

# County Connection

2477 Arnold Industrial Way    Concord, CA 94520-5326    (925) 676-7500    countyconnection.com

## CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

May 21, 2020

#### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/CONFIRM QUORUM

Chair Candace Andersen called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. Board Members present were Directors Dessayer, Haydon, Hoffmeister, Hudson, Noack, Schroder, Storer, Tatzin and Wilk. Director Worth arrived after the meeting convened.

Staff: Ramacier, Chun, Cheung, Churchill, Hill, Horta, Kamara and Reeb

**Public Comment:** None

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

**MOTION:** Director Haydon moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 16, 2020; (b) OPEB Actuarial Valuation. Director Noack seconded the motion and it received the following vote of approval:

Aye: Directors Andersen, Dessayer, Haydon, Hoffmeister, Hudson, Noack, Schroder, Storer, Tatzin and Wilk  
No: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Director Worth

#### REPORT OF CHAIR:

Chair Andersen thanked staff and the fellow Board members on their continued support and flexibility during this challenging time.

#### REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

##### Report on proposed HEROES Act

Rick Ramacier explained that the HEROES Act was drafted by the House of Representatives to provide a relief/stimulus package for different agencies. Transit should get approximately \$15.4 billion; we do not know how much County Connection will receive at this time. As more information is available, he will continue to report back to the Board.

##### Update on County Connection and COVID-19

Rick Ramacier explained that County Connection staff, from operators and mechanics to dispatchers and customer service representatives and all maintenance and administrative positions, have accomplished great feats during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the first regional shelter-in-place order, County Connection has remained operational by

following the health officer's recommendations. Social distancing has been in effect for over a month and face coverings are now required, both throughout the administrative offices and maintenance buildings, as well as on all County Connection buses.

As we plan for the Fall bid, the Board should be aware of some limitations staff is anticipating. The financial uncertainty will be exacerbated by any social distancing requirements, particularly on the 600 series and express service. In the past, some of these trips have carried more than 40 passengers. It would be impossible to allocate five buses to complete a trip previously fulfilled with one bus. We do not have the capital, nor the labor required to meet this level of demand. Therefore, staff is currently evaluating new service levels to hopefully align the new financial picture as well as health guidelines. There is a great degree of uncertainty and staff will keep the Committee apprised of potential service realignments.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Administration and Finance Committee**

#### Amendment to the contract with Transdev for Paratransit; Resolution No. 2020-022

Rashida Kamara, Manager of Accessible Services explained that in an effort to keep essential services going throughout the community, County Connection partnered with Meals on wheels to deliver food for seniors that were affected by the stay at home order. Since March 30<sup>th</sup>, County Connection LINK service (Transdev), delivers up to 650 meals a week. County Connection also partnered with Mt Diablo School district and Transdev delivers meals and groceries for up to 200 students a week. The Contra Costa Health Department has asked all the Transit providers to transport passengers that are positive with COVID-19 to hospitals, and to hotels for quarantine.

The amendment will allow County Connection to pay Transdev for hours spent providing essential services, such as meal delivery, grocery delivery, and specific transit needs as requested by the County EOC. The amendment also redefines productivity by minimizing passengers on the bus at any given time, to comply with social distancing and pay staff for maintaining service levels as needed. By doing this, County Connection, and the contractor keep essential drivers working and essential services provided to the community. This also enables us to keep a ready work force in the event of a surge in demand and to retain Paratransit drivers on payroll when we are ready to resume normal services.

**MOTION:** Director Dessayer moved adoption of Resolution No.2020-022, which authorizes the General Manager to Amend the Agreement with Transdev Services, Inc. under the new federal guidelines. Director Noack seconded the motion and it received the following vote of approval:

Aye:	Directors Andersen, Dessayer, Haydon, Hoffmeister, Hudson, Noack, Schroder, Storer, Tatzin and Wilk
No:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Director Worth

### **Marketing, Planning and Legislative Committee**

#### Status of AB2057-Chiu

Rick Ramacier reminded the Board that in March, staff informed the MP&L Committee about AB2057 – Chiu. This bill would call for the creation of the Bay Area Seamless Transit Network Task Force. This task force would be charged with making recommendations for further legislation or action on the creation of a Transportation Network Manager (TNM). The TNM would be charged with planning and possibly implementing a range of items to promote a regional transit system as well as to create a seamless transit system by integrating nearly all aspects of public transit in the nine-county Bay Area region.

