

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Operations Committee**

November 12, 2021

Agenda Item 5a

MTC Commuter Parking Initiative Update

Subject:

Update on the status of three commuter parking facilities located at: 1) Interstate-80 (I-80)/Buchanan St. in Albany; 2) Interstate-880 (I-880)/Fruitvale Ave. in Oakland; and 3) I-880/High St. in Oakland – constructed as part of MTC’s Commuter Parking Initiative.

Background:

In December 2016, the Commission approved \$40 million in funding for MTC to deliver a suite of operational, transit, and shared mobility improvements to move more people into fewer cars across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (MTC Resolution No. 3801, Revised and MTC Resolution No. 4202, Revised). As part of the Bay Bridge Forward-Commuter Parking Initiative, MTC and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) entered into a Master Operation and Maintenance Agreement in November 2017 that authorizes MTC to plan, design, construct, operate and maintain commuter parking facilities within the State highway right-of-way. As such, MTC constructed commuter parking facilities at I-80/Buchanan St. in Albany (Buchanan St. lot) and at I-880/High St. (High St. lot) and I-880/Fruitvale Ave. (Fruitvale Ave. lot) in Oakland to provide more opportunities for commuters to take transit or share rides in carpools. Staff provided an update of the Commuter Parking Initiative to the Operations Committee at its September 13, 2019 meeting.

Previous Contract Approvals for Services:

Contracts are in place for all services that will be provided at the commuter parking facilities, including on-site staffing, management, and operations; electric vehicle (EV) chargers; electronic bicycle lockers; parking occupancy system; and a virtual parking permit system to pay for daily and monthly parking fees. At its September 13, 2019 meeting, the Operations Committee approved parking regulations for the commuter parking facilities (MTC Resolution No. 4390) as well as a contract with LAZ Parking, LLC to provide on-site staffing, parking lot operations and management, and parking occupancy system operations. Other contract approvals include: ZDEVCO LLC to install EV chargers; eLock Technologies, Inc. to install electronic bicycle

lockers; and Passport Labs, Inc. to provide a virtual parking permit system. MTC is in the process of executing enforcement agreements with the cities of Oakland and Albany for the enforcement of parking payment.

MTC also entered into a contract with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. for the Fruitvale Commuter Lots Complete Street Project. MTC, in partnership with the City of Oakland and the Unity Council, worked with the Fruitvale community to identify potential bicycle and pedestrian access improvements to the Fruitvale Ave. lot. The project was completed in June 2021 and MTC will continue to work with the City of Oakland and the Unity Council to find opportunities to move forward with the concepts identified.

Current Status of the Commuter Parking Facilities:

Construction of all three commuter parking facilities was completed in early 2021, except for some amenities (i.e., EV chargers, bicycle lockers, and parking occupancy system). Operations of the commuter parking facilities have been on hold due to impacts from COVID-19 and shelter-in-place mandates. With traffic congestion increasing and commuters starting to return to the workplace, staff is moving forward to begin operations of the Buchanan St. and Fruitvale Ave. lots in December 2021. The lots will be branded as “Pivot Point Commuter Hubs”. Existing AC Transit Transbay lines will provide service to these lots – the LA Transbay line for Buchanan St. and the O Transbay line for Fruitvale Ave. The lots could also accommodate carpooling and employer shuttles when they resume. The Fruitvale Ave. lot includes three parcels, but staff intends to open only one of the three in December, and the remaining two parcels will open as parking demand increases.

MTC will be relinquishing the High St. lot back to Caltrans. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, this lot has experienced an unexpectedly high number of incidents, including graffiti, property damage, theft of materials, littering, and illegal dumping. Although MTC has been providing interim maintenance and repairs over the last 11 months, it does not have the resources to continue the level of maintenance required. Additionally, there are no existing AC Transit Transbay lines that serve this location; and employers that were initially interested in running shuttles to this lot have recently expressed safety concerns and thus they are no longer interested

in providing services here. For these reasons, MTC has determined that the High St. lot is no longer a viable location as a commuter parking facility.

