

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 817 (Pacheco) Open Meetings: Teleconferencing: Subsidiary Body.**
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Amended 01/17/2024)*

Dear Senator Skinner:

The City of Albany supports AB 817 (Pacheco). Passage would provide governing bodies authority to authorize subsidiary bodies to meet virtually. It would provide this authority through January 1, 2026, providing a modest trial period for assessing the effectiveness of this policy.

Like each of the cities in Alameda County as well as the County itself, the City of Albany is a member agency of the Alameda County Transportation Commission. The Commission has a number of subsidiary bodies, including some that consist of residents other than the Commissioners themselves. One way travel time from the cities furthest from the Commission's meeting space is about an hour during periods of normal congestion. By public transit travel time is up to an hour and a half.

These travel times are an impediment to recruiting residents to serve on Commission's advisory bodies. Even in Albany's case, from which travel time by public transit is only a half an hour, recruiting a resident for the Commissioner Paratransit Planning and Advisory Committee has been unsuccessful for over a year. It is not reasonable to expect residents with personal experience using paratransit services to have to regularly travel this distance to a meeting.

While passage of AB 817 would facilitate recruiting for and serving on all advisory bodies of a county agency with jurisdiction over an area the size of Alameda County,

in particular the City of Albany supports the bill for bodies whose charge is advising on paratransit and other services for mobility limited people.

Sincerely,

John Miki, Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: The Honorable Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco
Senator Anna Caballero, Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Members and Staff, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
The Honorable Assembly Member Buffy Wicks
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities