

TO: MP&L Committee

DATE: February 26, 2021

FROM: Rick Ramacier *RR*

SUBJ: Federal Community Project Funding (Earmarks) in the FY22 Federal Appropriations and in Possible New Federal Infrastructure Package

Background

County Connection was invited to consider submitting a project(s) as a Community Project Funding (earmark) request for the FY22 federal appropriations bill and/or to the comprehensive federal infrastructure package that may be put together as early as this spring. These invitations come from the offices of Congressmen DeSaulnier and Swalwell.

These invitations have also gone out to our partners, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA). Since all of us are working on improving non-driving mobility in the I-680 corridor, we are all talking about how best to take advantage of these new federal opportunities.

Early discussions that each of us have had with the two congressional offices strongly suggest that projects that work to implement a new “one seat” express bus ride in the corridor have a lot of general support. Also, projects that would help County Connection & LAVTA conduct a joint Hydrogen Fuel Cell bus pilot project in an express bus service along the I-680 corridor are receiving strong interest.

Near Term Process

As of this writing, it appears the deadline for members of Congress to submit Community Project Funding requests to be considered in the FY22 federal appropriations is April 20, 2021. Meanwhile, the federal infrastructure package process has yet to be set.

Staff believes we should – in partnership with CCTA and/or LAVTA submit one or two ideas to our congressional offices. Those details will emerge over the next two weeks. To show our commitment, the Board of Directors should submit a Resolution declaring such commitment. The Board will meet in April on the 15th.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that County Connection participate in submitting a project(s) that support the implementation of a one-seat one-brand express service in the I-680 corridor – operated by

Hydrogen Fuel Cell buses if possible – for the Community Project Funding member requests and/or to the forthcoming infrastructure proposal. We further recommend that the Board adopt a Resolution expressing County Connection’s commitment to this.

Action Request

Staff seeks your feedback and discussion on developing our specific requests at your meeting on April 1, 2021. We further ask that you forward a Resolution to the full Board expressing County Connection commitment to pursue joint implementation of a comprehensive express bus project in the I-680 corridor.