

# County Connection

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## CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

May 20, 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, Hudson, Noack, Schroder, Storer, Tatzin, Wilk and Worth. Directors Dessayer and Hoffmeister were absent.

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

**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 April 15, 2021; (b) Revised Allocation Amounts for the Cap and Trade Grant (LCTOP)-FY2020-2021 and Resolution No. 2021-024; Director Wilk seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

#### REPORT OF CHAIR:

Chair Haydon informed the Board that Director Dessayer is doing better, and he will keep them posted on his return. He announced that there will be a closed session at the end of the meeting regarding the annual process for the General Manager's evaluation this year. Finally, Chair Haydon advised that staff will continue to monitor the state's waiver during COVID-19 of the mandate for conducting in person meetings, and that staff will inform the board of any and all changes.

#### REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

##### COVID-19 Update

Rick Ramacier stated that between 60%-70% of employees have been vaccinated. He also informed the board that with the state opening back up, he regularly meets with the ATU to discuss the capacity on the buses. As of right now, the state has given guidance on distance between the driver and the passengers of six feet, but three feet between passengers is permissible. We will continue to come back to the Board as developments occur. We currently have staff working on how to proceed with coming back for in person meetings. Our committee meetings before Covid-19, have been held at off site locations, we have yet to hear from of any of those locations being able to start in person meetings as of yet.

##### Update on the MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

Rick stated that it's not much to update but be aware of a BRTF board chairs and members meeting on June 21, 2021, and a Fare Integration Clipper Executive meeting on May 25, 2021.

## Update on AB629-Chiu

Rick Ramacier informed the board that AB629-Chiu has been put in a suspense file, has become a two year bill. While in this status either the bill disappears altogether, or it could change significantly. We will continue to keep an eye on this and we will report back at a later time.

## Joint County Connection/LAVTA Board Committee

Rick Ramacier stated that the joint board committee never met. So now that the pilot paratransit program has begun between the two agencies, the members have decided to meet quarterly. Two years ago, we appointed Director Andersen and Director Hudson and they both have agreed to stay on committee and participate in the ongoing meetings.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee**

#### Clipper Mobile App Marketing and Outreach Plan

Amy Worth introduced the item and turned the meeting over to Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning. Melody Reeb explained that at the April 2021 Board meeting, staff announced that the new Clipper Mobile App had just been launched on Apple Pay, which allows riders to pay their transit fares with an iPhone or Apple Watch. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has also been working with Google to add Clipper to Google Pay, which is expected to launch in May and will provide similar functionality for Android phones. In addition to paying fares, the Clipper app also allows users to manage their accounts from their mobile device and provides trip planning tools, including real-time transit information.

Staff plans to work closely with cities and community-based organizations as they begin to ramp up their services and activities. One of the major barriers to Clipper adoption, especially among lower-income riders, has been the fact that value can only be added on a card for immediate use at a physical location, of which there are very few within our service area. Now, riders will be able to add value immediately to the Clipper cards on their phones. Most of the costs associated with marketing the Clipper Mobile App will be covered by MTC. Any additional costs are included in the FY 2021 promotions budget.

#### Status of the Metropolitan Transportation (MTC) plans for allocating the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to the region's transit operators.

Rick Ramacier explained that ARP is the third COVID-19 relief package as of date. \$1.7 billion will go to local transit and MTC has started to develop principles on how these funds will be distributed. MTC will suggest that the first disbursements go to agencies that are currently struggling. County Connection is not one of these agencies. Although our reserves are dwindling down, we are well positioned at MTC for our goals to be met.

### **Operations & Scheduling Committee**

#### Regional Transit Ridership Trends

Director Storer introduced the item by saying that all transit operators have been hit with ridership continually decreasing. Melody Reeb informed the board that in the San Francisco Bay Area, overall transit ridership was down 75.5% in February 2021 compared to the same month last year, just prior to the start of the pandemic. While there was slightly more ridership recovery on County Connection routes last summer, ridership levels are now relatively consistent with the rest of the region. In contrast, regional transit operators have continued to sustain more substantial drops in ridership and much slower rates of recovery. This is consistent with the fact that regional transit services such as BART and Caltrain tend to serve more of a traditional commute market, and many of those commuters are still working from home as offices remain closed. On the other hand, the types of businesses that have reopened over the past few months, including restaurants and retail, tend to generate more local transit trips.

Collaboration of CCCTA/LAVTA Paratransit Programs Update #1

Rashida Kamara explained that upon approval of the pilot program, an MOU was executed by both General Managers and an amendment was submitted and signed by Transdev to commence service on April 1, 2021. Transdev successfully transitioned and folded in LAVTA Paratransit service on April 1, 2021. Some of the transitional tasks included hiring an Operations Manager and two dispatchers for LAVTA. Signage for the BigStar vehicles were ordered and mounted, tablets for the BigStar drivers were ordered and Transdev IT team along with CCCTA IT team configured them to receive manifest data. Transdev also worked with LAVTA's incumbent contractor MTM, to receive and download client data into our existing Trapeze scheduling software. CCCTA IT department worked with our phone systems to create phone numbers that would allow for call routing for LAVTA's public facing phone numbers. The CCCTA eligibility department also worked tirelessly to enter subsequent passenger data into our scheduling system to prevent data from being lost. Once that process was complete, CCCTA staff created an automated system that allowed LAVTA staff to enter data directly into the Regional Eligibility Database (RED), which would automatically download each night into CCCTA Trapeze scheduling software, thereby eliminating the need for manual entries.

Ms. Kamara noted that some challenges remain, which will be addressed, and that we are continuing to improve the process as things come up. As a result of this collaboration, County Connection will see a reduction in its FY 22 proposed monthly fixed cost of \$153,094.65 to \$148,292.28, as well as in its FY 22 variable rate of \$50.56, to \$50.42.

**REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Appointment of Jason Sommers to Advisory Committee Representing the City of Pleasant Hill and Andrew Fontan as the alternate member

**MOTION:** Director Noack moved approval of the Appointment of Jason Sommers to the Advisory Committee Representing the City of Pleasant Hill and Andrew Fontan as the alternate member. Director Storer seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

**BOARD COMMUNICATION:** None

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Public Employment and Performance Evaluation; Conference with Labor Negotiator  
Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957, 54957.6  
Position: General Manager

The Board of Directors went into closed session at 9:54 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION:**

The Board of Directors came back to open session at 10:57 a.m. Direction was given, and no formal action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Haydon adjourned the regular Board meeting at 10:58 am.

Minutes prepared by



Lathina Hill  
Assistant to the General Manager

Date: June 7, 2021