

**Summary Minutes
Advisory Committee
County Connection
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday March 9, 2021**

Members: Marjorie McWee, Wayne Mortensen, Adrian Byram, Rich Eber (On Phone)

Staff: Rashida Kamara, Bill Churchill, Ruby Horta, Melody Reeb

Public: None

1. **Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM

2. **Roll Call**

(See Attendance sheet)

3. **Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was approved.

4. **Approval of minutes of January 12, 2021:**

The minutes were presented there was no quorum to approve the minutes.

Quorum met. Ms. McWee asked if there were any changes or corrections. Mr. Mortenson moved to approve. Rich Eber seconded the motion. All ayes. Minutes approved as presented.

5. **Public Comment:**

None

6. **Consent Calendar:**

None

7. **Chairman Selection:**

Ms. McWee asked if the selection process could be moved to a later date due to the fact that we did not have a quorum. Ms. Horta said the decision to move the item to another date would be up to her. Ms. McWee asked the other members and they all agreed to move the item to another date.

Ms. McWee suggested we wait till we had more people present. Mr. Eber and Mr. Mortensen agreed. Ms. McWee made a motion to table it. Mr. Eber moved, Mr. Mortensen seconded the motion and approved the item to be moved.

8. Draft 2021 Service Plan:

Ms. Reeb gave an update on the ongoing service reduction plan. Staff had recommended the \$3M. This service plan is similar to our current service levels. It still maintains all the 600 series school service. Public comments opposed the elimination of route 6 Community Center Loop, and so revisions to the plan were made. Ms. Reeb mentioned there has been some ridership change and flexibility has been built into the service plan and the final approval from the board is next week. Mr. Mortensen wanted to know if we have new funding sources now that we have a new administration? Ms. Horta responded that CARES ACT and CRISA funding were used to mitigate revenue losses. We do foresee a revenue deficit a couple of years out. We will implement this service cut to prevent further cuts in the future. Ms. McWee wanted to know if we foresee service returning fairly quickly. Ms. Horta said we built enough flexibility to add service as ridership increases. Moving forward we would add service on a temporary basis based on demand. She also said with new stimulus, we would invest revenue hours into new routes as BART ridership increases. Mr. Mortensen stated most people that ride bus now are services workers. Ms. Horta stated lowest ridership at the moment and unless there is a major shutdown as in March 2020, we do not anticipate ridership will get any lower. Mr. Eber stated we should also be looking at students.

9. Paratransit One Year Contract Extension:

Ms. Kamara updated the committee on the one-year extension for the paratransit contractor. Transdev has a two-year contract with three one-year options. The board approved the first one-year extension. Mr. Eber wanted to know why we were asking them (the Advisory committee) if the Board had already approved it. Ms. Kamara stated this item was for information only.

10. Pilot Project-Collaboration of County Connection/LAVTA Paratransit Programs:

Ms. Kamara updated the committee on the board approved pilot. LAVTA along with CCCTA will collaborate on a one-year pilot, in which both paratransit programs will be operated using one contractor, Transdev. CCCTA and LAVTA have an approved MOU for their Paratransit program to be operated by Transdev, CCCTA Paratransit contractor. They will collaborate by having shared resources and streamlining services for the passenger. A transition plan is currently underway. Mr. Mortensen stated such a collaboration would save cost. Ms. McWee wanted to know if that meant not having to make a transfer from CCCTA to Pleasanton. Ms. Kamara clarified that such a scenario would be resolved by the One-Seat pilot. This collaboration just means Transdev would be operating LAVTA's Paratransit Program with CCCTA managing it. Ms. McWee also wanted to know if there is an economy of scale that we benefit from by consolidating everything. Ms. Kamara agreed and explained the bid process and that each transit agency would normally have their own contractor, their own vehicles, management staff, phone systems and software systems. With this consolidation, we share resources and save.

11. Fixed Route Monthly Reports Committee Member Communications:

- Fixed Route Ridership-November and December 2020
- Clipper Trends-November and December 2020

Ms. Reeb gave an update on Fixed route trend. Ridership down by 72% compared to last year. Generally, ridership has been calm. Fare collection was resumed in November. We are seeing a relative high percentage of clipper usage. In November, we were about 71% and December, we were about 74%. We are hoping to see those numbers go up as we recently launched the Clipper Start program and the youth program.

12. Paratransit monthly Report: November and December 2020

Ms. Kamara gave an update on Paratransit Ridership. Both November and December ridership dropped due to the holidays, but in November and December, there was a tightening of restrictions due to the pandemic, causing ridership to drop. For safety reasons, Paratransit service continues to transport one passenger at a time during the day. In December, we had a handful of share ride services (while still maintaining social distancing guidelines) in the evening because it made logistical sense to transport more than one person. Mr. Eber wanted to know what measures had Transdev taken to cut expenses since ridership has gone down? Ms. Kamara stated, that staffing levels have been reduced for both drivers and administrative staff. Mr. Eber stated he was concerned about keeping expenses down. He also stated, he noticed many big buses with few people on them. Could we use smaller buses or is that a viable option? Ms. Horta said because we adhere to physical distancing it would be counter intuitive to use a smaller bus. She stated we are only able to transport 8-10 people. Mr. Churchill said the labor to operate is the real cost, not the bus itself. Ms. Kamara also stated if we use a small bus, the maximum capacity is 3 so we would not be able to service an area that requires at least 10 persons.

NOTE: Ms. McWee Stated before moving on to Item 13. We now have a quorum (Rich Eber joined by phone) so she would like to address the items 4 and 7 that were passed up.

13. Committee Member Communications

Mr. Mortensen said he thinks the Bay Area needs a robust transportation system. He advocates representatives provide more funding for public transit. Ms. McWee stated she is involved in other transit initiatives and groups. Those conversations are focused on safe travel and budgeting. Ms. McWee stated several of the members are up for reapplying. Ms. Kamara updated the committee on the status of the committee member's term. Staff has reached out to the cities to remind them of the end of terms. Some terms were ending within a year and some in two years. She also reminded the members to notify their cities if they wish to remain on the committee. Mr. Mortenson stated maybe Orinda might want to send a representative. Ms. Kamara replied that Orinda has reached out and an application has been sent out.

Meeting adjourned at 1:52 PM

Minutes prepared by Rashida Kamara April 29, 2021.