

**To:** Operations & Scheduling Committee

**Date:** 04/24/2023

**From:** Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning

**Reviewed by:** MR

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**SUBJECT: Bus Stop Consolidation**

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### **Background:**

County Connection provides service to over 1,200 bus stops in the entire service area serving residential neighborhoods, regional shopping centers, educational and medical institutions, municipal and government offices, as well as transit hubs and other transportation centers.

Since County Connection does not have purview over the public right-of-way, staff works with cities and the County via the encroachment permit process to install, remove, or relocate bus stops as needed. Once a bus stop location is approved by the City/County, County Connection staff is able to install a bus stop sign and/or information panels on the bus stop pole or in the shelter. Information panels include schedule information for each route that services that stop.

While higher stop density provides easier access for passengers, it also contributes to higher dwell time and slower operating speeds. Traditionally, on a local bus route, stops should be within a convenient distance of each other, generally about a quarter mile. However, neighborhood preference, geography, right-of-way, and accessibility are some of the factors that determine and influence the actual bus stop locations.

### **Bus Stop Consolidation:**

County Connection last completed a bus stop access study in 2014. Since then, a comprehensive service restructure was implemented in 2019, followed by another major service change in 2021 as a result of the pandemic. Given these changes to service as well as to post-pandemic travel patterns, staff plans to use the on-call planning contract with Transportation Management & Design (TMD) to assist with completing a study to identify bus stop consolidation opportunities and improvements that will speed up operations, increase transit access, and enhance the customer experience. The study will focus on the following:

- Inventory of all existing bus stops including amenities such as benches, shelters, etc.
- Developing bus stop spacing guidelines based on service type and land use
- Identify stops for consolidation based on ridership, safety, schedule reliability
- Identify priority stops for amenity improvements such as real-time signage, shelter etc. through the lens of equity and ridership
- Identify stops for ADA improvements
- Identify inter-agency stop consolidation opportunities

**Financial Implications:**

None, for information only. Staff will return to the Committee with a proposed budget and timeline for conducting the study.

**Recommendation:**

None, for information only.

**Action Requested:**

None, for information only.

**Attachments:**

None