

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-06**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF AC TRANSIT FOR THE  
EQUITABLE BENEFIT OF ITS PASSENGERS BY THE METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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WHEREAS, transportation is fundamental for the ability of Richmond residents to gain access to necessities of every kind, from jobs to school, and from health care facilities to shops that sell healthy foods; and

WHEREAS, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) bus service enables Richmond residents to meet their transportation needs without the use of automobiles, which contribute to worsening air quality, global warming and congested roads and freeways, and which prolong our nation's extraordinary dependence on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, while nearly eighty percent of the passengers of AC Transit are people of color, and more than seventy percent of AC Transit's riders live in households with very-low incomes, these demographics are even higher for Richmond residents; and

WHEREAS, more than 70% of AC Transit's riders in the Richmond area do not have any means, other than public transit, to get to jobs, schools, medical care, shops and markets, and municipal and other governmental facilities, including meetings of the Richmond City Council; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) funding decisions over many years have provided AC Transit passengers with a public subsidy of \$2.78 per trip, while at the same time providing BART passengers with more than double that subsidy (\$6.14) and Caltrain passengers with nearly five times that subsidy (\$13.79); and

WHEREAS, MTC's funding decisions have enabled BART and Caltrain to dramatically expand the level and quality of their service over the years for the benefit of their passengers; and,

WHEREAS, MTC's funding decisions have led AC Transit to implement multiple service reductions and fare increases, and have restricted improvements that would benefit its passengers; and,

WHEREAS, of the "Communities of Concern" identified for MTC's "Equity Analysis" for the T2030 Regional Transportation Plan, areas of Richmond have among the highest percentages of minority and/or low-income residents, not only for Contra Costa County, but also in comparison to the entire Bay Area region; and,

WHEREAS, AC Transit has adopted a cost-effective "Strategic Vision" plan that calls for many service improvements in Richmond, including increasing the frequency of buses to reduce wait time, adequate around-the-clock service, an easy to use and integrated fare system allowing reciprocity with BART for AC Transit passengers, and enhanced passenger amenities at bus stops, each would improve the quality of life for Richmond residents;

WHEREAS, the "Strategic Vision" plan requires funds that MTC could provide and which would lead to implementation within a few years; and

WHEREAS, the plaintiffs in the civil rights action entitled *Darensburg v. Metropolitan Transportation Commission* seek to finally put an end to MTC's inequitable funding practices so that AC Transit riders are no longer relegated to second-class status.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond requests that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission allocate public funds for transit equitably so that minority and low-income AC Transit passengers receive the same subsidy per transit trip from MTC that MTC provides to other transit operators having wealthier and whiter passengers, and so that AC Transit is able to move forward with the improvements contemplated in its "Strategic Vision"; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond encourage the AC Transit Board of Directors to continue to strive to seek equitable funding from MTC that will

lead to improvements of service for the benefit of AC Transit's minority and low-income passengers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond shall forward a certified copy of this resolution and any accompanying supporting materials to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, Senators Feinstein and Boxer; Representative Lee, House of Representatives, District 9, Congressman George Miller, District 7, Assemblymember Hancock, District 14; Richmond Unified School District; Contra Costa Board of Education; and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond, California at a regular meeting thereof held February 7, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember Bates, Butt, Griffin, Marquez, McLaughlin, Rogers, Thurmond, Vice-Mayor Viramontes
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Mayor Anderson
ABSENT:	None

DIANE HOLMES  
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

IRMA L. ANDERSON  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

JOHN EASTMAN  
City Attorney

State of California	}
County of California	: ss.
City of Richmond	}

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 13-06, finally passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on February 7, 2006, and published in accordance with law.