

ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JUNE 2020

## Keeping Our Promises

Alameda CTC is keeping our promises of delivering projects and programs while supporting jobs, even during this trying time. I am ensuring that all our staff are able to work fully remotely to continue to perform strategic planning, develop projects and implement programs, move projects into construction, and process payments to our cities, the county, transit agencies and business partners. Our work is an important part of the economic recovery.

Thank you,

Tess

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## Project Updates

### Projects moving into the environmental phase

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) has three projects moving towards the completion of a draft environmental document by the end of the calendar year. These projects represent an estimated combined investment of \$1.5 billion in transportation improvements, with \$201 million of local funding committed. These projects will provide a wide range of transportation improvements, including improving freeway interchanges, constructing bike lanes and sidewalks, extending express lanes and improving goods movement.



Entrance onto Interstate 880 from Whipple Road in the City of Hayward.

### The [Interstate 880 \(I-880\) Whipple and Industrial Interchange Improvements](#)

The [Interstate 880 \(I-880\) Whipple and Industrial Interchange Improvements](#) project will improve operations at both I-880/Whipple Road and I-880/Industrial Parkway interchanges, which currently exceed capacity. Congestion occurs on a daily basis during both the morning and afternoon commute hours, and traffic is forecasted to increase up to 15 percent by 2045. Improvements

are needed at both interchanges to address current and future congestion, and to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. The draft environmental document is expected to be released for public review in June 2020.



Interstate 880 northbound off-ramp at Winton Avenue in the City of Hayward.

### The [Interstate 880 Winton Avenue and A Street Interchange Improvements](#)

The [Interstate 880 Winton Avenue and A Street Interchange Improvements](#) project will improve operations at two I-880 interchanges, Winton Avenue and A Street, as well as the I-880 mainline with the installation of auxiliary lanes between the two interchanges. The current project alternatives for improvements at each interchange also address pedestrian and bicycle connectivity by proposing Class IV Bike Lanes, wider sidewalks and shared use paths. Working closely with the City of Hayward, Caltrans, local businesses and community representatives, the draft environmental document for public review is expected to be released at the end of this year or early next year.

The [Oakland-Alameda Access](#) project will re-organize the connection between I-880, I-980 and the Webster and Posey Tubes connecting the cities of Oakland [Project Updates cont'd on page 4](#)

## Planning and Program Updates

### 2020 Countywide Transportation Plan update

Alameda CTC staff have been working on an update to the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) since early 2019 with several CTP items brought to agency committees (Alameda County Technical Advisory Committee (ACTAC) and Planning, Policy and Legislation Committee) and the Commission through March 2020. April marked the transition from technical plan development to detailed partner agency and Commission engagement around priority projects and strategies ensuring that recommendations reflect County and local priorities, as well as address the most pressing needs facing communities.

During April and May, staff led remote discussions with partner agency staff and Commissioners in each of the four planning areas throughout the County. These detailed discussions included needs assessment findings and draft recommendations in the form of priority projects and strategies focused on the next 10 years. Overall, there was not only support for the needs assessment findings for each planning area, but requests for revisions to the draft 10-year priority list to reinforce and clarify local priorities, and suggestions for further refinement of the highest priority strategies for Alameda County.

In early June, staff discussed draft final project priorities with ACTAC and presented two key sets of strategies for the inaugural meeting of the Alameda CTC Multi-Modal Committee. Draft final CTP recommendations will be brought to the Commission in July, which will initiate the final phase of public

outreach on the draft plan. Adoption of the 2020 CTP will take place in fall 2020.

## Policy News

### State and federal update

On May 14th, Governor Gavin Newsom released the May Revision of the State of California budget—a very different document than what was anticipated earlier in the year when the state had experienced 118 consecutive months of economic growth. Since that time due to the current health pandemic, the state has gone from a surplus of \$6 billion to a deficit of \$54 billion with revenues having declined by a projected \$41 billion and unemployment forecasted to be at 18 percent. The current revision is designed to close the budget gap of over \$54 million by funding only the most essential priorities—public health, public safety, public education, and to support workers and businesses.



While this economic downturn will impact our industry, the revised budget did not include significant changes to transportation funding. Despite the Department of Finance's assumption of a quick economic rebound, impact to transit operating funds may be substantial due to the forecasted drop in diesel sales tax revenue. However, other funding sources, such as the Senate Bill 1 and vehicle registration fees, are stable so far. Note that adoption of the Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Plan was not part of the June 15th budget and will be deferred until August.

