

Central Contra Costa Transit Authority Advisory Committee Report to Board of Directors, October 2023

The ongoing purpose of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) is to bring feedback to the County Connection Board of Directors reflecting the voices and needs of the communities, riders, and other stakeholders represented by our Advisory Committee members.

The Advisory Committee currently consists of six members, with five seats vacant and another vacancy coming in November.

September 2023 Advisory Committee Meeting

As has been the case in most meetings of the Advisory Committee to date, at the September 19 regular meeting the Advisory Committee received several informational reports from staff, both embedded within the consent calendar and as separate agenda items. Staff member Pranjal Dixit provided an informational update on fare changes and an update on the onboard survey. Committee member Birdwell then provided an update on the travel training program that she directs to facilitate use of the system, particularly among our community of seniors. These informational reports typically do not require any committee action but serve as valuable tools to provide context and background information for committee members.

Selection of Chair/Vice Chair

At the September meeting the Advisory Committee selected a permanent chair and vice chair, with committee member Kaplan from Martinez elected as vice chair and the undersigned as chair.

Committee Vacancies

As noted above, with the recent appointments to the Advisory Committee we currently have six members, and the term of committee member Yu from Moraga will expire in November. This will create another vacancy to join the ongoing vacancies for the districts of Danville, Orinda, Clayton, Lafayette and San Ramon; Filling these vacancies would bring our Advisory Committee to a full roster of eleven members, and we respectfully request that the Board help facilitate appointments of members from those jurisdictions.

When recruiting new members, please consider constituents who are local riders, closely connected with their communities, and who can bring diverse perspectives and viewpoints to the Advisory Committee, particularly viewpoints from underrepresented and marginalized populations. The recent appointees bring valuable new perspectives and a breadth of practical

and professional experience to the Advisory Committee, and we hope that future appointees will do the same. At our July meeting the Advisory Committee held an agenda discussion about how our two bodies could interact and collaborate more effectively, and if the Board has feedback about coordinating the work of our two bodies, please provide your recommendations so that the full Advisory Committee can consider the Board's input. We also encourage each Board member to connect directly with the Advisory Committee member serving the same jurisdiction.

Joint Meeting/ Collaboration With Board/ Role of Advisory Committee

Even in our current composition with numerous vacancies, the recent appointments have brought new energy and experience to the Advisory Committee, and we are well positioned to assume a more impactful role in the County Connection governance structure. We respectfully seek guidance from the Board about how the Advisory Committee can be most useful in the process and whether we can establish more systematized avenues for our collaboration. In a sidebar conversation after the last Board meeting, General Manager Churchill suggested a joint Board/Advisory Committee meeting in the future, and I raised this for discussion during the September 19 Advisory Committee meeting. All committee members in attendance supported the idea, and I personally think that even a brief joint meeting would provide Advisory Committee members with valuable insight into the type of work done by the Board, and it would be a natural opportunity for Board members to provide Advisory Committee members with guidance about how we can best inform the governance process.

Our next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Ian McLaughlin, Chair