

County Connection

2477 Arnold Industrial Way Concord, CA 94520-5326 (925) 676-7500 countyconnection.com

MARKETING, PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, December 2, 2021
8:30 a.m.

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 361, WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A TELECONFERENCE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON.

Topic: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee
Time: Dec 2, 2021 08:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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Public comment may be submitted via email to: hill@cccta.org. Please indicate in your email the agenda item to which your comment applies. Comments submitted before the meeting will be provided to the committee Directors before or during the meeting. Comments submitted after the meeting is called to order will be included in correspondence that will be provided to the full Board.

Should Zoom not be operational, please check online at: www.countyconnection.com for any updates or further instruction.

*Enclosure

FY2021/2022 MP&L Committee

Amy Worth – Orinda, Candace Andersen – Contra Costa County, Kevin Wilk – Walnut Creek, Rob Schroder – Martinez

Clayton • Concord • Contra Costa County • Danville • Lafayette • Martinez
Moraga • Orinda • Pleasant Hill • San Ramon • Walnut Creek

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The committee may take action on each item on the agenda. The action may consist of the recommended action, a related action or no action. Staff recommendations are subject to action and/or change by the committee.

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Communication
3. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2021*
4. Mt. Diablo USD Meeting – Information Only*
(Staff will provide an overview of the discussion between various Mayors, Mt. Diablo USD staff and County Connection staff.)
5. Pass2Class Final Report – Information Only*
(Staff will provide the final report of the Pass2Class promotion.)
6. Federal Legislative Update – Information Only*
(Staff will summarize the various federal legislative efforts.)
7. PEPRA & Federal Section 13(c) – Information Only*
(Staff will provide and update on the objection to the PERS-based pension reform and its impact on grant applications.)
8. Community Events – Information Only*
9. Committee Comments
10. Future Agenda Items
11. Next Meeting – January 6, 2022 (8:30am, location to be determined)
12. Adjournment

General Information

Public Comment: If you wish to address the Committee, please follow the directions at the top of the agenda. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the Committee and included for the official record, please include it in your email. Comments that require a response may be deferred for staff reply.

Consent Items: All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered by the committee to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a committee member or a member of the public prior to when the committee votes on the motion to adopt.

Availability of Public Records: The agenda and enclosures for this meeting are posted also on our website at www.countyconnection.com.

Accessible Public Meetings: Upon request, County Connection will provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings and provide comments at/related to public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be sent to the Assistant to the General Manager, Lathina Hill, at 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, CA 94520 or hill@cccta.org. Requests made by mail must be received at least two days before the meeting. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

Currently Scheduled Board and Committee Meetings

Board of Directors:	Thursday, December 16, 9:00 a.m., via teleconference
Administration & Finance:	Wednesday, December 8, 8:30 a.m., via teleconference
Advisory Committee:	Tuesday, January 11, 1:00 p.m., via teleconference
Operations & Scheduling:	Friday, December 3, 8:15 a.m., via teleconference

The above meeting schedules are subject to change. Please check the County Connection Website (www.countyconnection.com) or contact County Connection staff at (925) 676-1976 to verify date, time and location prior to attending a meeting.

This agenda is posted on County Connection's Website (www.countyconnection.com) and at the County Connection Administrative Offices, 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, California

Summary Minutes
Marketing, Planning, and Legislative Committee
Thursday, November 4, 2021, 8:30 a.m.

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted as a teleconference pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 361.

Directors: Amy Worth, Candace Andersen, Kevin Wilk, Rob Schroder
Staff: Rick Ramacier, Bill Churchill, Ruby Horta, Melody Reeb, Madeline Chun
Public: None

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Director Worth.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda.

2. Public Communication

None

3. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2021

The Committee approved the minutes.

4. Pass2Class Update

Ms. Horta provided an update on the Pass2Class program in partnership with 511 Contra Costa. About 1,700 passes were issued between South and Central County. For the month of August, there were over 10,000 trips that were taken using the pass, and 55% of those trips were on 600-series school routes. Director Schroder asked whether staff can tell from the data whether there has been an increase in ridership because of the passes. Ms. Horta replied that it's difficult to say, especially with the impacts of the pandemic, but the 600-series routes are currently carrying a larger proportion of overall ridership compared to pre-COVID. Director Worth asked whether staff will be able to look at whether riders who are using the pass continue to ride after the promotion ends. Ms. Horta responded that staff is planning to promote the Youth Clipper fare discount and will be able to reach out directly to those who used the Pass2Class program.