On April 28, 2020, confirmation came from Assembly Member Chiu’s office that AB2057 will not move this year, largely due to the state legislature needing to focus on its response to COVID-19. However, the seamless principles and interests behind AB2057 do not go away. This bill may be reintroduced next year.

### Three Free Fare Bills Update

Rick Ramacier stated that in March, staff brought forward three bills to the MP&L Committee that had been introduced in the state legislature that would require public transit to offer free fares to select groups. The bills are AB1350 – Gonzalez, AB2012 – Chu, and AB2176 – Holden. The MP&L Committee took action to oppose all three bills and sent that recommendation to the full board for consideration at their March 19, 2020 board meeting. That board meeting was cancelled. Since then, all three have been dropped from consideration in the state legislature, primarily due to a need to focus on addressing the fallout from COVID-19. We expect that all three bills are will be reintroduced next year.

## **Operating & Scheduling Committee**

### Fixed Route Operations COVID-19 Update

Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning, explained that in February, County Connection staff began closely monitoring the developments around COVID-19, or Coronavirus. On Tuesday, March 17, a shelter-at-home order took effect in Contra Costa County, as well as in five other Bay Area counties. The order designates public transit an essential activity in support of essential business, and the County has advised County Connection to continue operating service to the extent possible.

Staff has been monitoring vehicle loads to ensure that passengers are able to maintain social distancing. Despite reductions in service frequency, crowding has not been an issue, and buses are carrying around 4 passengers per trip on average.

Although service has been reduced, this does not represent a cost-savings to County Connection given the various types of COVID-19 related absences. Additionally, County Connection stopped collecting fares on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The revenue loss is expected to be covered under the CARES Act, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Future financial implications are yet to be determined and will be largely based on new levels of service. This was an informational item only.

### Paratransit Operations Report COVID-19 Update

Rashida Kamara, Manager of Accessible Services explained to the Board that since the shelter in place order issued by the Governor, County Connection has experienced an 80% drop in Paratransit trips. As a result, a new need arose in the community. County Connection was quick to identify the needs, which included essential trips to medical appointments, meal delivery, and recently in conjunction with the County Health department, COVID-19 transports. County Connection is working with the community in several areas.

Our current partnerships are with, Meals on Wheels, Church of the Bay in Collaboration with the Mt. Diablo School district (Bel Air Elementary and Riverview Middle), Contra Costa County EOC Collaboration and Homeless relocation Transport. Our agency Collaborations are with AC Transit and Bart (East Bay Paratransit), Marin County Health department and West CAT. This was an informational item only.

**BOARD COMMUNICATION:** None

**CLOSED SESSION:** Entered into at 9:55 a.m.

Liability Claims (Government code Section 54956.95) Claim against Central Contra Costa Transit Authority;  
Claimant: Wendy Wheeler Scott Board

Conference with Legal Counsel– Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)) – Keith Polee v. Central Contra Costa Transit Authority; U.S. District Court, Northern District of California Civil Case No. 4:18-cv-05405-DMR

Public Employee Performance Evaluation; Conference with Labor Negotiator (designated representative: Director Dessayer)

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957, 54957.6

Position: General Manager

**OPEN SESSION: Entered into at 10:36 a.m.**

Report of Action(s) Taken During the Closed Session

No formal action was taken. The Board provided direction to legal counsel for disposition of the two pending litigation matters. The Board discussed the General Manager's annual performance review and took no formal action.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Andersen adjourned the regular Board meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Minutes prepared by

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Lathina Hill  
Assistant to the General Manager

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Date