

To: Operations & Scheduling Committee

Date: 06/30/2020

From: Ruby Horta, Director of Planning, Marketing & Innovation

Reviewed by: *RH*

SUBJECT: Fall Bid Update

Background

Over the last several months, staff has been providing regular fixed route and paratransit updates to the Board, as it relates to COVID-19. Although the shelter-in-place orders have been revised in the last several weeks, the reopening of the economy remains largely uncertain. Most recently, an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases have resulted in retractions and/or delays in opening certain businesses. However, County Connection must move forward with a Fall bid, recognizing we will likely be asked to remain flexible as the pandemic continues to evolve.

Fall Bid

After many discussions with other operators around the Bay Area, as part of the Blue-Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force (Task Force), the Fall bid will be implemented on August 9th. Schools are still working through the details of their reopening plans, but have established a school calendar, beginning mid-August. At this point it is impossible to know what demand for school service will look like, therefore we have proceeded with a largely traditional Fall schedule, consistent with what other transit operators around the Bay Area are doing. Certain schedules and frequencies were adjusted in response to BART's new schedule and to prioritize essential services and workers within our service area. Additionally, staff worked with our ATU's leadership to establish a shorter Fall bid period ending in early October, instead of the traditional mid-November timeframe. This will allow staff to address scheduling demands sooner rather than later.

Flexibility

Given the high level of uncertainty, staff focused on being able to remain as flexible as possible, within the constraints of our labor agreements. Depending on the pace of reopening, we may need to shift resources between school, commuter, and essential services. Additionally, BART is planning to implement new schedules mid-September.

Therefore, we believe that by having a bid change in early October we will be better positioned to respond to varying and potentially competing demands in the upcoming Winter bid.

As Winter bid planning decisions are developed, staff will request Board direction on prioritizing service based on varying levels of demand.

Financial Implications:

None. The current FY 2021 budget assumes service levels consistent with the Fall bid.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

Staff request the O&S Committee forward this update to the Board, as information only.