

County Connection

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CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

June 18, 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, Hudson, Noack, Schroder, Storer, Wilk and Worth. Director Tatzin arrived after the meeting convened. Director Hoffmeister was absent.

Staff: Ramacier, Sherman, Cheung, Churchill, Hill, Horta, Kamara, McCarthy, Reeb and Rettig

Public Comment: None

Director Tatzin arrived at 9:02 a.m.

Public Hearing: CCCTA FY2021 Operating and Capital Budget

At 9:02 a.m., Chair Andersen opened the public hearing regarding the CCCTA FY2021 Operating and Capital Budget. Erick Cheung, CFO, stated that the public hearing is being held for the purpose of discussing and receiving public input on the budget. He advised the public hearing was properly noticed in the East Bay Times. The total FY2021 operating and capital budget is \$45,203,064. The operating budget of \$44,456,064 is funded 73% with local funds, 11% from the farebox and special fare revenues, 13% federal funds, and 3% with other revenue. The operating budget will support approximately 226,840 revenue hours of fixed-route service and 74,394 revenue hours of County Connection LINK dial-a-ride services. Chair Andersen asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the FY2021 Operating and Capital Budget. No comments were received, and the public hearing closed at 9:04 a.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Director Dessayer moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 21, 2020; (b) Placeholder for Non-Represented Administrative Staff Compensation Adjustments, Resolution No. 2020-025; (c) Adoption of Gann Appropriations spending Limitation for FY2020-2021, Resolution No. 2020-023. Director Haydon seconded the motion and it received the following vote of approval:

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

REPORT OF CHAIR:

Appointment of Nominating Committee for Election of CCCTA Officers

Chair Andersen informed the Board that the Nominating Committee will be herself, and the last two Board Chairs, which are Director Noack and Director Schroder.

The incoming officers will be Director Haydon as Chair, Director Hudson as Vice Chair and Director Worth as Secretary.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

Status of APTA Annual & Expo Conference, Anaheim, CA

Rick Ramacier explained that APTA has not confirmed or canceled the Annual Expo Conference yet. This is a big event for the vendors that typically attend and as of now, California has not opened fully due to COVID-19. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Lathina know as soon as possible and we will start making arrangements in July if the conference is still a go. If APTA does cancel the event, we will let the Board know as soon as we are notified.

Status on County Connection COVID-19 recovery planning

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 with the new financial picture as well as health guidelines. There is a great degree of uncertainty and staff will keep the Board apprised of potential service realignments.

Update on the status of CARES Act funding allocation process

Rick Ramacier informed the Board that he is now a part of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, which is a subcommittee of MTC with representation of small operators. County Connection has received our first allocation of funds from the CARES Act and we will apply for our next allocation in order for us to receive the funds in August 2020.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration and Finance Committee

Fiscal Year 2021 Draft Budget, Resolution No. 2020-024

Director Dessayer said that this budget is a type of place holder in order for County Connection to apply for MTC funds. Staff will return in the coming months with an updated forecast once there is more economic information and provide options at that time.

MOTION: Director Noack moved adoption of Resolution No.2020-024, FY2021 Budget. Director Dessayer seconded the motion and it received the following vote of approval:

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

Abstain: None
Absent: Director Hoffmeister

Marketing, Planning and Legislative Committee

Federal Legislative Update

Rick Ramacier informed the Board that Congress continues to consider additional measures to address the significant economic issues that have emerged in the wake of the various stay-at-home orders that have been enacted throughout the country. Because of that, the House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act. This \$3 trillion dollar bill contains \$15.75 billion for public transit. This funding would be for the same purposes as the public transit funding in the CARES Act. Thus, public transit could use it to cover operating costs related to COVID-19 mitigations and/or to make up for lost fare revenues or local/state tax subsidies. The HEROES Act is now over in the Senate where action is unlikely. It is very unclear as to how funding would flow to County Connection under the current draft of the HEROES Act.

The House has released the “INVEST in America Act” which is a transportation reauthorization proposal. As a point of reference, the current federal transportation authorization expires at the end of September. The proposal is a five-year authorization beginning in FY21. The first year focuses on COVID-19 relief and would provide \$83.1 billion to the transportation sector for COVID-19 recovery. In FY22 through FY25, a number of significant programmatic changes would be made to both the highway and transit programs. The funding for transit would increase by roughly 50% per year in years two through five of the Act over current levels of federal transit funding. The total funding in the draft proposal equals \$494 billion. It is not yet clear as to how this would all be paid for as the draft does not appear to address the highway trust fund shortfalls that may kick in as early as next calendar year.

Operating & Scheduling Committee

Fixed Route Operations COVID-19 Update

Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning, explained that starting on June 1st, limited service will be restored on express routes serving Bishop Ranch, including routes 92X, 93X, 95X, 96X, and 97X. Staff hopes to continue adding service back on those routes as demand returns and workforce availability allows. Staff has been coordinating with Sunset Development staff to help disseminate information to Bishop Ranch employees on planned service levels, as well as safety guidelines regarding social distancing and face coverings.

Staff is continuing to evaluate service levels for the upcoming Fall bid. While the Fall bid is typically finalized in mid-May, staff is delaying final planning decisions as much as possible given current uncertainties, particularly regarding ridership demand. Staff is developing service scenarios that focus on coordination with BART and maintaining adequate service capacity on essential routes. Staff is also aiming to retain as much flexibility as possible with school tripper service for when schools reopen. Additional information will be shared with the Committee as the situation develops.

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, new needs arose in the community, which included essential trips to medical appointments, meal delivery, and 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.

Director Hudson left the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

BOARD COMMUNICATION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Andersen adjourned the regular Board meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes prepared by

Lathina Hill
Assistant to the General Manager

Date