



ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JANUARY 2023

## Keeping Our Promises

Alameda CTC is keeping our promises of delivering projects and programs while supporting jobs and the economy. I am ensuring that the agency continues to perform strategic planning, develop projects and implement programs, move projects into construction, and support our cities, the County, transit agencies and business partners. Our work is an important part of supporting local communities and the economy.

Thank you,

Tess

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## Project Updates

### GoPort Program's 7th Street Grade Separation East project is ready for construction

The [7th Street Grade Separation East Project](#) (7SGSE project) is ready to begin construction this summer with contractor bid solicitation underway. The 7SGSE project is a high-priority goods movement project and of one of three components of GoPort, the program to improve truck and rail access to the Port of Oakland. The project would not be possible without several important Alameda CTC partners, including the California Transportation Commission (CTC), the California Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Port of Oakland and the City of Oakland.

The Project will realign and reconstruct a primary trucking and access gateway into the Port of Oakland. The reconstructed access into the Oakland Seaport will relieve truck and vehicle congestion, increase safety and provide flexibility

for seaport cargo operations, thereby supporting the Port's projected growth.

The Project includes a shared bicycle/pedestrian pathway for public access to the Port and Middle Harbor Shoreline Park that will support the implementation of Alameda CTC's multimodal goals, increase efficiency, provide access to high-paying Port jobs, foster sustainability and support the entire Northern California economy.

Recent important milestones include concluding lengthy right-of-way negotiations in December and subsequently executing a Construction and Maintenance (C&M) Agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to secure the right-of-way necessary for Project construction. Upon execution of this agreement, Alameda CTC was able to request a funding allocation for construction of the project.

Another milestone occurred in December when the CTC approved \$175 million in funding for the project. Staff then held a well-attended pre-construction contractor outreach event on December 19th.



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An [e-blast](#) was also sent at the end of December to update the community about the upcoming construction and provide project contact information. The project construction contract was advertised January 3, 2023, and a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on January 18, 2023.

**Countywide Rail Safety Enhancement**

**Existing rail crossing along 37th Avenue in the City of Oakland.**

Alameda CTC continues to advance Phase A of the countywide Rail Safety Enhancement Program (RSEP) which will enhance safety, efficiency, and the reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail throughout the county. Phase A focuses on developing safety improvements at 30 at-grade crossing locations, including completing environmental clearances



for each crossing. To meet the California Environmental Quality Act requirements, work includes both Categorical Exemptions and Initial Studies. Public meetings will be held

for the crossings for projects requiring an Initial Study. The first of multiple Initial Studies is anticipated to be released for public comment in late February/early March and will be linked on the RSEP: Phase A tab of the [RSEP project webpage](#).

More information about these and other Alameda CTC projects can be found on the agency's [Projects webpage](#).

**Planning Updates****San Pablo Avenue Corridor Project safety enhancements**

The multi-year planning and project development effort for San Pablo Avenue has advanced into the next stage of design. In December, staff initiated targeted community engagement to gather input on specific near-term safety and transit improvements under development San Pablo Avenue and parallel streets in Albany, Berkeley and North Oakland as part of the corridor's Safety Enhancements and Parallel Bike Improvements projects. Users of the San Pablo Avenue corridor experience the third-highest number of bicycle and pedestrian collisions resulting in fatal and severe injuries in the county. This project will improve the safety for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing San Pablo Avenue and improve transit speed by installing high visibility crosswalks, flashing beacons, pedestrian signals, median refuge islands, upgraded lighting, accessible curb ramp upgrades, bulb outs at Rapid bus stops, and bus stop relocations. To view a detailed map of proposed improvements and provide input on this major transit route, please visit [alamedactc.org/sanpablo](https://alamedactc.org/sanpablo).



**AC Transit's Line 72 bus traveling along San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley.**

**Policy News****A plan to address race and equity****Race and Equity Action Plan (REAP)**

Adopted December 2022

The Commission adopted Alameda CTC's first Race and Equity Action Plan (REAP) in December. Alameda CTC has a long history of addressing equity across programs and policies. The REAP establishes equity efforts in all agency departments and includes actions that implement Alameda CTC's [equity statement](#) across the agency's diverse functions and workplan.

The REAP includes 43 actions the agency will implement that are opportunities to enhance agency activities with a renewed emphasis on equity, as well as new areas of action for the agency. Alameda CTC is committed to building upon existing agency functions that are rooted in racial and socioeconomic equity with the intent to enhance and expand this approach for new efforts.

