

County Connection

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CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

March 18, 2021

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, Hoffmeister, Hudson, Noack, Schroder, Storer, Tatzin, Wilk and Worth. Director Dessayer was absent.

Staff: Ramacier, Chun, Cheung, Churchill, Hill, Horta, Kamara, Martinez, McCarthy, Mitchell, Reebbs and Rettig

Public Comment: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Director Hudson moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 18, 2021; (b) CCCTA Investment Policy-Quarterly Reporting Requirement; (c) Administrative Employee Compensation Adjustment and Resolution No. 2021-018; (d) Cap and Trade Grant (LCTOP)- FY2020-21 and Resolution No. 2021-020. Director Hoffmeister seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

REPORT OF CHAIR:

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

Rick Ramacier stated that today is National Transit Driver Appreciation Day.

County Connection/LAVTA Coordination

Rick Ramacier informed the Board that he has been in talks with Michael Tree with LAVTA, to develop a demonstration project to increase coordination of paratransit services between County Connection and LAVTA. LAVTA is considering using CCCTA's contractor, Transdev to see if it would be cost effective for both agencies. April 1, 2021 is the anticipated start date for the proposed coordinated paratransit service.

COVID-19 Update

Rick Ramacier informed the Board that schools are scheduled to reopen soon. We have reached out to the school districts with little response back. Some schools are on routes that currently have service, so added school trips will not be that hard to add. But those that do not have service currently will be harder to add school trips. We will continue to reach out to individual schools in hopes of working together in order to provide service to those areas. Rick reviewed issues concerning the applicable social distancing requirements for school children in the classroom and on the buses, and reported that

discussions continue with county health officials and other transit agencies. Rick Ramacier will report back to the O&S Committee and the full Board in April.

Update on the MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

Rick Ramacier explained that the Blue Ribbon Task Force will meet on Monday to discuss how to define Transit Network Managers in order to have a better working relationship. Directors Storer and Worth complimented the staff's hard work and noted that implementing the one seat ride should also help our agency. As new developments occur, Rick will continue to update the Board.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

FY2022 Marketing Plan

Director Worth introduced the item by saying that the adoption of the marketing plan is needed to get people back on the bus. Ruby Horta, Director of Scheduling and Marketing explained that County Connection's upcoming Marketing Plan will focus on COVID-19 recovery, Clipper START and youth fares and the 2021 Service Plan. The extent of our marketing efforts to promote transit will largely depend on state and federal guidelines recommending the use of transit as the economy reopens. Although our systems, both fixed route and paratransit, focused on essential workers and services in FY 2021, we expect our systems to begin the transition to encourage more riders to our services.

Riders are increasingly using the internet and social media to access transit information, stay informed, and interact with County Connection. A portion of the promotions budget will go towards general website maintenance and enhancements, as well as increasing the agency's involvement with social media. Due to decreased ridership and physical distancing requirements, online interactions have been more critical, and we must enhance our online presence especially as we try to reach non-essential passengers that have been working from home since early 2020.

The miscellaneous promotions budget is intended to cover campaigns or new services that have not yet been identified. There will likely be a need to conduct other forms of promotion that will be identified as we recover from COVID-19.

MOTION: Director Worth moved approval of the FY2022 Marketing Plan. Director Schroder seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

State and Federal Legislative Update

Rick Ramacier gave an update on the following bills. AB629 is a place holder for the legislation to address Bay Area public transit governance, planning, funding, and coordination. It is also the vehicle to possibly address anticipated recommendations coming out of the work of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force (BRTF). AB455 would enact the Bay Bridge Fast Forward Program. The goal is to improve transit service along the Bay Bridge corridor into San Francisco. The Program is to be developed by the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) in conjunction with the San Francisco Transportation Authority, the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). AB917 is a collaborative effort between AC Transit, LA Metro, and the California Transit

Association (CTA) to repeal the AC Transit sunset date for the use of forward-facing cameras on buses. It also would authorize all public transit operators in California to use the same type of video enforcement for vehicles parked illegally in public bus stops. This new authority would be optional and could only be used upon an individual transit operator’s policy board adopting a resolution to do so. Staff will continue to update the Board as new information is available.

Operations & Scheduling Committee

2021 Service Plan and Title VI Analysis and Resolution No. 2021-019

Director Storer introduced the item and stated that ridership has been reduced by 13% and we are prioritizing routes that need to be updated. In the proposed plan, service frequency would be reduced on Routes 4, 5, 6, 7, 27, 35, 92X, 95X, and 96X. There would also be two alignment changes—extending Route 28 to Concord BART and simplifying the routing through Bishop Ranch on Route 92X to remove stops at BR 15 and Bishop/Sunset. The original proposal also included the elimination of the Orinda Community Center loop on Route 6. However, based on public feedback, staff revised the proposal to retain service along this segment of the route. All 600-series school service will be retained at the service levels that County Connection typically operates during a normal school year.

No public comments were received during the public hearings. However, four written comments were received that were related directly related to the service plan being proposed. Staff revised the proposal in response to comments opposed to the elimination of the Orinda Community Center loop on Route 6.

Staff completed a Title VI Service Equity Analysis based on the final service proposal. The proposed service plan includes significant schedule and/or alignment changes to several routes, resulting in both beneficial and adverse impacts. Most of the route changes independently constitute a major service change requiring an equity analysis under County Connection’s Title VI policy. However, due to the interconnected nature of the changes in the plan, the analysis evaluated the entire implementation of the service plan as a single major service change. The analysis did not indicate any disparate impact to minorities or disproportionate burden on low-income populations as a result of the proposed service changes.

There is still a large degree of uncertainty as it relates to COVID-19, including its potential long-term impacts on the economy and travel patterns. In addition, circumstances that affect ridership demand can change relatively quickly, such as schools reopening or workers returning to offices, and County Connection needs to be prepared to restore and/or modify service in response to these changes in demand. If the proposed service plan is approved, staff will still be closely monitoring ridership trends and financial projections to determine whether additional service is needed.

As schools, businesses, recreational facilities, and other non-essential services return to normal operations, staff will need to respond quickly to augment service based on the community’s needs and the agency’s financial capacity. Any restoration of service will be implemented as a temporary adjustment and made permanent once the pandemic is behind us. A similar public outreach process and Title VI analysis will be conducted once staff is comfortable making the changes permanent.

MOTION: Director Storer moved adoption of Resolution No. 2021-019, approving the proposed service plan for the implementation as early as summer 2021 and adopting the Title VI Service Equity Analysis. Director Hudson seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

BOARD COMMUNICATION: Director Haydon mentioned that Clayton recently honored the founder of Clayton, Bob Hoyer on the occasion of his 100 year birthday. Director Storer asked about how the Citizens Advisory Committee could be jumpstarted. Director Hudson inquired about attendance of the APTA conference by non-members.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Haydon adjourned the regular Board meeting at 10:20am in honor of Transit Driver Appreciation Day.

Minutes prepared by



Lathina Hill
Assistant to the General Manager

Date: April 7, 2021