5. September Free Rides Promotion

Ms. Reeb presented a summary of the September Free Rides promotion, which was done in coordination with several other Bay Area transit agencies including BART. Staff was able to use one of BART's contractors to run a digital ad campaign, which ended up being very successful in terms of engagement. In terms of ridership, there was an increase during the promotion, but most of the gains were lost once it ended in October.

6. Community Events

Ms. Horta provided a summary of outreach being conducted in November. She noted that staff has added some libraries as outreach locations and is looking into adjusting outreach times as ridership has started to pick up earlier in the day.

7. Committee Comments

None

8. Future Agenda Items

None

9. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for December 2nd at 8:30 a.m. via teleconference.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning

To: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Date: November 23, 2021

From: Bill Churchill, Assistant General Manager of Administration

Reviewed by:

SUBJECT: Mayors Meeting with MDUSD & Transportation Authorities

Background:

County Connection staff was invited to a meeting on November 3rd 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.

To: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Date: 11/22/2021

From: Ruby Horta, Director of Planning, Marketing & Innovation

Reviewed by: *W.C.*

SUBJECT: Pass2Class Final Report

Background:

The Pass2Class Program was funded by 511 Contra Costa as part of their efforts to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution by reducing the number of cars being driven to school. Pass2Class offered free transportation, for a limited period, on AC Transit, WestCAT, TriDelta and County Connection to Contra Costa students encouraging the use of public transit to and from school. The application was available from July 15th through October 15th offering each household up to two (2) passes. The County Connection pass was valid through October 31st and 511 Contra Costa reimbursed County Connection \$1.60 per trip. The pass was valid on all County Connection fixed route services.

Pass2Class – Total Usage

511 Contra Costa issued over 1,700 passes, largely in County Connection's service area. Most of the pass sales were issued to residents in Concord, San Ramon, Lamorinda and Walnut Creek. School started within the first couple of weeks in August and over 10,000 Pass2Class trips were recorded that month. Close to 20,000 Pass2Class trips were taken in October, for a total of more than 31,000 student trips during the promotional period of August and October. (No Pass2Class trips were recorded in September due to the systemwide free fares promotions.)

The cumulative totals accounts for local, express, and school routes, which includes weekday and weekend service. Although the majority, or about 56%, of Pass2Class trips occurred on the 600 series routes, it is important to note that many students depend on regular fixed routes for their school trips. Finally, these pass holders are also using our system beyond the expected weekday school trips with over 1,800 trips recorded on weekend routes.

Month-over-month usage increased on most routes, with a few exceptions. (See Attachment 1 for more details). A couple of weekday routes and one weekend route logged fewer Pass2Class trips in October than August. The 600 series routes almost doubled Pass2Class trips between August and October, totaling close to 18,000 trips. Pass2Class trips on Routes 601, 602 and 606 comprised more than 50% of the total Pass2Class trips of all school routes. Routes 601 and 602 serve Walnut Creek Intermediate (WCI) and Route 606 serves Orinda Intermediate (OIS) and Miramonte High School.

Similarly, Routes 10, 18, 20, 21 and 35 carried more than half of all Pass2Class trips on local routes. Routes 10 and 20 mainly serve Clayton, Concord and Pleasant Hill along Clayton Rd., Willow Pass Rd./Sunvalley Blvd., Contra Costa Blvd., to Diablo Valley College (DVC). Route 18 operates between Martinez Amtrak and Pleasant Hill BART, via DVC. Route 21 connects Walnut Creek BART to the Danville Park & Ride and the San Ramon Transit Center, primarily along Danville Blvd. Route 35 travels along Bollinger Canyon between the SRTC and the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. All of these local routes serve schools and schedules are often adjusted to meet bell times, but they are not as tailored as the 600 series.

The pass promotion ended on November 1st, however, efforts to encourage student transit use will continue. To facilitate the transition from free trips to required fares, County Connection staff provided information to 511 staff about the youth discount on Clipper. This information has been disseminated to all Pass2Class applicants. Additionally, County Connection will continue to the school outreach effort to process Youth Clipper Card applications.

Financial Implications:

511 Contra Costa will reimburse County Connection at the rate of \$1.60 per ride. All costs associated with this promotion are included in the FY 2021 promotions budget.

