

County Connection

INTER OFFICE MEMO

**Summary Minutes
Operations & Scheduling Committee
Friday, January 6, 8:15 a.m.**

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

Directors: Robert Storer, Director Hudson

Staff: Bill Churchill, Ruby Horta, Melody Reeks, Pranjal Dixit, Rosa Noya, Rashida Kamara, Julie Sherman

Public: None

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Director Storer.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda.

2. Public Communication

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of December 2, 2022

The Committee approved the minutes.

4. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Potential with LINK *

Ms. Kamara informed that Medicaid health insurance (known as Medi-Cal in California) covers transportation to/from medical appointments which also includes reimbursing transportation providers for the Medi-Cal trips. Transit agencies like County Connection are also eligible to offer NEMT trips using Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 eligible vehicles and hence creates a unique opportunity to provide NEMT services to passengers who may already be using the LINK Paratransit service. She further informed that under the NEMT program, transit agencies receive a Medi-Cal reimbursement of approximately \$35-\$40 per one-way trip and the fare is waived for the passenger. This would help increase savings for passengers while also creating a revenue source for service provider.

She informed that staff is working with Tranova – a transportation consulting firm - to explore the methodologies available to provide Medi-Cal NEMT trips to our passengers that may qualify for the program and inform the committee at a later date regarding the findings.

5. LCTOP and Route 99X Update *

Mr. Dixit informed that The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) cap and trade funding first became available in FY 14-15 for projects that served areas within ½ mile of a disadvantaged community (DAC) and was used to operate the Martinez Shuttle. When the eligibility criteria were changed to require the project be located within a disadvantaged community (DAC) in FY 17-18, route 99X was implemented to replace the Martinez Shuttle. He highlighted that Route 99X has continued to significantly underperform compared to other express routes and that new or expanded transit service will only be eligible for LCTOP funds for up to 5 years, resulting in Route 99X no longer being eligible starting in August 2023 based on the current guidelines.

He informed that due to the consistent underperformance and lack of funding, staff will evaluate options to redesign the route to better suit the demands and/or reallocate funds based on the new DACs and will present proposed recommendations at a future meeting.

6. Monthly Reports

Mr. Dixit reported that fixed-route ridership in November declined compared to October— in line with the seasonal trend, however the ridership grew by 26% and productivity grew 28% on a yearly basis. He also informed that the missed trips decreased due increase in operators, however, it was still above the threshold of 0.25%.

Ms. Noya reported that ridership in November decreased similar to fixed route ridership due to the holiday season, however the productivity increased to 1.7 passengers per revenue hour, which was above the threshold of 1.5. She informed that the on time performance continues to be a challenge due to the ongoing operator shortage and was around 72%. She also noted that there was notable decrease in fuel cost in November.

7. Committee Comments

None

8. Future Agenda Items

Director Hudson asked to hear about transit plans for the new housing project at the Chevron property in San Ramon.

9. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for February 3rd at 8:15 a.m. via teleconference.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning