

**Summary Minutes  
Operations & Scheduling Committee  
Wednesday, April 5, 8:00 am**

**Directors:** Robert Storer

**Staff:** Bill Churchill, Melody Reeb, Rashida Kamara, Pranjal Dixit, Rosa Noya, Johanna Duran

**Public:** Chris Weeks

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Director Storer.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda.

**2. Public Communication**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2023**

The Committee approved the minutes.

**4. Innovative Clean Transit Rule – Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan**

Mr. Churchill informed the committee that The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) rule requires all public transit agencies to gradually transition to a 100 percent zero-emission bus (ZEB) fleet and that the Board approved a Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) transition scenario of a mixed fleet in April 2022. Based on outcomes of the zero-emission fleet transition planning study completed by the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE), County Connection plans to transition its fleet to a mix of battery electric buses (BEB) and fuel cell electric buses (FCEB) and is required to adopt a Zero Emission Bus Rollout Plan and submit to CARB.

He responded to Director Storer's question about exclusion of paratransit vehicles from the plan by stating that the paratransit vehicles have been excluded until they have been tested at Altoona testing facilities. Director Storer approved to forward the Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan to the Board for approval at the April Board meeting.

**5. New Clipper Devices**

Ms. Reeb informed the committee that the current Clipper system was initially developed over 20 years ago and was nearing the end of its serviceable life. The new system is being deployed in phases, which included the mobile app (launched in May 2021) and will include replacement of equipment. The second phase includes transitioning to an account-based system and is expected to launch in mid-2024.

She informed the committee that a prototype was scheduled to be installed on our buses on April 5<sup>th</sup> and will be rolled out to rest of the fleet in the coming months. She also informed the committee that the new systems will rely on cellular to allow continuous flow of data, will be integrated with the CAD AVL systems and will have the future capability of accepting open payments. She further added that all capital cost is being borne by MTC for this project.

## **6. Go San Ramon Update**

Mr. Dixit informed the committee that County Connection has been working with City of San Ramon and the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to provide partially subsidized Uber/Lyft trips since 2019. He informed the committee that the service sees an average of 45 rides per month which is just enough to be covered by City of San Ramon \$5,000 yearly budget for this program. He informed that the city expressed interest to expand the service area which will require additional funding and that staff is working with the city to identify additional funding (TDM/Measure J) that can be used to subsidize commute trips.

Chris Weeks from City of San Ramon also provided information with their ongoing discussions with GoGoGrandparent and how that could potentially work with Go San Ramon in the future.

## **7. Monthly Reports**

Mr. Dixit reported that fixed route ridership grew slightly in February keeping in line with the seasonal trend. He informed that the ridership grew by about 36% on a year over year basis, however, it continues to lag compared to pre-covid levels partly due to the lower level of service stemming from operator shortage. Mr. Dixit clarified that the ridership numbers shown in graphs did not include bus bridge numbers. Ms. Reeb further added that the new Clipper devices could help increase Clipper adoption.

Ms. Noya informed the Committee that like fixed routes, ridership increased slightly, however, is at 63% of pre-pandemic ridership. Ms. Kamara added that the gap is due to lower demands from social services category because many caregivers are still working from home. Ms. Noya informed that on time performance was at 84.1% and trending higher which is as a result of increasing recruitment through monthly job fairs, inclusion of sedans for Class C drivers for non-wheelchair passengers. Ms. Noya also informed the committee about the travel training program that will develop how-to videos to help customers book/manage rides through the app.

## **8. Committee Comments**

None

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

None

## **10. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 am at Supervisor Andersen Office located at 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA

## **11. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

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