Next Steps:

Staff is preparing for the opening of the Buchanan St. and Fruitvale Ave. lots this December – working with the selected contractors to implement services and amenities. Staff is also working with Caltrans to relinquish the High St. facility. As part of the relinquishment process, MTC is encouraging Caltrans to work with the City of Oakland or other partner agencies to identify alternate uses that could provide community resources and benefits from the improvements that have been put in place at the High St. Facility.

Issues:


None identified

Recommendations:

Information only

Attachments:

- Attachment A: PowerPoint



Andrew B. Fremier

Commuter Parking Initiative

MTC Operations Committee

November 12, 2021



Interstate 80 (I-80)/Buchanan St.



Interstate 880 (I-880)/Fruitvale Ave.



I-880/High St.

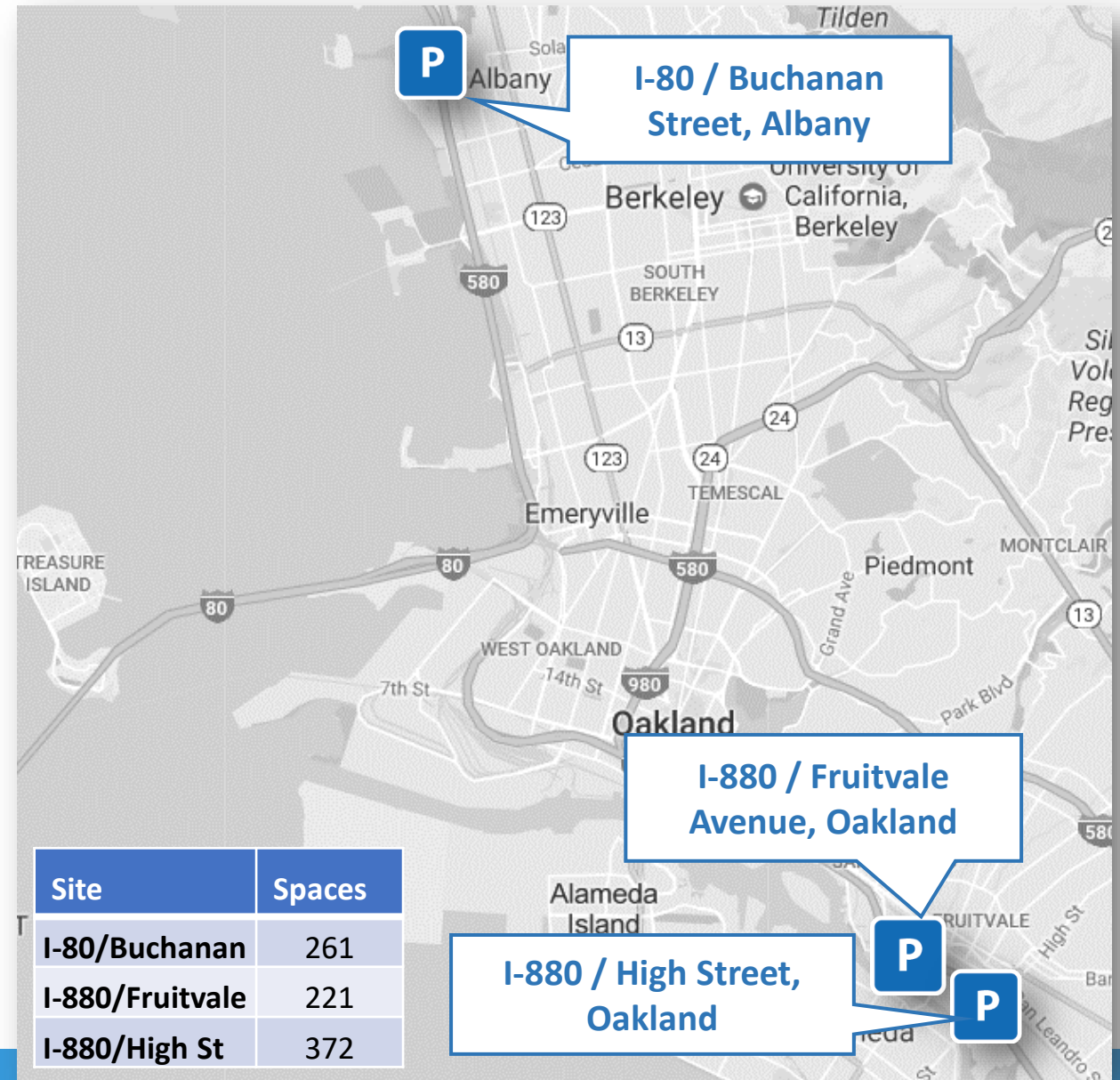
Project Overview

- **Goals**

- Provide opportunities for commuters to park and share rides in transit or carpool
- Move more people in fewer vehicles
- Provide a convenient user experience

- **Design & Operations**

- Using underutilized Caltrans airspaces
- MTC will operate and maintain lots for three-year pilot; will explore partnerships with cities/transit agencies for ongoing operations and maintenance



