



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 10, 2018

TO: Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

FROM: Charles S. Bryant, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Joint City Of Emeryville And AC Transit Letter To Caltrans Regarding Bus-Only Left Turn Onto Westbound I-80 On-Ramp

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to send the attached letter and diagram to the Director of Caltrans District 4.

BACKGROUND

The AC Transit-City of Emeryville Interagency Liaison Committee, which includes AC Transit Board members and Emeryville City Council members, agreed at its June 18, 2018 meeting to write a joint letter from the AC Transit General Manager and Emeryville City Manager to the Director of Caltrans District 4, requesting Caltrans to work with the transit agency and the City to create a bus-only left turn lane from Powell Street onto the westbound on-ramp to Interstate 80. This would facilitate improvement and expansion of AC Transit Transbay service through Emeryville.

DISCUSSION

Currently, Transbay buses must go north on Frontage Road, enter the I-80 westbound on-ramp, and go south over Powell Street, which leads onto the freeway in heavy traffic before the I-580/I-880/I-80 split. There is an on-ramp from Powell Street eastbound that bypasses the freeway traffic and leads directly to the Bay Bridge toll plaza, but it is not possible to turn left from Powell Street westbound onto that ramp. Enabling buses only to make that turn would reduce Transbay travel times by up to five minutes. This would support AC Transit's efforts to improve and expand its Transbay service.

Allowing this left turn would require reconfiguring of the intersection, on-ramp, signals, and Bay Trail pedestrian-bicycle path. This intersection is in Caltrans right-of-way. The City maintains Powell Street paved areas, lighting, drainage and traffic facilities. The City could make the necessary changes with an encroachment permit from Caltrans.

FISCAL IMPACT

Modifying the Powell Street/Frontage Road/I-80 on-ramp intersection and signals would likely cost between \$600,000 and \$1,000,000. The City could apply for funding through the recently approved Regional Measure 3 or the next Alameda County Transportation Commission joint call for projects.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

This item was discussed at a public meeting of the AC Transit – City of Emeryville Interagency Liaison Committee meeting on June 18, 2018. The Committee agreed to recommend that the AC Transit Board and Emeryville City Council direct their managers to send a letter to Caltrans asking them to expedite this change.

CONCLUSION

Staff requests that the City Council direct the City Manager to sign the attached letter to the Caltrans District Director requesting their support in providing a bus-only left turn lane onto the I-80 westbound on-ramp.

PREPARED BY: Diana Keena, Associate Planner

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

Attachment:

Letter to Caltrans, including diagram of current and proposed route to I-80 westbound