### INVEST in America Act

Earlier this month, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released text of the Investing

in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act, the Committee's initial proposal for a new transportation bill. The current transportation bill expires at the end of September.

The INVEST in America Act, which would enable the completion of critical projects through long-term, sustainable funding, authorizes nearly \$500 billion over five years to address some of the country's most urgent infrastructure needs. The INVEST in America Act also addresses the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing flexibility for utilizing additional federal funds to advance projects. This will ensure that states, cities, tribes, territories, and transit agencies can administer programs, advance projects, and preserve jobs in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis.

## Programming Updates

### Measure B, Measure BB and Vehicle Registration Fee Program Compliance

Each year, Alameda CTC distributes formula allocations of Measure B, Measure BB and Vehicle Registration Fee funds to local cities and transit agencies to support local transportation, operations and maintenance needs. Fund recipients are required to submit annual audited financial statements and compliance reports that detail the receipt and use of these funds on eligible bicycle and pedestrian, transit, paratransit and local transportation programs.

For the fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 reporting period, Alameda CTC distributed over \$180 million to local recipients. Recipients expended approximately \$170 million on projects that included

bicycle/pedestrian safety and gap closures, street resurfacing and maintenance, transit operations and transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities. These expenditures were in accordance with transportation expenditure plans guiding the use of voter-approved transportation dollars; however, one city, Union City, was unable to submit requisite reports due to a computer virus. They will be submitting them in the fall at which time Alameda CTC will share any findings, if they are deemed to not be in compliance.

The complete FY 2018-19 Program Compliance Reports are available on Alameda CTC's [Reporting and Grant Forms web page](#).

### Transportation Fund for Clean Air and Measure BB funding for the San Leandro Links Shuttle Operations

As part of an ongoing effort to provide first- and last-mile connections from major transit stations, such as BART stations and bus transit lines, Alameda CTC continues to fund shuttle services like [San Leandro's LINKS shuttle](#). For the past five years, Alameda CTC has supported LINKS shuttle operations through an investment of over \$800,000 in Measure BB and the Transportation Fund for Clean Air program funds. San Leandro LINKS has two shuttles that provide free peak commute-period transportation from San Leandro's main



BART station to the industrial area west of I-880.

The service operates Monday-Friday with an average daily ridership of approximately 770 passengers.

## Finance Updates

### Alameda CTC's Interim Audit Begins

During May, several important finance items were approved by the Commission including the proposed budget for FY 2020-21, the third quarter financial and investment reports for FY 2019-20, and updates to the administrative code and investment policy. The most noteworthy of these items is the budget for FY 2020-21 which includes projected revenues of \$378 million and expenditures of \$371 million for an increase in overall fund balance of \$7 million and a projected ending fund balance of \$396 million.

Budgeted revenues for FY 2020-21 include sales tax revenues of \$290 million, down 19.4 percent or \$70 million from the original FY 2019-20 projections. Staff will closely watch sales tax collections in the coming months and provide updates to the Commission as information becomes available. An update to the FY 2020-21 budget will be proposed when deemed appropriate, as information is received from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

Also during May, the finance team began preparations for the interim phase of the annual audit scheduled for early June. Activities that occur during this phase of the audit include an Audit Committee meeting, and auditor review of policies and procedures, testing and an overall plan for the audit, including materiality levels.

### Contracting opportunities

Alameda CTC anticipates upcoming solicitation of bids and/or proposals for the following:

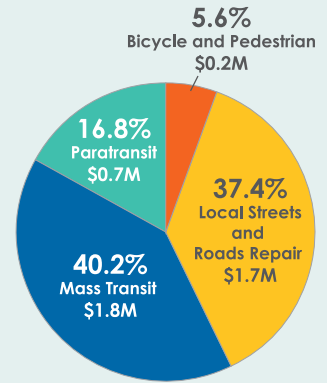
- Professional Services contracts**
  - Project Delivery Services

*Finance Updates cont'd on page 4*

## Transportation Investments

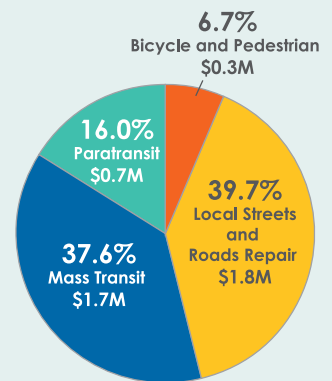
### Measure BB Program Distributions

Measure BB direct local distributions began in April 2015 and total over \$378.7 million; over \$4.4 million was distributed in March 2020.



