

From: Sophia D
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 3:59:57 PM
To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: Comment for the Select Committee on a Regional Transportation Measure

External Email

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Sophia D. I am with EBHO part of Voices for Public Transportation. We are the leading affordable housing advocacy coalition in Alameda and Contra Costa counties and we are part of the winning coalition for a regional measure that funds abundant transit, with progressive sources, and is climate positive. **The latest scenarios are moving further away from a proposal the majority of people will be excited to support.** A successful measure needs to raise at least \$1.5 billion a year and have a sustainable source of transit funding over the life of the measure in order to **save union jobs**, increase transit service levels, and implement regional initiatives like free transfers, transit priority, and make improvements to **access for seniors and people with disabilities.**

On an individual level, as someone who relies on transit to get to work, take care of daily errands and be an active and involved part of my community, transit service cuts would upend my life and remove much of the freedom of movement I enjoy. It would also cause a traffic nightmare and prevent us from reaching our climate goals or building the housing we need. The Bay Area can– and MUST– do better.



Rev. Sophia D.
Chief Program Officer
EAST BAY HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS (EBHO)



Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Mike Hursh, General Manager

October 18, 2024

Jim Spering, Chair
Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Item 4b, Transportation Revenue Measure Scenario Updates

Dear Chair Spering,

I am writing on behalf of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) to express my deep concerns regarding the current Transportation Revenue Measure proposals. I appreciate MTC's commitment to building consensus during this urgent and immediate need for transit operating funds to keep transit running. As the CEO of AC Transit, I want to emphasize the critical importance of equitable funding and support for our transit services in the East Bay.

As I have previously mentioned, I am extremely concerned that AC Transit will not receive a fair share from the current proposed scenarios. It will be difficult for AC Transit to support a scenario that fills only 50% of our projects annual operating deficit need.

This inequity would have serious implications for our operations and the communities we serve. Our most vulnerable and underrepresented communities stand to be hit hardest by service cuts if AC Transit's projected deficit is not adequately addressed. We currently serve over 150,000 riders on an average weekday, and in just the first quarter of this fiscal year, we have already surpassed 10 million rides. The number of individuals who rely on our service is significant and cannot be overlooked.

From the outset of this process, we have stressed the necessity for equity to be integrated into the revenue distribution equation. Unfortunately, this has not been adequately reflected in the proposed allocations. AC Transit is facing a projected deficit of \$146 million over the next four years, starting next fiscal year. With emergency federal assistance ending this fiscal year and state financial support concluding next year, the challenges we face are exacerbated by rising operational costs.

It's important to note that our current deficit projections are based on maintaining only 85% of service levels. We have no intention of remaining at this reduced level; we aim to restore our service to 100% as soon as possible. Given our resource constraints, we are committed to maximizing our existing resources and directing service where it is needed most.