Alameda CTC staff will work to implement the recommended actions throughout 2023 and conduct the first annual progress report to the Commission in early 2024. For more information on the REAP, visit the agency's [Equity Initiatives webpage](#).



## Programming Updates

### A Compliance Reporting update

Alameda CTC is reviewing the Measure B, Measure BB and Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) reported expenditures from local jurisdictions for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22. Each year, Alameda CTC requires recipients of Measure B/BB and VRF direct local distribution (DLD) funds to submit Audited Financial Statements and Program Compliance Reports, which summarize revenues and expenditures that support local street and roads, bicycle and pedestrian, paratransit and transit investments. These compliance reports provide the public with detailed information, including recipient use of funds, fund balances and information about specific improvements and programs funded by the sales tax and revenue programs.

Alameda CTC, in conjunction with the Independent Watchdog Committee, will review submitted reports for the FY 2021-22 reporting year to determine program compliance and note any discrepancies to the Commission. Program compliance information is available on Alameda CTC's [Compliance Reports webpage](#).

### 2024 Comprehensive Investment Plan/ One Bay Area Grant Cycle 3 Update

On May 10, 2022, Alameda CTC released a Call for Projects for the 2024 Comprehensive Investment Plan (CIP), which the agency uses to facilitate strategic programming and allocation of fund sources. The total 2024 CIP Fund Estimated Call included \$150.8 million in combined Measure B/BB, VRF, Transportation Fund for Clean Air, and One Bay Area Grant 3 (OBAG 3) program funds.

Because the MTC makes the final award recommendations for OBAG 3 projects, Alameda CTC sent an OBAG 3 Project Nomination List to MTC for their consideration. MTC is expected to make its final OBAG 3 Program determinations this month. Subsequently, Alameda CTC will finalize

[Programming Updates cont'd on page 4](#)

## Finance Updates

### Clean financial audits as staff readies for the new year

Maze & Associates, Alameda CTC's independent auditors, presented the agency's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 to the Commission in December and the Sunol Joint Powers Authority's (JPA) Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 to the Sunol JPA Board in November. Both reports received unanimous approval. Maze & Associates provided clean or unmodified audit opinions on both Alameda CTC's and the Sunol JPA's financial reports.

The ACFR has been submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to be considered for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award. Since its first annual financial report was prepared in the form of an ACFR, Alameda CTC has been awarded this certificate of achievement for the past nine years. To receive this certificate of achievement, an agency must go beyond minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare an ACFR in the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

During December, staff also kicked off the mid-year budget update process for FY 2022-23 and the annual budget process for FY 2023-24.

### Contracting Opportunities

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

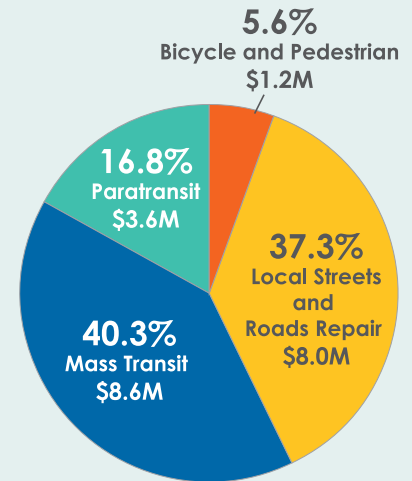
- **Professional Services contracts**
  - Congestion Management Program – Multimodal Monitoring
  - Legislative Advocacy Services – Federal
  - Legislative Advocacy Services – State
  - Municipal Advisory and Support Services

[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 \$637.9 million; over \$21.4 million was distributed in September 2022.

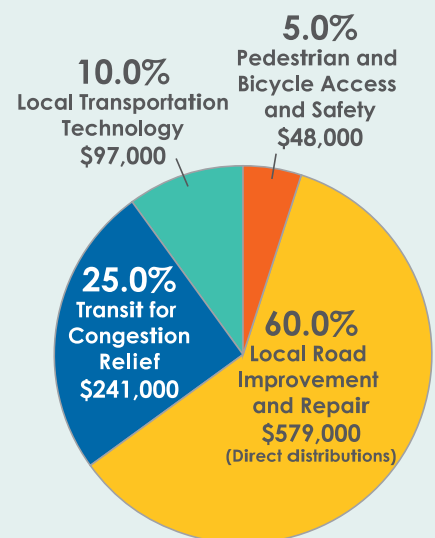


### Measure B Program Distributions

Measure B direct local distributions have totaled more than \$1.3 billion since 2002. The measure sunset on March 31, 2022. There are no Measure B Program Distributions after the fiscal year-end of June 30, 2022.

