

Federal Funds Are Vital For AC Transit

Regular and Paratransit Services Are In Jeopardy



Nothing is more critical to AC Transit than having a readily available fleet of clean, well-maintained coaches to carry the nearly 200,000 daily passengers who rely on bus service.

AC Transit's biggest use of federal funds:

- Nearly 80% of bus replacement costs are funded by the Federal Transit Administration
- More than \$5 million annually is needed to run the ADA-mandated paratransit services

"To lose any of that funding would be devastating. There is an unrelenting demand for bus services to meet basic but essential mobility needs for the thousands of riders we carry. The 'State of Good Repair' funding is critical to maintain our buses, paratransit services, facilities and equipment. Without that federal funding it will be impossible for us to meet the escalating demands for service from communities that desperately lack other transit options." — AC Transit Board President Chris Peeples

Elimination of federal funding would severely hamper AC Transit's sustainable efforts, directing operational resources elsewhere and jeopardizing the agency's long term viability.

"It will have a domino effect, adversely impacting our ability to maintain our service levels and certainly stunting efforts to expand service in areas where it is critically needed," Peeples said.

AC Transit is the third largest bus system in California, operating since 1960 in 13 cities and adjacent unincorporated areas in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

The economic downturn forced AC Transit to cut nearly 15% of its service and close one of its divisions in 2010. The agency is in the process of restoring hundreds of hours of service to meet the growing demands of those who depend on public transit.

To increase service, AC Transit needs additional buses and personnel to operate them. It is a complex, costly process that will be endangered without ongoing federal resources.