Recommendation:

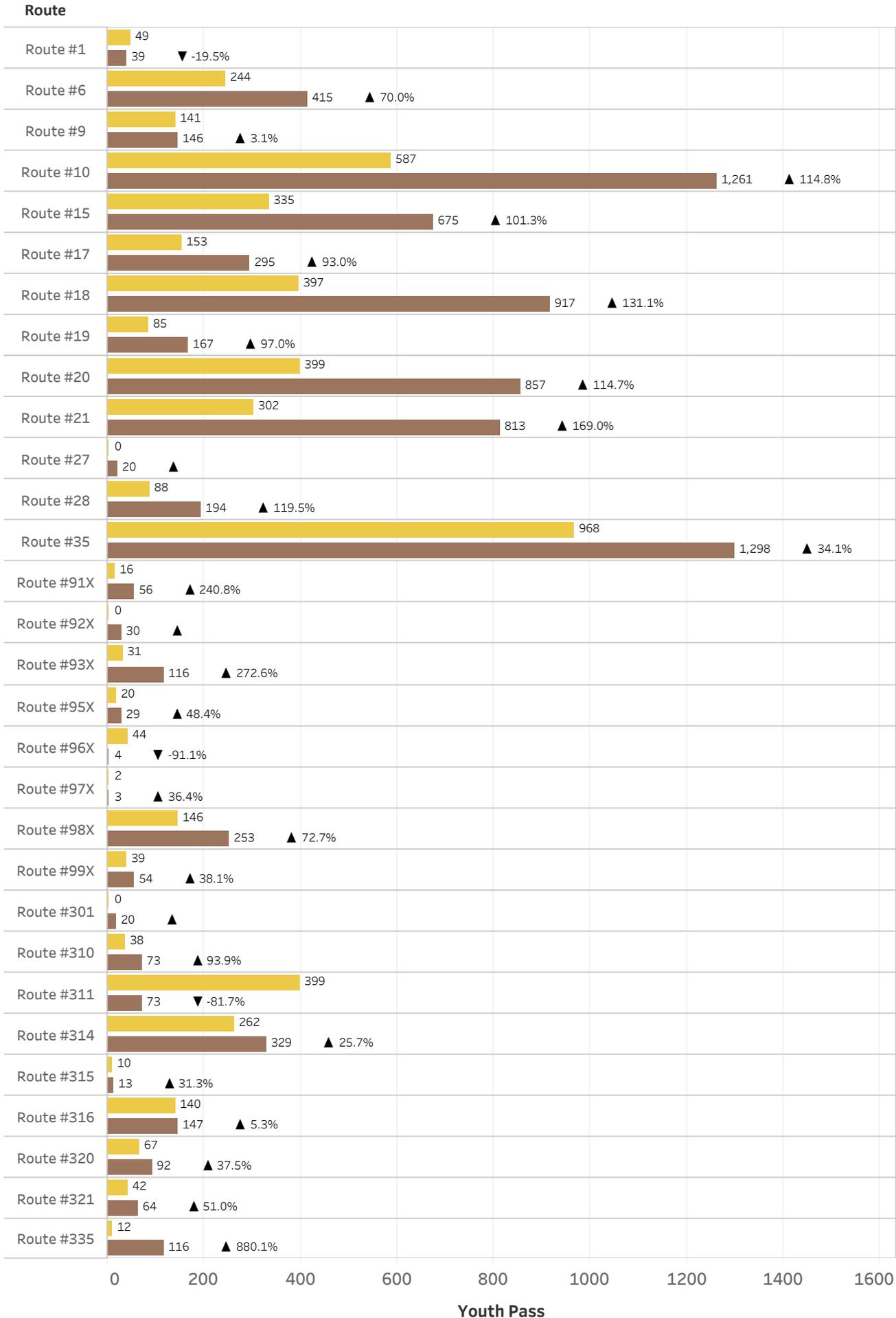
None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.