### Vehicle Registration Fee

Since 2011, Alameda CTC has distributed more than \$82.3 million for local road repair; over \$0.9 million was collected in September 2022.



## Agency Activities

The following events were either hosted, sponsored or participated in by Alameda CTC during the months of December and January:



**Alameda CTC staff (l. to r.) Vivek Bhat (Senior Director of Programming and Projects), Tess Lengyel (Executive Director) and James O'Brien (consultant) touring the BART fleet.**

- December 16 – **BART Fleet of the Future Tour:** agency staff toured the first phase of manufacturing new rail cars
- December 21 - BART held a **ribbon cutting for the 19th Street/Oakland Station Modernization project**, funded in part by Measure BB and attended by Executive Director Tess Lengyel
- **BikeMobile** Outreach Events
  - December events in addition to those listed in the December 2022 issue:
    - December 4 – Cornell Elementary, Albany
    - December 8 – Island High, Alameda
    - December 10 – Sundale Arms Apts, Fremont
    - December 11 – Maralisa Meadows Apts, Livermore
    - December 19 – Berkeley Library – Tarea Hall Pittman Branch, Berkeley
    - December 20 – Laguna Commons Apts, Fremont
    - December 21 – Rancho Las Positas Elementary, Livermore
    - December 22 – Maple Square Apts, Fremont
    - December 23 – Sundale Arms Apts, Fremont
  - January 3 – Maralisa Meadows Apts, Livermore
  - January 4 – Stoney Creek Apts, Livermore
  - January 9 – Brookfield Elementary, Oakland
  - January 10 – Steven Millard Elementary, Fremont

- January 11 – Southgate Elementary, Hayward
- January 14 – Clinton Park, Oakland
- January 17 – Frances Albrier Community Center, Berkeley
- January 18 – John Muir Elementary, Berkeley
- January 20 – Birch Grove Intermediate, Newark
- January 23 – Ardenwood Elementary, Fremont
- January 25 – Cesar Chavez Middle, Hayward
- January 26 – Encinal Junior & Senior High School, Alameda
- January 27 – Newark Junior High, Newark
- January 28 – Union City Library, Union City

## Other News

### Countywide Bikeways Network



**Emeryville's Doyle Street Greenway, one of 13 Alameda CTC quick-build bicycle and pedestrian projects, a multi-use path that is a part of the countywide bikeway network.**

In December 2022, the Commission approved an All Ages and Abilities Policy and a set of Design Expectations for the Countywide Bikeways Network, which creates a vision for a high-quality, 400-mile network of safe and comfortable bikeways on corridors of countywide significance.

In 2023, Alameda CTC will launch a Bikeways Academy that will offer training opportunities for staff and workshops on the benefits of safety-focused improvements and the strategies to achieve them. Staff will also publish stories to highlight project that have overcome challenges to deliver safety benefits to communities.

### Hale Zukas: A Champion of Transportation

We are saddened by the passing of our longtime colleague and accessible public transit advocate Hale Zukas who passed away late last year. For more than 20 years,



Hale was steadfastly dedicated to transportation for older adults and people with disabilities and the disability

rights movement. He was a co-founder of the Center for Independent Living (CIL) and a long time community advisory committee member for Alameda CTC's Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee (PAPCO) and Independent Watchdog Committee (IWC), formerly known as the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Hale's work was impactful and inspirational, and we are grateful for his contributions to Alameda CTC and the Alameda County communities at large. To learn more about Hale and his life's work, please check out the award-winning documentary Hale at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY\\_BYK1ArE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY_BYK1ArE).

## Committee Activities

### Advisory committee activity during January

In January of this year, no advisory committees met.

Please visit [Alameda CTC's Meetings webpage](#) for details on upcoming meetings.

**Programming Updates cont'd from page 3**  
recommendations for the remaining discretionary funds available through the 2024 CIP in spring 2023 to complete the 2024 CIP programming cycle.

**Finance Updates cont'd from page 3**

#### • Construction contracts

- 7th Street Grade Separation East

For more information, visit Alameda CTC's [Contracting Opportunities webpage](#).