

To: Board of Directors

Date: 06/10/2020

From: Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by: *Ref*

SUBJECT: Fixed-Route Operations COVID-19 Update

Background:

Since February, County Connection staff has been closely monitoring the developments around COVID-19, or Coronavirus. On Tuesday, March 17, a shelter-in-place 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.

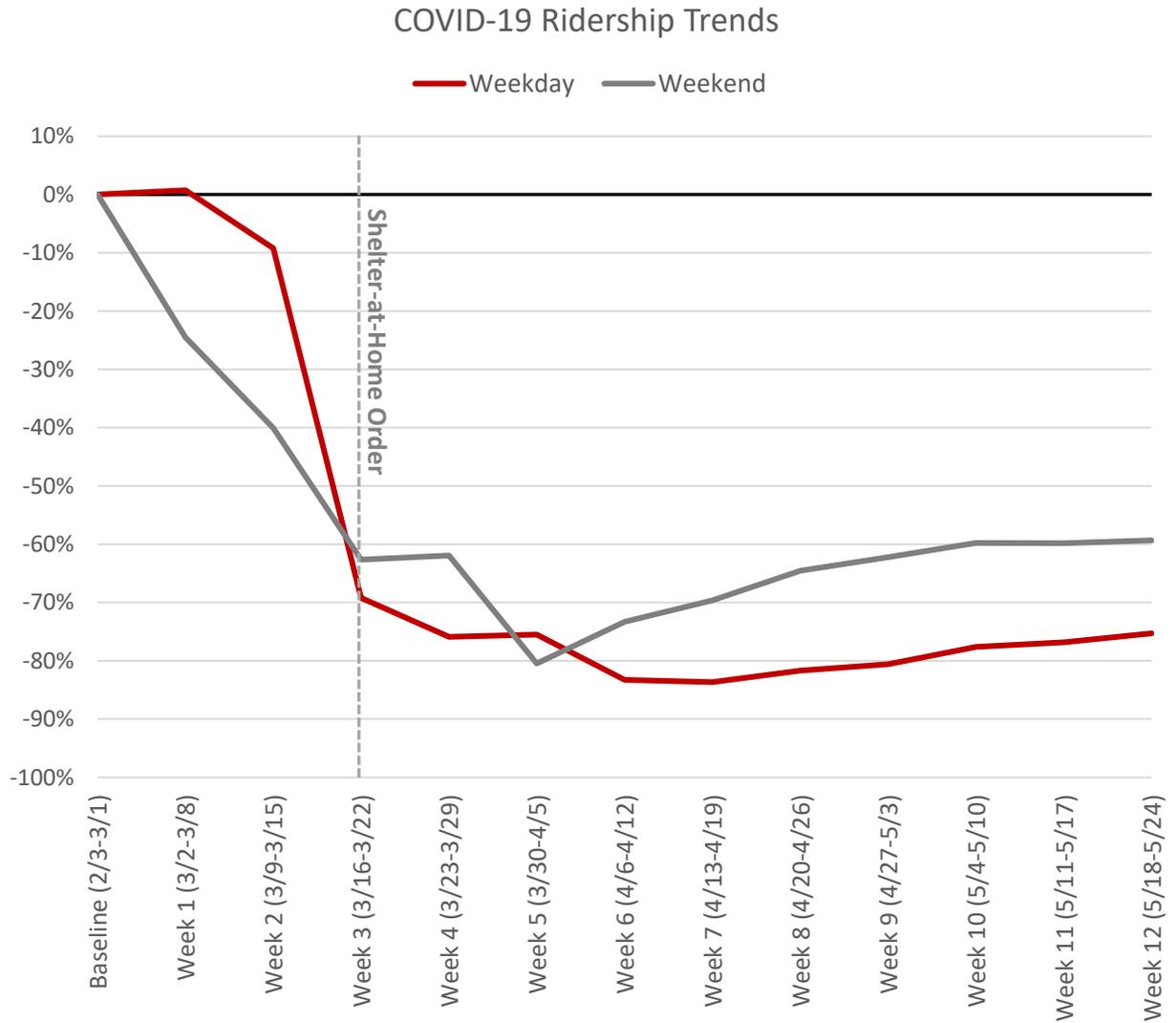
Service Updates:

Staff began making service reductions in late March due to reduced operator availability. As operators started returning to work in late April, staff began restoring service on routes with the greatest demand. Since May 11th, most local routes are now back to their usual weekday service levels. Routes 5 and 6 are the only local weekday routes still operating on modified schedules. Regular service has also resumed on express Routes 91X, 98X, and 99X.

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.

Ridership Trends:

The chart on the next page shows the weekly change in ridership since March 2nd using the prior 4 weeks as a baseline. Weekday ridership dropped as far as 85% in early April, but since then, it has been slowly climbing back up as some restrictions were eased starting in May. Weekday ridership is now down about 75% to around 3,000 daily passengers.



Fall Bid:

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.

Financial Implications:

Future financial implications are yet to be determined and will be largely based on new levels of service.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.