Attachment:

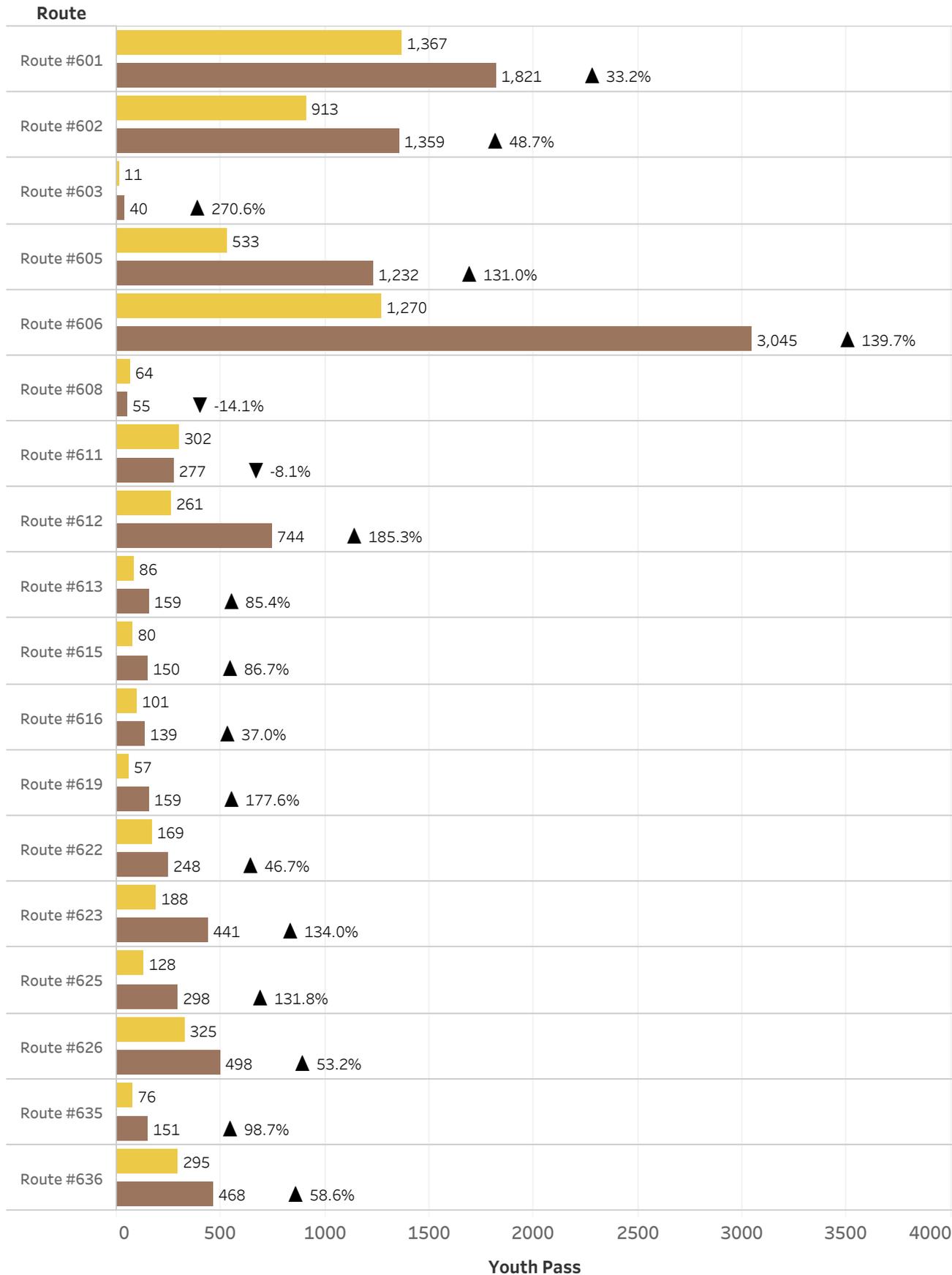
Attachment 1 – Pass2Class Ridership



Youth Pass

SCHOOL ROUTES

Month
 August - 6,227
 October - 11,281



Month	Regular	School	Grand Total
August	5,018	6,227	11,244
October	8,571	11,281	19,852
Grand Total	13,589	17,508	31,096

To: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Date: November 20, 2021

From: Rick Ramacier
General Manager

Subject: Federal Legislative Update

Summary

Within the last two weeks, milestones or progress have been made on four major pieces of federal legislation that matter to public transit. Two of these items are top priorities for the Administration. Other items such as the transportation re-authorization remains to be acted on at some future point.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

The IIJA was signed into law recently by the President. It is considered to be his infrastructure package that was one of his top priorities. It went through number of iterations over the spring and summer and managed to attract a reasonable number of bi-partisan votes, considering the current political climate. The IIJA is considered a “traditional” infrastructure bill in that it mostly funds highway, bridge, and roadway improvements or public transit improvements. The total cost of the bill is estimated to be \$1 trillion. It is in theory “paid for” through a series of revenues not requiring a tax increase per se.

