



Memorandum

TO: Joint MTC Legislation Committee and
ABAG Legislation Committee

DATE: March 2, 2018

FR: Executive Director

RE: AB 3124 (Bloom): Three-Position Bike Rack on 60 ft. Buses

Background

Assembly Bill 3124 (Bloom) would allow the use of three-position bike racks on 60-foot articulated buses. Currently, due to restrictions on how far the bike rack and handlebars can extend beyond the front of the bus, only 40-ft. buses are allowed to use the three-position bike racks, which can accommodate three bikes. In 2014, after numerous agency-specific bills were enacted authorizing three-position bike racks on 40-ft buses, the Legislature enacted (and MTC supported) AB 2707 (Chao), allowing three-position bike racks on 40-ft. buses statewide. The addition of a third rack for storage can make a big difference for the many transit riders who want to bring their bicycle on the bus to reach their final destination. A transit rider who can't reliably board a bus due to the lack of bicycle storage is likely to give up on that bus route.

Recommendation: Support (MTC Action)

Discussion

This bill improves access to transit by riders who rely on bicycles as part of their overall trip. The bill recognizes that as more transit riders seek to bring their bicycles on transit, buses need to be able to safely accommodate them to the extent feasible. Because 60-foot buses carry more people than a 40-ft. bus and are typically used on the most popular routes, it is that much more important for transit agencies to be able to accommodate three bicycles on these larger buses.

The bill is consistent with two Plan Bay Area 2040 goals where the region is currently falling short of our targets, namely, increasing non-auto mode share and reducing adverse health impacts partly associated with physical inactivity. Additionally, by enhancing access to transit and encouraging bicycling to final destinations the bill is also likely to contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

AB 3124 simply extends the distance the bike rack may extend from the front of the vehicle by four inches. Despite the longer vehicle length, according to the California Transit Association, the turning radius of a 60-ft. articulated bus with a three-position rack is very similar to that of a 40-ft. bus due to the articulated center joint of the 60-ft. vehicles.

For all of these reasons, staff recommends a support position on the bill.

Known Positions

Support: California Transit Association (sponsor)

Oppose: None on File



Steve Heminger

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