Provide a Convenient Commuter Experience



Check **real time parking availability information** before leaving



Drive, walk, or bike to the commuter parking lot



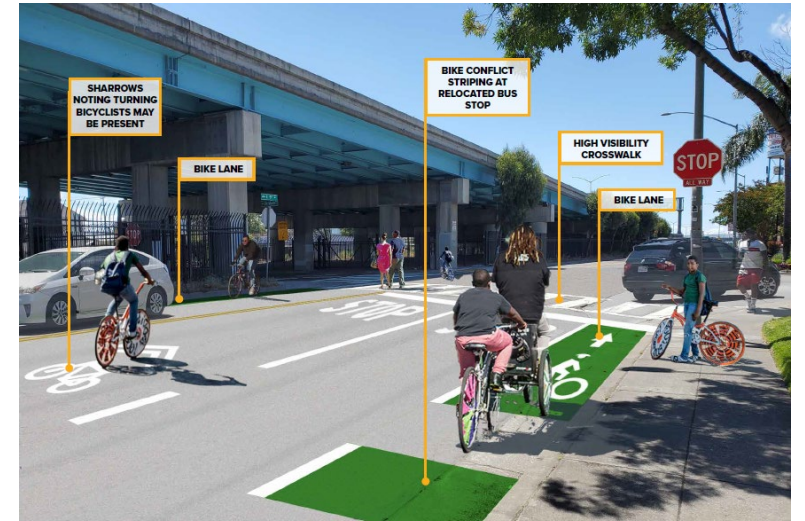
Pay for parking using **mobile payment**



Hop on **transit or carpool** to destination

Project Update

- Construction completed early 2021
- Operation on hold due to COVID-19
- Contracts in place for:
 - Parking operations
 - Electric vehicle chargers
 - Electronic bicycle lockers
 - Parking occupancy system
 - Virtual parking permit system
- Completed project with City of Oakland and Unity Council to identify bicycle and pedestrian access to the Fruitvale Ave. lot



Current Status



I-80/Buchanan St., Albany

- Anticipated to open December 2021 as "Pivot Point Commuter Hub"
- AC Transit Transbay LA line will provide service



I-880/Fruitvale Ave., Oakland

- Anticipated to open December 2021 as "Pivot Point Commuter Hub"
- AC Transit Transbay O line will provide service
- One of three lots will open first; other two lots will open when parking demand increases



I-880/High St., Oakland

- Will relinquish facility back to Caltrans
- Experiencing high number of incidents, including vandalism and theft of materials
- No AC Transit Transbay service available