

To: Operations & Scheduling Committee

Date: 9/8/2020

From: Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by: *Ref*

SUBJECT: Winter Bid Update

Background:

Over the last several months, staff has been providing regular fixed-route and paratransit updates to the Board related to COVID-19. When staff was developing the Fall bid, the reopening of the economy and schools was largely uncertain, so staff focused on remaining flexible in order to be able to shift resources between services as needed. Staff also worked with our ATU's leadership to establish a shorter Fall bid period ending in early October, instead of the traditional mid-November timeframe, to allow staff to address scheduling demands sooner rather than later.

Ridership Trends:

Staff has been closely monitoring ridership to assess demand and ensure adequate service capacity. Since mid-July, ridership levels have remained relatively constant. Average weekday ridership is around 70% below baseline levels, and weekend ridership is down about 40%. Service capacity has not been an issue to date, with buses carrying an average of around 5 passengers per trip.

Winter Bid:

The Winter bid will be implemented on October 4th. Given that much is still uncertain and ridership levels have remained steady, staff plans to maintain most of the current service levels while retaining as much flexibility as possible to be able to respond to any changes in demand. The new bid will not include regularly scheduled school service. This will provide additional flexibility for if, and when, schools reopen to be able to deploy service where needed, particularly in recognition that different schools may have different reopening plans.

In addition, BART will be implementing new schedules that include significant changes to their weekend service starting September 14th. Staff will be updating the weekend schedules for the Winter bid to better coordinate with BART's new schedule. Finally, minor schedule adjustments will be made to Routes 4, 6, 7, and 35, as well as to express routes serving Bishop Ranch.

Financial Implications:

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

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.