

On December 19, 2001, the MTC **unanimously** adopted the RTP, or Regional Transportation Plan, which included the **school bus pass pilot**. While it wasn't exactly what we have been pushing for since June, we did endorse the staff proposal. The proposal **specifically will provide all low-income 6 through 12th grade students a free bus pass in the WHOLE AC Transit Service Area** (Richmond to Fremont). The economic qualifier to determine who is low-income (and therefore will get a free pass) will be those students who qualify for free or reduced school lunch. **All other students will be able to purchase a monthly bus pass from AC Transit at \$15/mo, a hefty price REDUCTION from the current \$27/mo. student pass.** This will be a 2 year pilot and will require matching local funds. Every dollar that is raised locally will be matched by MTC up to \$1 million a year for 2 years, for a total budget of \$ 4 million for the two year pilot.

**Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this a reality for these students.** More to come in 2002! Please call Lara Bice at 272-6685 for more information