



ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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City of Oakland
City Council
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Via e-mail: lreid@oaklandnet.com

Council President Larry Reid:

The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is writing to share our support of the AC Transit's proposal to build Downtown Oakland to San Leandro Alternative (DOSL) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. As the agency responsible for protecting the health of Alameda County residents, our department analyzes public health impacts of planning processes for consideration in decision-making. **I write to express our support of the Bus Rapid Transit Project.**¹

ACPHD supports the DOSL BRT project because of its contribution to more healthy and equitable development in Alameda County. In Alameda County, low-income households dedicate a larger share of their income to transportation costs than higher income households and low-income communities, particularly African Americans, rely more on public transportation.² The BRT route will serve some of Alameda County's neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of poverty, whose residents are predominately African Americans and Latinos and who rely on AC Transit. As demonstrated in the Health Impact Assessment³, the BRT will:

- improve transit access and reliability to much needed jobs, to services, and cultural and commercial centers,
- improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety,
- encourage active modes of transportation
- and reduce greenhouse gases and improve air quality in overburdened communities.

Furthermore, the BRT plan includes benefits for people with limited mobility, including: improved boarding via raised platforms level with buses; increased reliability; and increased pedestrian safety improvements. By

¹ We are working with the office of Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson on this issue.

² Alameda County Public Health Department. 2008. *Life and Death from Unnatural Causes: Health and social inequity in Alameda County*. Chapter on Transportation.

³ Human Impact Partners and UC Berkeley Schools of Public Health and City & Regional Planning. July 2012. *A Health Impact Assessment of the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Project*. <http://www.humanimpact.org/doc-lib/finish/8-land-use-and-transportation-hias/177-east-bay-brt-hia->

enhancing the reliability and capacity of public transit along this corridor, it will improve access to economic opportunities within these communities, thereby contributing to better health outcomes and health equity.

ACPHD is dedicated to improving the health of Alameda County residents and preventing avoidable health risks. Thank you for considering our input. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Anita Siegel
Director

cc: Councilmember Brooks;
Councilmember Brunner;
Councilmember De La Fuente;
Councilmember Kaplan;
Councilmember Kernighan
Councilmember Nadel;
Councilmember Schaaf

