

# 22nd Annual Independent Watchdog Committee Report to the Public FY2022-23



## Measure B and Measure BB Sales Tax Activities

The Independent Watchdog Committee (IWC) reports its findings annually to the public to ensure appropriate use of sales tax funds and provides oversight by reviewing Measure B expenditures and Measure BB expenditures and performance measures. **The IWC does not opine on other funds the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) manages and/or programs.**

This 22nd annual report reviews expenditures and IWC activities during the year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 (FY2022-23) and presents findings.

IWC activities include ongoing monitoring of direct local distribution (DLD) and discretionary grant program expenditures, capital project monitoring, review of Alameda CTC annual independent audits and DLD recipients' audits and compliance reports, identification of Issues with Measure B and Measure BB expenditures, and development of the IWC annual report to the public.

The full report is available at: [AlamedaCTC.org/IWC2024Report](https://AlamedaCTC.org/IWC2024Report)

### Helpful Links\*

- Alameda CTC homepage: [AlamedaCTC.org](https://AlamedaCTC.org)
- Independent Watchdog Committee (IWC): [AlamedaCTC.org/about-us/committees](https://AlamedaCTC.org/about-us/committees)
- IWC Annual Reports: [AlamedaCTC.org/news-publications/annualreports](https://AlamedaCTC.org/news-publications/annualreports)
- Alameda CTC Annual Performance Report: [AlamedaCTC.org/news-publications/reports](https://AlamedaCTC.org/news-publications/reports)
- Alameda CTC Meetings: [AlamedaCTC.org/all-meetings](https://AlamedaCTC.org/all-meetings)
- DLD Compliance Reports and Financial Audits: [AlamedaCTC.org/funding/reporting-and-grant-forms](https://AlamedaCTC.org/funding/reporting-and-grant-forms)
- DLD Payments: [AlamedaCTC.org/funding/direct-local-prog-dist-pay](https://AlamedaCTC.org/funding/direct-local-prog-dist-pay)
- 2000 Measure B Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP): [AlamedaCTC.org/funding/fund-sources/measure-b](https://AlamedaCTC.org/funding/fund-sources/measure-b)
- 2014 Measure BB Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP): [AlamedaCTC.org/funding/fund-sources/measure-bb](https://AlamedaCTC.org/funding/fund-sources/measure-bb)

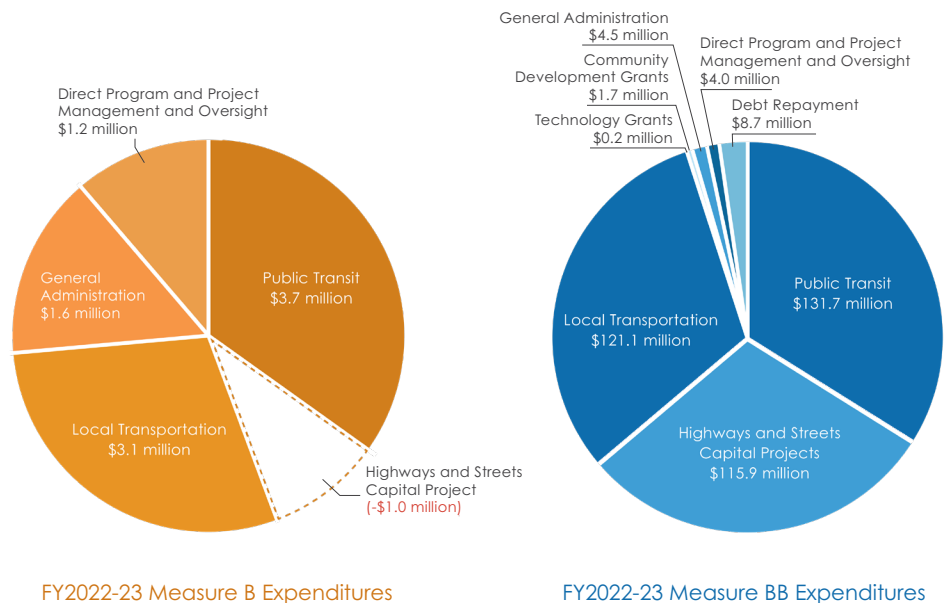
\*Note: Please scroll up/down the page to find the reports.

### SUMMARY OF MEASURE B AND MEASURE BB

## Revenues and Expenditures

Alameda CTC is responsible for administering the Measure B and Measure BB transportation sales tax measures. In FY2022-23, Measure B revenues for Alameda CTC totaled \$2.6 million from prior year collection adjustments and audited expenditures totaled \$8.6 million. Measure BB revenues totaled \$399.5 million, and audited expenditures totaled \$387.8 million in FY2022-23<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Measure B unspent prior year revenues and current year revenues were used to pay for FY2022-23 expenditures.



## Measure B- and Measure BB-Funded Programs and Projects



International Walk and Roll to School Day

In FY2022-23, Measure B DLD fund recipients reported \$44.2 million in expenditures on programs: \$2.0 million on public transit, \$34.1 million on local streets & roads, \$3.1 million on paratransit and \$5.0 million on bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Measure BB DLD fund recipients reported \$152.2 million in expenditures on programs:

\$82.1 million on public transit, \$34.4 million on local streets & roads, \$31.7 million on paratransit and \$4.0 million on bicycle and pedestrian.

Alameda CTC expended \$1.6 million of Measure B funds and \$164.0 million of Measure BB funds on capital projects named in the Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP) for transportation infrastructure improvements.

# IWC Findings and Recommendations FY2022-23

To Our Fellow Alameda County Residents and Taxpayers –

Every time you buy something taxable in Alameda County, 1% of the cost goes to the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) to pay for “transportation improvements.” Do you think you are getting your money’s worth? That is the big question that this Report to the Public tries to answer.