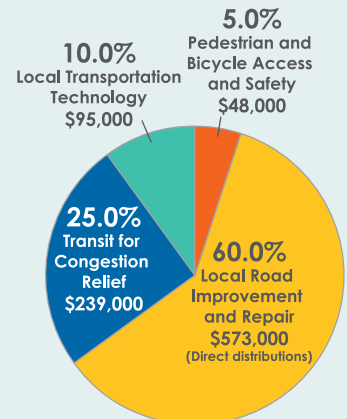
### Measure B Program Distributions

Measure B direct local distributions have totaled more than \$1.1 billion since 2002. In March 2020, over \$4.5 million was distributed for four programs.



### Vehicle Registration Fee

Since 2011, Alameda CTC has distributed more than \$63.8 million for local road repair; over \$0.9 million was collected in March 2020.



## Agency Activities

In June, Alameda CTC held a virtual Open House for the [I-680 Express Lanes from SR-84 to Alcosta Boulevard](#) project where an overview of the project and its environmental process were provided. Public input on the draft environmental document for this project is critical to its success, which can be provided in a number of ways, including via an [online comment card](#) located on the [project web page](#).

Due to the current health crisis, all other outreach events have been either canceled or postponed. All BikeMobile events and school visits have been canceled since March of this year, and Bike Month events have been rescheduled to late September.

### Project Updates cont'd from page 1

and Alameda. The project aims to realign the freeway on-ramps and connectors to relieve congestion on local city streets, improve local street operations and safety, and improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. The draft environmental document is to be released for public review in the fall of this year, with Project Approval and final Environmental Document approval in summer 2021.

The [Interstate 680 \(I-680\) Express Lanes from State Route 84 \(SR-84\) to Alcosta Boulevard \(Gap Closure\)](#) project will close the existing nine-mile gap in the I-680 high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) and express lane network through Alameda County, from Alcosta Boulevard at the Contra Costa County line to SR-84. The draft environmental document was released for public review in May.

For project updates, visit the [Projects web page](#).

## Other News

### Independent Watchdog Committee's 18th Annual Report

In July of this year, Alameda CTC's Independent Watchdog Committee (IWC) will convene to approve the draft 18th Annual Report, approve its proposed publication costs and distribution, and review the final press release for the report.

The IWC, which is made up of 17 members, all of whom must be a resident of Alameda County, reports directly to the public on the agency's Measure B and Measure BB expenditures and performance measures to ensure open and transparent public processes with regard to the allocation of funding.

### Finance Updates cont'd from page 3

- I-880 Interchanges (Whipple Road/ Industrial Parkway Southwest and Industrial Parkway West) Improvements
- Paratransit Coordination Services
- State Route 262 (Mission Boulevard) Cross Connector
- Contract Equity Support Services
- Information Technology Support Services
- Oakland-Alameda Access Project

### Construction contracts

- SR-84 Plant Establishment Services
- I-880 Southbound High-Occupancy Vehicle Lane – Replacement Highway Planting
- 7th Street Grade Separation East

For more information, visit the [Contracting Opportunities web page](#).



Construction on Interstate 680 express lanes in the Tri-Valley, Courtesy of Caltrans.

## Committee Activities

### Advisory committees

Alameda CTC meetings continue to be held virtually via Zoom due to the current health pandemic. As with all meetings, the public is welcome to call in and to comment. Instruction on participation can be found in each committee agenda packet. June advisory committee highlights include the following:

- June 4 – The [Alameda County Technical Advisory Committee \(ACTAC\)](#), in addition to approving the FY 2018-19 Measure B, Measure BB and Vehicle Registration Fee Program Compliance Summary Report and interim policy updates, the committee received an update on the 2020 CTP's New Mobility Framework and project list, the Land Use Analysis Program processes (Senate Bill 743) and Alameda County's three-year project initiation document work plan.
- June 29 – The [Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee \(PAPCO\)](#) elected its FY 2020-21 officers and approved FY 2020-21 appointments of PAPCO representatives to the IWC and to the East Bay Paratransit Service Review Advisory Committee (SRAC). The committee also approved its FY 2020-21 meeting calendar and the FY 2020-21 Paratransit Direct Local Distribution Program Plans recommendation. Updates were received regarding the IWC, the SRAC and other Americans with Disabilities Act and Transit Advisory committees.