



ACTIA REPORTS

ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

access, mobility and accountability

May 2008

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INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FUNDED BY MEASURE B

From the Executive Director...

When the voters of Alameda County approved the **half-cent transportation sales tax measure in 2000**, they invested wisely in the local and regional transportation system. With over **\$3 billion** in transportation investments, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) is responsible for keeping its promise to the voters for **mobility, access and accountability**. We are very busy getting the **27 voter approved projects** to construction and **keeping programs moving**, and as always we are interested in hearing from you.

As we move into spring, ACTIA is taking a step forward to conserve resources by implementing a bi-monthly e-mail newsletter. By reducing the use of paper newsletters we are "greening" our information, **reducing costs** and **delivering the most current information** about [projects](#) and [programs](#) funded by the transportation sales tax measure.

The e-newsletter replaces our quarterly print newsletter and will make it easier for you to be regularly informed of important projects and programs that enhance mobility throughout Alameda County -- in particular, projects such as expanding BART and bus services, installing bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements, enhancing mobility options for seniors and disabled, and simply taking care of our streets and roads through regular maintenance.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural e-newsletter that highlights **bicycling as a transportation mode**, in celebration of May as Bike-to-Work Month. We look forward to keeping you informed of critical transportation news and improvements in Alameda County!

Christine Monsen, Executive Director



Get Rolling! Ride, Stride, Live!

Bike-to-Work day is fast approaching and you may be thinking, "How long has it been since I've ridden a bicycle?" Let's face it; many of us have not put our feet on the pedals since childhood. Biking to work can mean biking all the way to work or biking a portion of the trip and taking transit the rest of the way.

Bike to Work Day is May 15!

Bike to Work Day is a great day to hop on your bicycle, no matter where you're headed! Join tens of thousands of Bay Area commuters who will ride a bicycle to get to work, school, play, transit and shopping—and visit one of 50 energizer stations to pick up a free snack and tote bag. (Find locations on your route, plus more information [here](#).) This annual event is a great way to promote bicycling as a means of transportation throughout Alameda County.

Just one day a week of using your bike instead of a car, walking or taking transit can reduce emissions pollutants by nearly 1,000 pounds per year and save hundreds of dollars on gas. And, you're guaranteed to burn some serious calories! See the [exciting new advertising campaign](#) to promote biking—"Get Rolling: Ride, Stride, Live!"—on billboards and bus shelters around the County and on the ACTIA website!

The newest Annual Report, Origins & Destinations, is available now!

The annual report details ACTIA's revenues, expenditures and key accomplishments for 2007. View the printable PDF of the report [here](#).

While we have swapped the two wheels for four, we have also sacrificed the opportunity to break away from some of the stresses and pressures of modern life and see the world from a different perspective. Anyone who has been stuck in traffic trying to get from Point A to Point B will attest that there are has to be a better, more efficient way to spend your time. Are two wheels starting to make more sense? If so, here are five points to consider in favor of biking to work and joining the cycling revolution:



- **Greener Travel**—Cycling allows you to get where you want to go efficiently and free of carbon fuel emissions.
- **More Economical**—You never have to worry about the price of gasoline or parking.
- **Cheaper Maintenance**—Although a bike requires regular, careful maintenance, the cost for bicycle repairs doesn't compete with the bill from the auto mechanic.
- **Greater Mobility**—Cycling can help reduce roadway congestion, as bicycles require significantly less space per traveler than do cars.
- **Better Health**—Bicycling is much healthier than sitting behind the wheel of a car. When undertaken regularly, it can lower your blood pressure and also help you shed a few pounds.

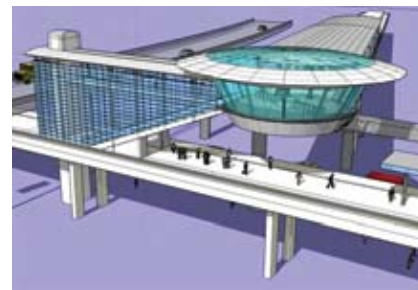
Need more incentive? Think of the interesting places and scenery you can spy along your route, all from the saddle of a bicycle. It's a chance to relive childhood memories and invest in your physical wellbeing. First-time or infrequent riders are encouraged to visit www.511.org and check out the energizer stations and events link for a list of classes and events in your area related to Bike-to-Work Day. ACTIA's Measure B funds support Bike to Work day programs in Alameda County, as well as over \$80 million for bicycle and pedestrian projects, programs and plans. Get Rolling! Ride, Stride, Live!

