus home can cost upwards of \$40 a month- \$20 if you obtain and mail in the paperwork with identity records. In a time in which youth access to their world is limited we must ensure a **FREE YOUTH BUS PASS**. To ensure that **ALL** youth and children in the pilot zones have truly **FREE** transit access, eligibility for the Youth Bus Pass shall begin with enrollment into kindergarten and end upon High School graduation

3. DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS - Partnering with our Schools, partnering with our students and families

To maximize inclusiveness and access to the Youth Buss Pass, contractors shall partner with both public school sites in the target zip codes and *non-School Site Distribution* points including but are not limited to: County social service offices, AC Transit's headquarters, libraries, health clinics, after school programs, to distribute the passes.

4. IMPLEMENTATION - Access to Transit Means Access to Everything

Getting to school is our first priority, but many transit dependent youth rely on the bus for other important activities that determine their health, wellness, and social engagement. Family, medical, library, and extracurricular activities are all valid uses of the FYBP and youth should have access to them. As such, the youth bus pass should not have any use limitations.