

County Connection

INTER OFFICE MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

DATE: September 17, 2019

FROM: Rick Ramacier *Ramacier*
General Manager

SUBJECT: Contra Costa Transportation
Authority (CCTA) Transportation
Expenditure Plan (TEP)

Background

As you likely know, CCTA has released a TEP to be funded by a new ½ cent sales tax within Contra Costa County. At this time, it is the intent of CCTA to place a measure on the ballot in Contra Costa County for March of 2020, that if passed – would increase the sales tax throughout the county by a ½ cent. The funds from this sales tax increase would go to fund, projects, programs, and related activities in the recently released TEP. This TEP is now in the process of being placed on the agendas of various city councils in Contra Costa County for their consideration.

In addition to listing the categories of projects and programs to be funded by the TEP, the TEP includes some key policies in the areas of growth management, transit, complete streets, and advanced mitigation among others.

This TEP, if implemented will help public transportation within the County Connection service in the following ways:

- It will provide for an additional \$8 million dollars a year in transit operating support which roughly equals a 20% increase in the current County Connection operating budget. This level of funding could support an increase of County Connection revenue service by roughly 25% or more.
- Provides opportunities for infrastructure capital improvements that will support meaningful operational improvements to transit. This includes things like signal priority for transit, transit only part time lanes, park and ride lot improvements, transit connectivity and coordination improvements, and smart phone app development for trip planning and transportation payment ease.
- A new comprehensive “Transit Policy” that includes a “Transit First” commitment and calls for CCTA to develop with the transit operators and the Regional Transportation Planning Committees (RTPC) an Integrated Transit Plan (ITP). This ITP has a strong potential to create a more seamless and connected transportation system throughout the county that offers significant improvement in terms of providing safe, effective, reliable and convenient transportation alternatives to driving alone.

In short, this TEP is heavily invested in improving and promulgating a public transportation system in the county that is customer centric, modern, and aimed at getting people to drive alone less.

Action Requested

No Formal action is requested or needed. This is provided to you as summary information regarding the potential benefits to public transit service within the CCTA TEP.