Some of major highlights of this bill that will benefit public transit are:

- Provides an estimated 65% increase direct spending on public transit by the federal government over current levels (a \$107 billion increase over five years).
- Most of the funding will go out using traditional programs and formulas (the Bay Area does well with these).
- Support for fleet and facilities conversions to support (Zero Emission Based) buses is significant within the bill.
- The bill will provide ZEB funding that can be matched to state ZEB funding that is in this year’s state budget and is anticipated to be in next year’s state budget.
- No specific or further restrictive language regarding mobility innovation are in the bill.

At this time, we cannot forecast what this may mean to County Connection monetarily. However, this legislation makes it very likely that our critical capital needs can be covered with federal funding through FY2026. The exception could be our emerging plan to begin a transition to an all ZEB fleet. This transition of course will take place over the next 15 years or so.

So, all in all, this is a good piece of legislation as far as County Connection is concerned. As we enter the implementation of the legislation – and as we work with our transit partners and MTC on that – staff will return to the Board for updates and appropriate action(s).

Build Back Better Act (BBB Act)

This bill passed the House on Friday, the 19th. It now goes over to the Senate where it will face a tough going and will likely be amended to the point of having to go back to the House for concurrence – should it survive the Senate. This bill is estimated to cost just under \$2 trillion by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The CBO also claims the bill has yet fully identified how it will be paid for. The bill does include tax increases on

the “wealthy” – applied to families who make more than \$400,000 per year as through a “Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax” of 15%. This will help pay for the \$2 trillion estimated cost.

The proposed BBB Act was once a part of the IJJA in a different proposal. The BBB Act pieces of the original legislation do not enjoy bi-partisan support. Hence, they were separated out to allow for the IJJA to move forward. The BBB Act contains a number of items not considered to be “traditional” infrastructure. They are though integral to the President’s agenda.

The following pieces of the BBB Act would directly be beneficial to public transit and, likely, County Connection. These include:

- \$10 billion for transit grants for a new “Affordable Housing Access Program.” These will be transit projects that go hand-in-hand with affordable housing projects. The grants can be used for transit operations.
- \$4 billion for sustainable transit grants through a new “Community Climate Incentive Program”. These funds could be used to help cover the costs of moving towards a ZEB based bus fleet.
- \$4 billion for neighborhood access and equity grants. These funds could be used to connect folks to health care, education, jobs, etc. through specifically targeted projects.

All these programs are going to be competitive and not formula based.

While the President’s goal is to have the BBB Act on his desk by the end of the year, it is quite possible that this bill is still in the Senate well into next year.

S. 3011, the Fiscal Recovery Funds Infrastructure Flexibility Act

This bill would authorize state and local governments to spend up to \$123 billion of their \$350 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding on transportation infrastructure such as public transit, passenger rail, or as the local share for Capital Investment Grants (think Bay Area rail extension projects) and TIFIA (other federally supported rail extension type projects). No state or locality would be required to spend this money on these things. They would just be given the option under S. 3011.

The bill has passed the Senate and awaits possible action in the House.

FY22 Transportation Appropriations (THUD)

While the entire FY22 federal budget is not yet enacted, the federal public transit budget is proposed to be just under \$17 billion for all of the public transit programs, etc. How this squares with the recently enacted IJJA is unclear as of this writing. This level of funding though will nearly ensure that County Connection can fund its planned 40 fixed route bus replacement project in FY22.

Action Requested

No action is necessary on these items. Staff wishes to briefly review them with the MP&L Committee and will ask that you forward the report to the Board of Directors.

INTER OFFICE MEMO

To: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Date: November 20, 2021

From: Rick Ramacier
General Manager

Subject: PEPRA & Federal Section 13(c)

Background

Since the state enacted PERS based pension reform in 2013 (PEPRA), the Amalgamated Transit Union International (ATU) has argued that this reform interferes with their rights to bargain for wages and benefits under federal Section 13(c) of the federal transportation authorizations.

In short review, the USDOL originally agreed with the ATU contention and began to hold up California transit operators federal grant applications. Subsequently, a federal court agreed with Sacramento RT (Sac RT) and Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) – enjoined by Caltrans – that the USDOL had erred in agreeing that PEPRA - on its face - violates the rights of unions like ATU under Section 13(c).

