



Susan Wengraf
Vice Mayor & Councilmember District 6

TIME CRITICAL AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: September 10, 2024

Item Description: AC Transit Draft Final Plan

AC Transit is holding their Realign Draft Final Public Hearings on September 9 -11, with the Board set to make final decisions during their September 11 Board Meeting. Announcement of these Public Hearings took place during summer recess.

Time Critical Items. A Time Critical item is defined as a matter that is considered urgent by the sponsor and that has a deadline for action that is prior to the next meeting of the Council and for which a report prepared by the City Manager, Auditor, Mayor or Council Member is received by the City Clerk after established deadlines and is not included on the Agenda Committee's published agenda.

The author of the report shall bring any reports submitted as Time Critical to the meeting of the Agenda Committee. **Per BMC 2.06.060 (D), Time Critical items must be accompanied by complete reports and statements of financial implications.**

If the Agenda Committee finds the matter to meet the definition of Time Critical, the Agenda Committee may place the matter on the Agenda on either the Consent or Action Calendar



Susan Wengraf
Vice Mayor and Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 10, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Vice Mayor Wengraf (Author)
Subject: AC Transit Draft Final Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter to AC Transit urging them to reconsider the frequency of service for bus lines 65 and 67 including restoration of weekend service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Only two buses serve the North-East Berkeley Hills and service stops at 7:00 or 8:00 each weekday evening and does not serve residents at all on weekends. This is a dis-service to residents and to the environment.

Parents have been scrambling to figure out how their children will continue to independently get to and from their commitments with the current limited service of bus lines 65 and 67. The proposed 60-minute headways on the 67 line will be a hardship for families that rely on public transportation.

The Berkeley Hills are extremely steep. For most people, even relatively active people, walking home or biking from downtown is not an option. Elders and young people who don't drive, or don't have access to a vehicle, are especially negatively impacted by increased headways and non-existent weekend service. Likewise, healthcare and homecare workers serving the Hills' aging population would further struggle to get to and from their clients' homes.

It is also an equity issue as members of the Bay Area community who do not own a car cannot easily access the recreational opportunities in Tilden Park on weekends. All people should be able to access our natural treasures.

BACKGROUND

AC Transit has been working on realigning their bus routes since Spring 2023, in response to the substantial shifts in ridership and commute patterns since the pandemic.

When AC Transit's recommendation was to merge lines 67 and 65, among other changes throughout the city, Vice Mayor Wengraf and Councilmember Humbert, co-authored an item urging the AC Transit Board to not reduce the existing minimal service to the hills.

AC Transit edited their plan to keep the two lines. However, they doubled the wait time for one bus and did not add weekend service.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Reliable and frequent public transportation supports ridership, which reduces car driving and emissions.

CONTACT PERSON

Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf District 6 510-981-7160

Attachments:

1: Letter to AC Transit Board Members



September 10, 2024

Transmitted via Email: Realign@actransit.org

Re: DF65 and DF67 Problematic Frequency and Lack of Weekend Service

Dear AC Transit Board of Directors,

The City of Berkeley urges you to reconsider doubling the wait time for bus line DF67, from 30 minutes to 60 minutes, as proposed in the Realign Draft Final Plan, and to restore weekend service for the 65 and 67 buses.

Only two buses serve the North-East Berkeley Hills and service stops at 7:00 or 8:00 each weekday evening and does not serve residents at all on weekends. This is a dis-service to residents and to the environment.

Families in the North Berkeley hills that rely on public transportation have been scrambling to figure out how their tweens and teens will be able to independently get to and from their educational and social commitments with the proposed limited service on both bus lines DF65 and DF67.

The Berkeley hills are extremely steep. For most people, even relatively active people, walking home or biking from downtown is not an option. Elders and young people who don't drive, or don't have access to a vehicle, are especially impacted by increased headways and non-existent weekend service. Likewise, healthcare and homecare workers serving the hills' aging population would further struggle to get to and from their clients' homes.

Through an equity lens, AC Transit is making it impossible for people who do not own cars to access our recreational opportunities on the weekends. Access to our natural treasures should be available to everyone.

The Berkeley City Council urges you to reconsider the 60-minute headways to the DF67 as proposed in the Realign Draft Final Plan, and to restore weekend service for DF65 and DF67.