

County Connection

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

CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

December 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/CONFIRM QUORUM

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

Staff: Ramacier, Sherman, Cheung, Churchill, Gan, Hill, Horta, Kamara, Martinez, McCarthy, Mitchell, Reeb, Rettig and Saechao

Public Comment: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Director Noack moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 19, 2020; (b) County Service Area (CSA-T1) Contract Amendment; (c) Security Guard Services Contract and Resolution No. 2021-015. Director Dessayer seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

REPORT OF CHAIR:

Director Haydon commended County Connection staff on the great job they are doing during these trying times. Keep up the great work and I appreciate all that you do.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

County Connection/LAVTA Coordination

Rick Ramacier informed the Board that he has been in talks with Michael Tree with LAVTA, on potential efforts to increase paratransit service coordination between County Connection and LAVTA. The agencies are looking at options to see if we were to combine our paratransit services would it be cost effective for both agencies. As things develop, we will continue to inform the Board.

Director Tatzin arrived at 9:10 a.m.

Update on the MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

Rick Ramacier explained that the Blue Ribbon Task Force has met a couple of times and its focus is the Transit Network Manager, community based and equity principles, which also include how operators can work together with or without funding, and exploring interest in merging agencies, in the hopes of a better product and lower labor costs.

COVID-19 Update

Rick Ramacier informed the Board that we continue to tell the staff to be safe and thoughtful while at work and away from work. We continue to social distance and to date we have 8 confirmed cases and other departments have been affected by this slight increase. We have decided to have minimum administrative staff in the office. Staff will also send letters to the government asking that transit operators be given the COVID-19 vaccine during the 2nd phase of the vaccine rollout. After a brief discussion, Rick Ramacier stated that he will continue to update the Board.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration & Finance Committee

Income Statements for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2020 and Revenue Update for Fiscal Year 2021

Director Dessayer introduced the item and turned the meeting over to Erick Cheung, CFO. Mr. Cheung stated that wages are under budget for \$350K because of vacancies and reductions in service. Other wages are lower by \$250K due to vacancies in the planning, safety and training, and maintenance departments. Fringe Benefits are under budget due to vacancies and because premiums for medical & cafeteria benefits do not increase until January 2021. Materials and supplies are lower due to lower diesel fuel costs and reduced service of \$175K and reduced electricity use for trolleys of \$21K. Also, lower are repair parts and building supplies expenses in the amount of \$50K. Miscellaneous expenses are under budget due to no travel nor training expenses in FY 2021 for \$32K, Special Trip Services are under budget due to COVID-19 which decreased Paratransit Ridership, eliminated trips for Cal State East Bay and Saint Mary's College, but offset by COVID/food delivery trips.

The sales tax information is better than expected so far, but we are now in the busiest time of year and will not know the outcome until February 2021. As additional information becomes available to staff, we will continue to provide updates to the Committee and the Board.

Fiscal year 2020 Financial Audit

The County Connection financial audit for fiscal year 2020 has been completed and the summary of the findings are that no noncompliance issues were found. Director Dessayer thanked CFO Erick Cheung and his staff for doing a great job, especially since 95% of the meetings were done on zoom. The staff has been flexible and highly professional throughout the whole process.

MOTION: Director Dessayer recommends that the Board approve the FY 2020 audit report prepared by Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation. Director Noack 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

Due to scheduling constraints, we moved the closed session up in the order of agenda items.

Closed Session:

The Board entered the closed session at 9:38 a.m.

Conference with Labor Negotiator (pursuant to Government code Section 54957.6)

Employee Organizations:

Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1605, AFL-CIO, Bus Operators

Machinists Automotive Trades District Lodge No. 1173, Machinists

Teamsters Union, Local 856, AFL-CIO, Transit Supervisors

Open Session:

The Board reconvened to open session at 10:29 a.m. The attorney, Julie Sherman, stated that no reportable action was taken in closed session.

Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Potential State Legislation on Bay Area Transit Governance or Coordination

Rick Ramacier informed the Board that we received a letter from Ian Griffiths, Policy Director, Seamless Bay Area and from Kevin Burke, a citizen from Alamo. These letters were distributed to the Board members and added to the County Connection website. Mr. Ramacier gave a brief background to explain that during the 2020 state legislative session, Assembly Member David Chiu introduced and then subsequently pulled from consideration, AB2057. This legislation would – among other things – have created a state Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) on Bay Area transit governance, funding, and coordination. This BRTF would have included state legislators, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) members, and other related “stake holders”. It would have been tasked with developing a significant plan to likely change how transit in the Bay Area is funded and governed. The main interest in this effort was to build a better regional system, possibly at the expense of local transit services. The initial reaction of the suburban East Bay legislative delegation could be described as positive. This was despite the potential for this legislation to be damaging to local transit interests.

After AB2057 was pulled from consideration, MTC set up its own Task Force to look at similar issues. Assembly Member Chiu was named to the MTC led MTC Transit Recovery Task Force (MTC BRTF). The MTC BRTF has met five times and is scheduled to meet seven more times. However, Assembly Member Chiu has already sent strong signals that he intends to introduce a bill very similar to AB2057 in the 2021 legislative session in January of 2021. It is likely that this new bill could pose concerns for County Connection and other local transit operators within the region.

Director Hudson left at 10:48 a.m.

Director Andersen left at 10:59 a.m.

Operating & Scheduling Committee

One Seat Ride Pilot Update

Rashida Kamara, Manager of Accessible Services, informed the Board that the One Seat Ride pilot program went into effect on November 1, 2020. It was decided by the participating agencies that we would meet often to discuss issues and concerns and address them swiftly to keep the program moving. Initially, the participating agencies wanted this to mimic the original idea of making this a “Rider Choice” program with premium fares and special service protocols. Premium service is described as service provided above and beyond the required ADA services for which a customer will pay a higher fare. As a result, we established a premium fare (this fare included the base fare for each agency that a passenger transfers to/from, potentially making the fare \$15.50 for a 3 leg one-way trip), but quickly realized that with free fares still being practiced (as a result of the COVID-19 environment) by some of the participating agencies, many passengers opted to book a traditional transfer trip, rather than pay the premium fare.

On November 11, 2020, members of the participating agencies met to discuss the need to continue to make the services available to everyone who needed it. Persons opting out of using the program expressly stated that it was too expensive. Collectively, the members agreed to revamp the fare structure to ensure passengers would take advantage of the “One Seat” solution.

2021 Service Plan Webinar Feedback

Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning, gave a brief background that at the October Board meeting, the Board authorized staff to proceed with the public comment process on three proposed service scenarios for implementation in mid- to late-2021. These scenarios were developed in anticipation of reduced revenues due to COVID-19 and would result in service cuts totaling approximately \$3, \$5, and \$7 million annually. Subsequently, in November, staff presented the public outreach timeline, which included all virtual meetings starting with a webinar in December.

Staff hosted the first virtual webinar on December 1st, from 5pm-6pm and approximately 22 attendees joined the webinar. Staff provided a high-level overview of the three scenarios, County Connection’s financial projections, and concluded with

a summary of the timeline before taking questions from the public. The attendees made suggestions about a few routes and inquired about County Connection's funding sources, the likelihood of reinstating service once eliminated, and any potential for layoffs. Staff reiterated that current service levels are largely consistent with the first scenario, the \$3M reduction. If additional savings must be achieved, it is difficult to determine when service could be reinstated and whether layoffs would be required.

Staff also informed those in attendance about the public hearings scheduled in January that will provide more details.

All costs associated with the public outreach process were included in the FY 2021 promotions budget.

BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Chair Haydon informed the Board that he has been reappointed to County Connection Board of Directors.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Haydon adjourned the regular Board meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Minutes prepared by



Lathina Hill
Assistant to the General Manager

Date: January 11, 2021