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Oakland Airport Connector On the Way

A project to create a seamless connection between BART and the Oakland Airport is making exciting progress! The [Oakland Airport Connector \(OAC\)](#) project will select a full-service contractor this spring from a short list of pre-approved teams. Construction could begin in late 2008.

The 3.2-mile OAC will be fully integrated into both the Oakland Coliseum BART Station and the Oakland Airport when it opens in 2011. A system of automated driverless vehicles on a mostly elevated track will provide a safe, reliable and low-cost connection to the airport. The 10-minute trip will primarily run along the median of Hegenberger Road, with vehicles departing every few minutes.



ACTA/ACTIA Board

- May 22, 1:45 pm
- June 26, 1:45 pm

**Administration/
Legislation and Finance
Committee (ALF)**

- May 14, 2:00 pm
- June 11, 2:00 pm

**Work Program
Committee (WPC):**

- May 9, 1:00 pm
- June 13, 1:00 pm

**Bicycle and Pedestrian
Advisory Committee
(BPAC):**

- No meeting in May
- June 12, 5:30 pm

**Citizens Advisory
Committee (CAC):**

- No meeting in May
- June 19, 5:30 pm

**Citizens Watchdog
Committee (CWC):**

- No meeting in May
- June 9, 6:30 pm

**Paratransit Advisory
and Planning Committee
(PAPCO):**

- May 19, 1:30 pm
- June 23, 1:30 pm

Please note: All meetings held at ACTIA offices, 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland –except for CAC meetings, which rotate throughout the county.

Experts expect the OAC to significantly increase public transit use to the airport and provide much-needed relief to jam-packed roads. Today, the AirBART Express bus carries about 3,500 daily passengers from BART to the airport. By 2012, analysts expect the OAC to carry 5,400 passengers a day and more than 9,200 a day in 2020.

Voter-supported Measure B funding and strong partnerships with key stakeholders are making this long-desired project possible. In addition to ACTIA, public partners include BART; the Alameda County Congestion Agency (ACCMA); the California Transportation Commission (CTC); Caltrans; the City of Oakland and the Port of Oakland. A private company will design, build, operate and fund a portion of the costs of the system.

ACTIA Measure B funds account for about one third of public financing, at around \$98 million. The Port of Oakland will contribute about \$42 million; and the State Transportation Improvement Program about \$21 million. Private funding will account for about \$175 million of the total cost.

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**BART Warm Springs Extension
(WSX) Update**

As the largest project in the ACTIA Expenditure Plan, the [BART to Warm Springs Extension](#) represents the critical link in connecting BART into Santa Clara County. Project delivery costs are estimated to be approximately \$747 million (in 2007 dollars), and ACTIA and partners are working hard to eliminate the possibility of additional costs due to delay.



Once full funding is secured, the project is ready to go to construction: environmental documentation has been certified; BART has finalized the track and right-of-way acquisition components with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA); and BART is in the process of completing necessary technical studies for the preliminary engineering phase.

ACTIA continues to work with BART to deliver this important project.

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**\$4 Million to be Allocated for Senior and
Disabled Transportation Programs**

A call for projects was released in January seeking grant submissions from agencies and organizations that can provide innovative and effective transportation opportunities for seniors or disabled patrons. ACTIA has received 29 applications requesting nearly \$6.5 million from public agencies and non-profits for the fourth Measure B Paratransit Gap Grant two-year funding cycle.

Gap grants are flexible funds aimed at expanding the spectrum of transportation services and resources for a growing senior and disabled population. ACTIA's 28-member Paratransit Advisory Planning



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Committee—a committee comprised of seniors and disabled—is reviewing the proposals, and funds will be available July 1, 2008.

Previously funded services include transportation for same-day medical appointment trips, volunteer driver programs, reduced fare taxi and transit services, travel training for seniors and disabled, return transportation at short notice from medical appointments, specialized transport for people with dementia, senior shuttles, older driver safety training, and many other programs. Gap grants have also funded education and outreach programs and emergency preparedness for seniors and disabled riders.

These grants, which are between \$10,000 and \$500,000, can be used for any special transportation purposes, especially those that make paratransit available to all eligible patrons, regardless of location.

More than 10% of ACTIA funds go to senior and disabled transportation services, and of these, 1.4% are for gap grants and other services. These grants help make comprehensive services available to the growing senior and disabled population.

