



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 3c

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: July 1, 2016

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) Parcel Tax Measure

Background

Last month the AC Transit board voted unanimously to extend the term of its existing parcel tax (with no increase) for another 20 years. The current tax of \$96 per year was passed by 72 percent of voters in November 2008 and provided \$30 million per year for operations and maintenance. This tax will sunset in July 1, 2019.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion

A randomized poll conducted in September 2015 found initial support of 69 percent for the extension, growing to 81 percent after respondents heard both positive and negative arguments. Notably, polling for the successful 2008 measure fell short of the two-thirds vote threshold. AC Transit has held over 35 community meetings during 2016 to hear from its constituents and provide information about its current projects and services. The highest priorities identified among those who completed surveys or participated in a telephone town hall meeting was keeping fares reasonable and providing mobility for those most in need, followed by a desire to maintain frequent bus service.

As noted in the AC Transit staff report, the existing parcel tax was critical to the district's financial stability during the 2009-10 economic downturn; the ensuing 2010 service cuts would likely have been even more severe without this reliable funding source. Predictable sources of transit operating funding are vital to cushion against sharp drops in other revenue sources. Accordingly, staff supports AC Transit's efforts to extend this revenue source and recommends MTC endorse the measure.

Known Positions

Support
Pending

Opposed
Pending



Steve Heminger

SH: rl

Attachments

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