

## FACTS about AC Transit and the Parcel Tax

**Students need AC Transit.** Most East Bay school districts have no public school buses, so families depend on AC Transit to get their children to school. One out of four AC Transit riders are school-aged children.<sup>1</sup> Of the 60,000 students who ride each day, 72% report they do so at least 5 times a week.<sup>2</sup> And 13,500 seniors ride AC Transit everyday.

**AC Transit riders are primarily people of color and low income.** 79% of AC Transit riders are People of Color and 77% of all riders have a Household Income of less than \$50,000.<sup>3</sup> One out of three AC Transit riders have no car in their household.<sup>4</sup>

**Why is Measure VV needed?** Because of rising fuel costs and shrinking State funds, AC Transit faces a major budget shortfall (\$20 million next year).

**AC Transit Tried to Raise Fares** To close its budget hole and maintain the same amount of bus service, AC Transit proposed raising the monthly Youth Pass from \$15 to \$28, the Senior Pass from \$20 to \$28 and the adult pass from \$70 to \$80. But it chose not to after strong community opposition.

**Over 100 people called and spoke out opposing AC Transit's fare increases.** We asked AC to find other ways to cover the shortfall. They listened and recommended a parcel tax for the November 2008 ballot, a great alternative to raising fares.

**The parcel tax, Measure VV, can raise needed funding to keep the same level of bus service without raising fares.**

- It only applies in AC Transit's service area, except in Union City and Fremont
- It needs 66.66% of voter approval to pass
- Will cost every property owner an additional \$48/year or \$4/month
- Will extend Measure BB which currently costs every property owner \$48/year
- It could raise \$14 million a year, covering a good portion of the budget shortfall

**What is a parcel tax?** A parcel tax is a flat fee that is placed on each parcel of property-commercial or residential- and charged to the listed owner of that property. The statute doesn't allow for any exemptions, such as for seniors or low-income property owners- it applies equally to everyone.

**What does the tax mean for renters?** The terms of your rental agreement and local ordinances, such as Oakland's rent control law, would determine whether the parcel tax cost could be passed on to you, the renter. **What about condo owners?** Every condo is considered its own parcel.

**When is the last day to register to vote in the November election?** October 20<sup>th</sup>. Voter registration forms can be found on AC Transit buses.

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<sup>1</sup> AC Transit estimates 227,000 riders a day, 60,000 which includes 60,000 school children.

<http://www.actransit.org/aboutac/ridershipbusfleet.wu>

<sup>2</sup> AC Transit, 2002 On-Board Passenger Survey – Systemwide Results, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.