Thus, eventually the USDOL decided not to hold up anymore California transit federal grant applications. However, in 2019, the ATU International filed a new lawsuit against USDOL arguing that only Sac RT and MST had “won” the original lawsuit and therefore USDOL is wrong in not holding up other California transit operator federal grant applications with respect to PEPRA and Section 13(c).

That new lawsuit was schedule to begin hearing in early 2021. However, in January of this past year, USDOL wrote the court asking for a time out, if you will, as they had come to decide that they were wrong and that they should be holding up California grants because of the alleged conflict between PEPRA and Section 13(c). This was communicated in a letter from USDOL to FTA Region 9 (Region 9 oversees California) on October 28, 2021.

Subsequent to that, Governor Newsom sent a letter to President Biden’s Chief of Staff, the Sectary of Transportation and the Secretary of Labor expressing his strong opposition to this apparent shift in thinking from USDOL as well as his outright opposition and concern that USDOL might deny California up to \$12 billion in federal public transit funding. Senators Diane Feinstein and Alex Padilla wrote a similar letter to the same people. Both letters state their strong belief that USDOL is wrong in its new interpretation of PEPRA and how it may or may not impact Section 13(c) rights.

As of this writing, no California grants have been held up by the USDOL due to this issue. There are a few procedural items going to Court between now and late December relative to the lawsuit filed by the ATU International in 2019. After those have been completed, we may learn more as to where this may be headed. Staff will also begin to examine how this could impact County Connection.

Action Requested

No action is requested. Staff will be having a standing item updating the MP&L Committee on where this issue is going as it plays out. Furthermore, we may ask you to report on this issue to the full Board as appropriate.

To: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Date: 11/22/2021

From: Ruby Horta, Director of Planning & Marketing

Reviewed by: WC.

SUBJECT: Community Events

Background:

County Connection participates in select community and business events, and coordinates Class Pass field trips for schools with service along fixed-routes, as well as offering a mobile lobby. See attachment for complete list of events.

Mobile Lobby:

The mobile lobby continues to be a success. The goal for 2022 is to have consistency within the service area on the locations in which the lobby is located and easier to reach more individuals. In January, each city will have two locations per month. The 5th week of the month will include locations in unincorporated areas, North Concord/Martinez BART, and Dublin/Pleasanton BART.

1st week of the month:

Monday – Walnut Creek – location varies
Tuesday – Concord Farmers Market
Wednesday – Orinda BART
Thursday – Martinez Amtrak
Friday – Clayton – location varies

2nd week of the month:

Monday – San Ramon – location varies
Tuesday – Moraga – location varies
Wednesday – Pleasant Hill BART
Thursday – Lafayette – location varies
Friday – Danville – location varies

3rd week of the month:

Monday – Martinez – location varies
Tuesday – Clayton – Clayton Library
Wednesday – Concord – location varies
Thursday – Orinda – location varies
Friday – Walnut Creek – Walnut Creek BART

4th week of the month:

Monday – Lafayette BART
Tuesday – Danville – location varies
Wednesday – San Ramon Transit Center

Thursday – Moraga – location varies
Friday – Pleasant Hill – location varies

5th week of the month (location rotates):
North Concord/Martinez BART
Dublin/Pleasanton BART
Alamo Plaza Bus Stop
Pacheco Blvd/Center Bus Stop

Financial Implications:

Any costs associated with events are included in the Promotions budget.

Recommendation:

For information only.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: December Calendar

DECEMBER -- 2021						
<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
			<u>1</u> Orinda BART	<u>2</u> Amtrak WC Parade	<u>3</u> Clayton Martinez Parade	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Walnut Creek Library -	<u>7</u> Moraga Library	<u>8</u> Pleasant Hill BART	<u>9</u> Lafayette Library	<u>10</u> Danville Park 'n Ride	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> San Ramon Library	<u>14</u> Concord Farmers Market	<u>15</u> Concord BART	<u>16</u> Orinda BART	<u>17</u> Walnut Creek BART	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Martinez Senior Center	<u>21</u> Clayton Library	<u>22</u> San Ramon Transit Center	<u>23</u> Rheem Shopping Center Bus Stop	<u>24</u> CLOSED	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Lafayette BART - Correne 8:30-10:30	<u>28</u> Hartz Ave/Prospect Ave Bus Stop	<u>29</u> N. Concord BART	<u>30</u> Pacheco/Center Bus Stop	<u>31</u> CLOSED	