

Measure **B**: **B**enefit or **B**oondoggle?



Background

Alameda County's elected officials are working now to put a measure on the November 2012 ballot to ask voters to **double the existing transportation sales tax, extend it forever**, and approve a \$7.7 billion plan for the next 30 years of spending. **The stakes are high!**

In early November 2011, the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) released a "Preliminary Draft Expenditure Plan" less than 48 hours before asking their Community Advisory Working Group to comment on the plan. Community response was largely negative.

Unless ACTC revises the draft plan, Measure B is likely to fail at the ballot box. TransForm is working with elected officials, key stakeholders, and allies throughout the county to craft a new plan that the voters will support.

Key Issues

- **Save BART!** – BART has huge unfunded shortfalls to maintain its existing system. Built in the 60s and 70s, it is getting old and needs major upgrades. BART cars are already packed at rush hour. More and more people want to ride. But BART can't handle the increase without major investment to **Fix it First**. Without those investments, trains would move much slower and BART might only be able to carry half as many riders at commute hours. Even more investment will be needed when additional riders from new extensions get on board. BART already has 3 unfinished extensions on the books.



Alameda County needs to save the existing BART system, not promise more extensions.

- **Livermore needs real transit solutions NOW, not false promises** – Extending BART to downtown Livermore, or to I-580 close to downtown, would cost over \$3 billion. Recently, project proponents have been talking about a one-station extension, just five miles down the road to Isabel Avenue, for \$1.2 billion. **But "BART to Livermore" is a false promise, a recipe for another decade of disappointment for Livermore residents.** The county would spend years scrambling to find state and federal money that isn't there for an overly expensive project. Instead we need:
 - ✓ An effective new connection from Livermore to BART and job centers.
 - ✓ An true study that looks at all of the alternatives, shows what gets us the biggest bang for the buck, and considers the long term costs of maintaining both the new extension AND the existing system. True planning does not pre-suppose the answer.

Alameda County and BART can't afford a transportation system based on power politics and polls. If we are going to have one of the highest tax rates in the country, we deserve true, smart planning.

- **Respond to and support the "Community Vision Platform"** – TransForm, along with several other groups and elected officials, signed on to a 4-page platform of recommendations, including significant details on specific funding recommendations. See the platform at <http://goo.gl/BXBOs>. We can create a Measure B that would:
 - ✓ Fix it First
 - ✓ Help meet state and regional climate change targets
 - ✓ Improve mobility and health for all communities
 - ✓ Achieve geographic equity
 - ✓ Uphold high standards for planning
 - ✓ Protect the county from skyrocketing project costs
- **Take the time to craft a winning plan.** – There's no need to rush. This is a 30-year decision. ACTC only released a draft plan in early November, and the election is almost a year away. Rushing to judgment now will result in a plan that draws opposition, as in 1998, and fails at the ballot box. Let's take the time to hear people's voices, craft a plan that makes sense for Alameda County and will draw widespread support.

What You Can Do

1. Attend and speak out at upcoming ACTC meetings.

Thu Dec 1, 12-3pm, at 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland. ACTC's "CWTP-TEP Steering Committee meeting"

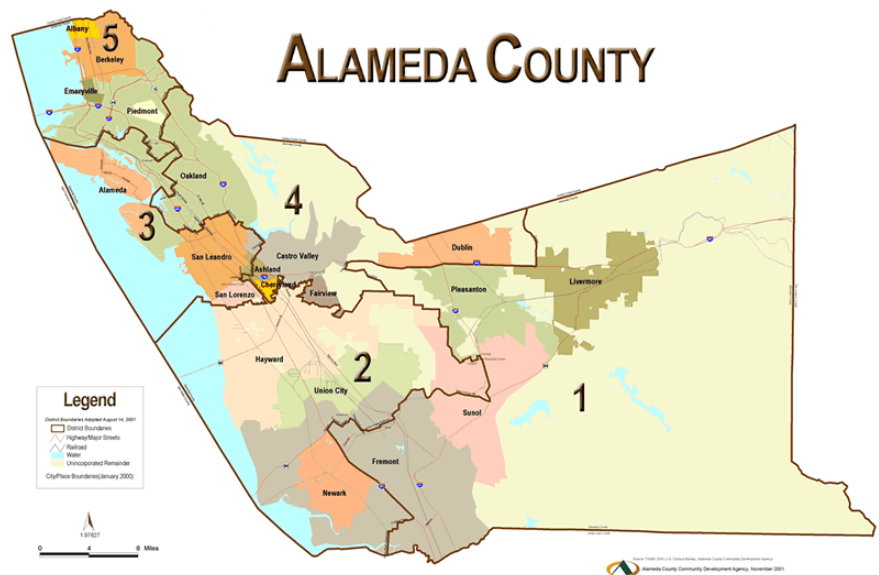
Possibly Fri Dec 16, time TBD during 8:30-2:30 at ACTC's Annual Board Retreat, at the Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Avenue, Newark.

2. Tell your elected official to support the Community Vision Platform.

Find a list and links to ACTC Board members at <http://goo.gl/830EZ>

For the members of the Steering Committee for Measure, see <http://goo.gl/xq8sj>

3. Get on our email list for late-breaking news: email Manolo at manolo@transformca.org



For more information:

Contact Manolo González-Estay, manolo@transformca.org or 510-740-3150 ext 315
 More details at www.transformca.org/advocacy/measureb