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Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

October 11, 1018

To:	Governing Board
From:	Connie Rivera, Director of Government and Community Relations
Subject:	<i>Homeless Encampments On or Adjacent to the Alameda Corridor</i> <i>(INFORMATION)</i>

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For

Discussion:

This memo is provided to update the ACTA Governing Board on activities at the homeless encampments on and adjacent to the Alameda Corridor.

Background:

At the November 2017 Governing Board meeting, staff reported the increasing number of encampments on and adjacent to the Alameda Corridor. Five homeless encampments were identified along the Corridor's 20-mile route.

On November 21, 2017, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn successfully put forth a motion to the County Board of Supervisors that allowed the County's Office of Homeless Initiative to develop a strategic partnership with ACTA and other stakeholders. The partnership was to focus on implementing best practices and explore the opportunity to use Measure H-funded services along the Alameda Corridor.

With the help of the County's Chief Executive Office (CEO), ACTA staff met with the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA), the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Sheriff's Department Homeless Outreach Liaisons, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), the City of Long Beach Homeless Services, and The People Concern. During this meeting, it was determined that, because the entire length of the Alameda Corridor is located in Los Angeles County, the homeless along or near the Corridor would be eligible for the programs and services provided under Measure H-funding.

The County's LAHSA assigns Service Planning Areas (SPA) to provide services under the programs. Each SPA is managed by a different community outreach coordinating agency. The homeless encampments along the Alameda Corridor have been identified in five areas and services to these areas are provided by three LAHSA SPAs:

- SPA 7 – People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) provides services to Areas 1, 2 and 3.



- SPA 6 – Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS) provides services to Area 4.
- SPA 8 – Harbor Interfaith Services provides services to Area 5.

Staff continues to engage with the service providers during their weekly site visits, arrange for periodic rubbish removal from the areas, and work with various entities to determine effective near and long term solutions.

Update:

At the June 2018 Board meeting, staff reported that only one of the six areas being monitored (Area 2) had a homeless encampment. However, since that time Area 3 in South Gate has had a number of shelters appear along the UPRR/PHL Drill Track adjacent to the ACTA Trench.

The different Service Planning Area (SPA) teams have been visiting their designated areas on a regular basis and have made the following recent observations.

- **Area 1 – Redondo Junction & Santa Fe Avenue – PATH**
 - There is currently no encampment in this area.
- **Area 2 – South of Nadeau Street - PATH**
 - This encampment has the largest population and is about one-half mile long. PATH, Helpline Youth Counseling (HYC), LAHSA, Department of Health Services (DHS), members of Los Angeles County’s Public Health team, Mental Health Triage, and ACTA staff visit this area every Thursday morning.
 - There are 32 structures in the encampment. Since the June report, staff has noticed that older homeless are leaving the area and younger homeless are moving in. The new encampment residents have removed most all of the tent-type shelters and have built wooden shelters in their place. Some structures are as large as 10 feet wide by 40 feet long. The new group has been less willing to accept assistance and has become more adamant in their refusal. The dumping of trash by unknown persons and the encampment residents continues and a fourth cleanup of the area will be required. Cost of the cleanup is about \$15,000 each time.
 - ACTA staff and the ACTA maintenance contractor recently responded to a break-in at the CP Nadeau signal house*, from which 11 signal batteries valued at \$500 each were stolen. This signal house is located within the encampment area. The maintenance contractor immediately replaced the stolen batteries and repaired the damaged door. Also, an electric service meter was illegally tapped into to provide electricity to one of the homeless structures.

** There are 22 signal houses along the Corridor that contains all the necessary electronics and batteries to power switches and communicate with the dispatcher in San Bernardino.*

- **Area 3 – 92nd Street to Tweedy (Compton) – PATH**
 - There are various tents/structures located south of Firestone Blvd. down to Martin Luther King Blvd. a distance of about 1 ½ miles. The exact population of homeless is hard to track as they move frequently.
- **Area 4 – El Segundo Blvd – HOPICS**
 - There are a few structures in the area. Individuals are also parking RV's/campers along the curb of East Alameda St.
- **Area 5 – Dominguez Channel Bridge Harbor – Interfaith Services**
 - There are currently no encampments in this area.

At a September 25, 2018 meeting with the LA County CEO staff, LAHSA, PATH, and the DHS team, it was suggested that a strategy be developed to close the Nadeau site (Area #2). The suggestion is based on weekly observations for nearly a year. Homeless individuals that were in need of service have been successfully assisted, but over the summer a change occurred in the encampment that has much reduced the effectiveness of the team.

With the change from tent-type to wood structures, it has become difficult to walk through the camp safely due to impaired visibility. The outreach group now works in two teams with each team keeping within eyesight of the other. With older residents moving out, the new residents are showing lack of interest in requesting or accepting services from the counselors. Although there are still a few homeless members in the encampment that are accepting services, they are significantly outnumbered.

ACTA staff with the assistance of its Outreach Team partners can develop a plan and timeline to close the Nadeau site in a sensitive and orderly manner that will give the homeless time to transition, using all of the services that are currently being offered. This plan would be coordinated to take advantage of the Winter Shelter Program that begins each year on December 1.

Staff seeks the direction of the Governing Board on this matter.