Grant awards will be announced in June.

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Transportation Forums Engage Community

ACTIA hosts quarterly transportation forums in partnership with our Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to connect responsible agencies directly with local communities where projects and programs are being implemented.

The CAC is a thirty-three member committee representing numerous communities throughout Alameda County.

They help to promote accountability by serving as a liaison between ACTIA and the residents of Alameda County who fund Measure B transportation improvements.

The CAC and ACTIA host transportation forums in all areas of the county to serve as a one-stop resource for anyone who wants information regarding progress of Measure B projects and programs in that particular area. They specifically focus on improvements that are being implemented within the next five years. Annually, a forum is facilitated in each of the four main areas of the County, including east, north, central, and south county.

The Central County transportation forum is one of three that have taken place this year. It was held in April at the Hayward City Hall and progress was presented on a number of different projects and programs, with a Q & A session that followed, including the Central County Freeway Study; the Lewelling/East Lewelling Street Widening; I-238 Construction Progress; Route 238/Mission-Foothill-Jackson update; 92/880 Construction update, I-580 Castro Valley Interchange Project update; an update on the Hayward Senior and Disabled transportation programs; and the Bicycle Safety and Family Cycling Classes supporting Bike-to-Work Day. Look for a full report on the Central County forum, coming soon to the ACTIA website. ACTIA's next transportation forum is scheduled to occur in South County on July 17. The location of the forum, as well as a listing of pertinent projects and programs will be available in May.

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ACTIA Puts Mobility into Action

The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) is not only dedicated to serving Alameda County, but its staff is committed to practicing what they advocate. Out of nine full-time employees, more than half use transportation alternatives for routine commuting. Here is a snapshot of a few individuals who implement good mobility in their daily lives.



Christine Monsen, ACTIA's Executive Director, owns a Honda Civic hybrid and regardless of her busy schedule, she carools with fellow employees to meetings. She also occasionally uses public transportation and is biking to work this month whenever she can.

Art Dao, ACTIA's Deputy Director, also carools to meetings and events. He's a frequent BART rider and also is biking to BART this month.

Tess Lengyel, ACTIA's Programs and Public Affairs Manager, rides transit to and from work everyday. She tries to arrange most of her off-site meetings near a transit line. She walks her son to school each day before her commute. In addition to walking, Tess also cycles regularly for exercise.

Anees Azad is ACTA/ACTIA's Manager of Finance and Administration. He used to take public transit daily but recently began walking to and from work to combine exercise and commuting.

Other staff members—**Arun Goel**, **Lei Lam** and **LaTonia Peoples-Stokes**—regularly commute to work by BART. So, while ACTIA staff work for better mobility, they also encourage others to use transportation alternatives for routine commuting.

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ACTIA Community Advisory Committees Welcome You

Lend your voice, opinions and ideas to help improve transportation! ACTIA invites Alameda County residents to participate in one of the agency's four community advisory committees. Each group has 11 to 33 members and meets regularly throughout the year.

Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC): Measure B will generate more than \$80 million for bicycle and pedestrian improvements over the next 20 years. BPAC members advise ACTIA on bicycle and pedestrian funding and grant decisions. They also provided guidance on the first-ever [Countywide Pedestrian Plan](#) and the [Toolkit for Improving Walkability](#).

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC): ACTIA allocates funds for projects and programs that directly benefit 1.5 million residents in 14 cities. CAC members are a liaison between ACTIA and the communities they represent, bringing local concerns to ACTIA and sharing ACTIA's progress. The CAC holds quarterly Transportation Forums throughout the County to update the community on current projects and programs. (See related article above.)

Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC): By 2022, ACTIA will contribute over \$3 billion to transportation improvements in Alameda County with a half-cent sales tax approved by



81.5% of voters. CWC members review all expenditures to ensure accountability and transparency. Read the [CWC 2007 Report to the Public](#).

Paratransit Advisory Planning Committee (PAPCO): Measure B has significantly increased the funding that Alameda County cities receive for special transportation for seniors and the disabled population. PAPCO members, all of whom are seniors or disabled riders, review paratransit plans, advise ACTIA on local paratransit programs, and recommend funding decisions to the ACTIA Board. See all services funded by ACTIA based on PAPCO's recommendations [here](#).

Members of community advisory committees receive a per diem; commit to two-year appointments; and are appointed by the ACTIA Board and other specified agencies. Members are not public agency employees and do not work for an organization that requests money from ACTIA.

