

**To:** Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

**Date:** November 23, 2021

**From:** Bill Churchill, Assistant General Manager of Administration

**Reviewed by:**

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**SUBJECT:** Mayors Meeting with MDUSD & Transportation Authorities

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**Background:**

County Connection staff was invited to a meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Mayors of Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, Pittsburg and Walnut Creek. Also, in attendance was Mr. Haile from Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and Dr. Clark the Superintendent from the Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD). The purpose of the meeting was to explore potential traffic congestion mitigation solutions to offset the profound bottlenecks that occur around many MDUSD schools at bell times.

**Assistance from Transit Agencies:**

Mr. Haile provided an overview the CCTA's Safe Routes to School Program and how some of the concepts within their program can reduce congestions around some schools at bell times. Mr. Haile offered to meet with MDUSD staff to help identify schools that could benefit from the program and walk through some of the various concepts that could be easily implemented.

County Connection staff pointed out that unlike the relationships with many other school districts within the service area there has not been any significant sharing of information with MDUSD staff in a couple of decades. Since County Connection staff does not have a clear picture of where students originate and the schools they attend, it has been challenging to design the routes to maximize student transit use. Dr. Clark agreed that improving the staff relationships of the two entities and the sharing of data could have a direct impact on transporting more students in buses and as a result reduce congestion. Dr. Clark committed to assigning a transportation coordinator from MDUSD to begin meeting with County Connection staff as well as provide origin and destination data to look for opportunities to improve public transportation for students.

Staff will provide updates to the board as a more robust relationship with MDUSD begins to take shape and as potential ways to improve public transportation for students becomes more clear.

**Financial Implications:**

None.

**Recommendation:**

None, for information only.

**Action Requested:**

None, for information only.