Measure BB, as approved by the voters of Alameda County in 2014, assigns to the Independent Watchdog Committee (IWC) “the responsibility of reviewing and overseeing all expenditures of sales tax funds by Alameda CTC.” We do not believe that we are being allowed to fulfill this obligation. Collectively, local jurisdictions spent nearly \$400 million in FY 2022-23 from sales tax funds for a variety of purposes. Nearly half of that was spent by the cities, County, and transit agencies, which receive formula funds (collectively known as Direct Local Distributions, or DLDs) for local streets & roads, bike & pedestrian projects, transit, and paratransit. Are your transportation options getting better?

Last year we repeated our concern that **“Given the limited performance measures which have been adopted by the Commission, the IWC finds it difficult to offer an opinion as to the**

**overall effectiveness of the DLD program expenditures. We are still unable to make a determination about the overall effectiveness of the DLD expenditures.”** The IWC must report that this Finding remains valid, and is applicable to other parts of the sales tax programs.

IWC members are “watchdogs,” but we are not allowed to be guard-dogs. Legal Counsel for the Agency has written that our voter-approved role of “overseeing” expenditures is merely “clarifying” language – we cannot take any action if we think a pending expenditure is foolish, unsafe, or merely a waste of time and money. We must wait until after your sales tax funds have already been spent to comment – and to let you and the elected Commissioners know what we think. But you, the Public, can speak up at any time.

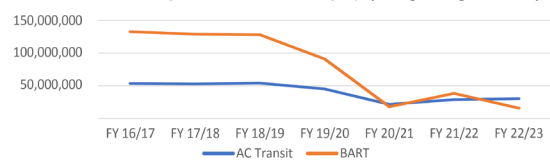
As one example, Alameda County jurisdictions spent more than \$68 million in Measure B and Measure BB funds in FY 2022-23 for Local Streets and Roads projects. Yet the graph below shows that the Countywide “Pavement Condition Index” is decreasing, not improving. We acknowledge that additional funds also are spent for these purposes, and some individual cities are making progress, but we find it difficult to report these results as a benefit from your sales taxes.

In recent years, IWC members have focused our interest on the outcomes of your sales tax expenditures. Alameda CTC has adopted a goal of improving safety, and the IWC agrees. We have tried to correlate how DLD expenditures for Local Streets & Roads and for Bike/Pedestrian purposes have impacted the countywide High Injury Network (HIN), but we cannot report any meaningful findings or outcomes from the available data. Just recently Alameda CTC staff reported that “75% of total DLD Bike/Ped and Local Streets & Roads expenditures were invested in safety improvements to the HIN.” But that includes “corridors” which can be up to a mile away, while bike & pedestrian collisions and deaths are at record levels. Further, we have been unable to identify which streets are actually in the HIN. The Countywide Transportation Plan and the High Injury Network will be updated in the coming months, and we urge you to provide input. See the Alameda CTC “Meetings” link in the [Helpful Links](#) section to follow these actions.

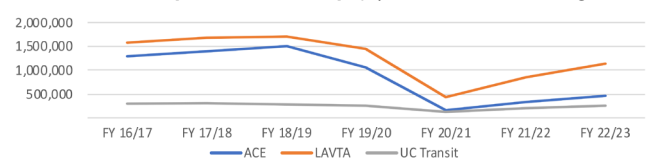
The Independent Watchdog Committee appreciates your interest in a safer, more mobile, and better-connected Alameda County. Please send us your comments and suggestions at: [IndependentWatchdog@AlamedaCTC.org](mailto:IndependentWatchdog@AlamedaCTC.org)

## Performance Metrics

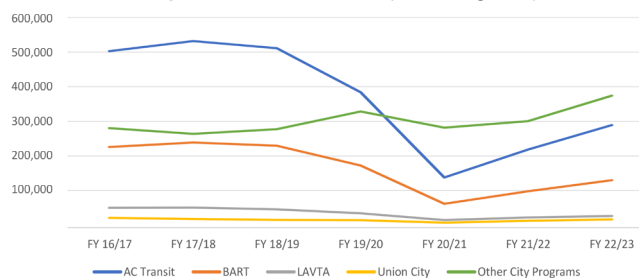
**Alameda County Transit Ridership | (Large Agencies)**



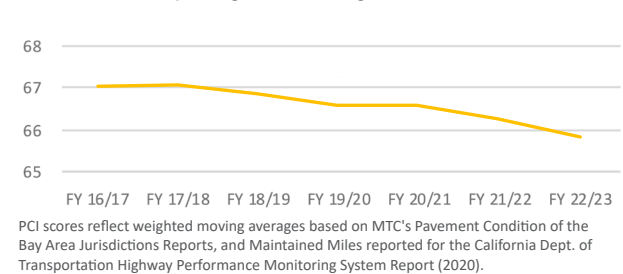
**Alameda County Transit Ridership | (Small to Midsize Agencies)**



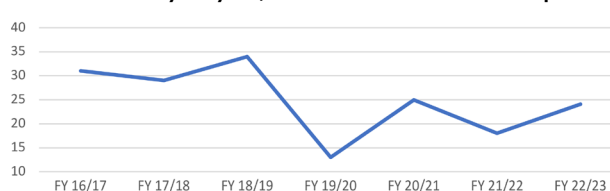
**Alameda County Paratransit Services | Passenger Trips**



**Alameda County Weighted Average Pavement Condition Index**



**Alameda County Bicycle/Pedestrian Lane Miles of Improvements**



Data reflects estimated lane miles of capital bicycle/pedestrian improvements reported by DLD recipients.

**Alameda CTC General Administrative Costs | In Millions of Dollars**