Interested? Meeting dates and agendas and committee applications are available on the [ACTIA website](#). And remember, the public is welcome to attend all ACTIA meetings.

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program update

Sixty percent of Measure B funds go to multi-modal transportation projects, programs and services that are collectively known as ACTIA Programs. These include local transportation, bicycle and pedestrian projects, mass transit operations, senior and disabled transportation (paratransit) and transit-oriented development. See articles below for updates on a few of the many ACTIA programs underway.

Secret Riders Evaluate Hayward Paratransit Service

The City of Hayward's Paratransit Program, a Measure B-funded program, provides an array of important services to seniors and disabled residents, including same-day medical return trips, group social trips, and some out-of-county medical trips. The Hayward Paratransit Program implemented a Secret Rider Program in January 2007. Modeled after the East Bay Paratransit Secret Rider Program, registered riders volunteer to monitor the quality of the Hayward Paratransit Program service.

Secret Riders monitor individual rides for timeliness, driver courtesy and helpfulness, as well as vehicle cleanliness. They are asked to keep the fact that they are Secret Riders confidential so that dispatchers/schedulers, drivers and other passengers are not aware that they are being evaluated.

Secret Riders are provided trip vouchers to cover the cost of the trips that they are monitoring. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Secret Rider, please contact Victoria Williams, Paratransit Coordinator at 510-583-4230 or by email at victoria.williams@hayward-ca.gov.

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Seniors Expand Horizons Through Travel Training

"Get where you want to go," is the focus of the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County's (USOAC) travel training. The Center for Independent Living, in partnership with USOAC, facilitates free transit instruction and coaching sessions for seniors 55 years and older. The program, funded by ACTIA, includes a group classroom travel orientation, in addi-

Do you know of someone who does not have email access but would like to receive ACTIA's news? They can call (510) 893-3347 or write us at 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612, to request a hardcopy of the e-newsletter. For easy access past issues of the e-newsletter will be maintained on the [ACTIA website](#).

tion to field training aboard public transportation.

In class, seniors role-play scenarios and participate in lively discussions designed to address concerns and potential barriers to independent travel. Participants are assessed in terms of their current mobility status and a plan is created to increase their confidence in traveling. Ideally, attendees learn to navigate both bus and BART.

Field sessions focus on developing the necessary skills to ride public transportation with ease. So far, three classes have been held at community and senior centers in Alameda County and participation and the classes have yielded a total of nineteen graduates.

Overall, learning materials for the class include a travel training curriculum, Alameda County public transit maps, printed bus schedules, and a list of phone numbers to access in the event of an emergency, concerns, and/or complaints. Each person enrolled in the program gets ten AC Transit bus passes and a \$24.00 BART ticket. In order to learn more about future travel training sessions for seniors, contact the USOAC at (510) 841-4776.

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Measure B Helps Improve Hayward's Road and Pedestrian Facilities

Due in great part to Measure B, the City of Hayward has been able to continue its all-encompassing and intensive efforts to improve the street and road network as well as pedestrian-related facilities within Hayward. One of the major projects completed during the past year included an \$800,000 pavement reconstruction along Amador Street, Kay Avenue, Tampa Avenue and Andrea Street. A \$1.4 million pavement rehabilitation of numerous streets, including Flamingo Avenue, Coleman Avenue and Newhall Street, was also recently completed. In addition, several speed monitoring devices were installed throughout the City and have proven to be a successful deterrent to speeding in key areas.

During this year, pavement reconstruction will commence along Douglas Street and Dove Way and is also expected to cost approximately \$800,000. Another pavement rehabilitation project will also occur in 2008, with streets such as Sleepy Hollow, Palomares Road and Joyce Street included in the scope of the project. Finally, several more speed monitoring devices will be installed along key roadways throughout Hayward.

Measure B funding also played an important role towards improving pedestrian and bicycle facilities along Pleasant Way and Berry Avenue. This project, which improved sidewalk along both of these streets, is slated for completion during the spring. In addition, the City recently completed an update of its Bicycle Master Plan, which calls for a network of bicycle paths, lanes and routes throughout Hayward. Later in the year, another sidewalk improvement project will occur along Cypress Street and Western Boulevard, along with various upgrades to the City's network of pedestrian traffic signals.

For more information, contact Todd Strojny at 510/583-4733.

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