

# County Connection

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Agenda Item No. 4.a.

## CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

February 20, 2014

#### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/CONFIRM QUORUM

Chair Simmons called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9 a.m. Board Members present were Directors Andersen, Dessayer, Hudson, Manning, Schroder, Storer and Weir. Directors Hoffmeister and Worth arrived after the meeting convened. Director Tatzin was absent.

Staff: Ramacier, Chun, Glenn, Allison, Barnes, Barrientos, Bowron, Burdick, Casenave, Churchill, Dean, Hill, Jefferson, Mitchell, Muzzini, Rettig, Robinson, Thompson and Vassallo

#### PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

Janay Emmons, who stated she applied for a position with County Connection as a bus driver. She spoke to the Board about possible discrimination against her. The Board Chair, Bob Simmons referred this to the General Manger for his action. General Manager Rick Ramacier indicated that he will look into the situation.

(Director Worth arrived.)

Judy Barrrientos, ATU Local 1605 President, addressed the Board regarding First Transit, County Connection's contract company for Link Services. She stated that First Transit is not paying their employees a fair wage or providing reasonable health benefits. She would like County Connection to acknowledge the concerns of the First Transit employees and hopes that we can intervene somehow.

Doug Robinson, a bus operator with County Connection, spoke to the Board about the Clever Devices Bus Tracker system. He stated that the time displayed on the buses is not synchronized with this system, which can cause confusion for the bus operators as well as the public. General Manager will have staff look into the timekeeping issue and have them report back to the O & S Committee, then to the Board.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Director Manning moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 16, 2014; (b) FY2013-14 MTC Transit Performance Initiative Grant, Resolution No. 2014-013; (c) Prop 1B Transit Security Funding 2014 and Resolution No. 2014-012. Director Hudson seconded the motion and it received the following vote of approval.

Aye: Directors Andersen, Dessayer, Hudson, Manning, Schroder, Simmons, Storer, Weir and Worth

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Directors Hoffmeister and Tatzin

## **REPORT OF CHAIR**

Chair Simmons stated that the City of Walnut Creek has approved the reroute and subsidy for free rides for route 5 from downtown Walnut Creek to the Walnut Creek BART Station. He is also looking forward to attending the APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC with the Vice Chair and the General Manager.

## **REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:**

General Manager Rick Ramacier clarified that First Transit employees do not work for County Connection; they are employees of First Transit, which is the contractor that operates the paratransit service for County Connection. Mr. Ramacier reported that the First Transit drivers have voted to go on strike. He noted that First Transit has an obligation under its contract to provide service. He will keep the Board informed of developments.

### Update on County Connection Mobility Management Plan

Mr. Ramacier also reported that he attended a meeting with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. They authorized circulation of the Mobility Management Plan to the four regional transportation planning committees for comment. This is the Plan that County Connection adopted late last year for further public input and implementation. The CCTA Board Members had an extensive question and answer period that he believes was both comprehensive and beneficial for all parties. CCTA may take action on the Plan in the spring.

General Manager Rick Ramacier received a letter praising Maria Portan, an employee that works for County Connection in the ADA Services department. She goes above and beyond her duties to ensure that our LINK customers feel valued and that they receive all the help that they need. (Director Hoffmeister arrived.)

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee**

#### Creation of an Eco Pass

Director Schroder stated that the Eco Pass is a pass that would be offered to neighborhood associations, employers, and developers to provide a financial discount for passes that are bought in bulk. Anne Muzzini explained that each group that buys them must purchase them for all of the group's employees, members, etc. Not all who are eligible will take advantage of the passes but ridership should increase. Concerns were expressed about safeguarding the program from abuse, and how usage could be monitored. It was noted that the program has the potential to encourage ridership and that employers will be motivated to participate as part of SB 1339's mandate to reduce emissions. After much discussion it was decided by consensus that the Eco Pass proposal will be sent to the A & F Committee for further review of the pricing and the impact on fare revenues.

#### 2014 Federal Legislative Program-Final Draft

Director Schroder presented the proposed 2014 Federal Legislative Program brochure, which the the MP & L Committee has reviewed twice. This year County Connection will advocate for the Reauthorization of MAP21 and to fully fund the FY 2015 Transit Appropriations Bill. The MP&L committee made some

changes to the pictures used and some of the wording for the final draft, in order to simplify the document as much as possible. The Board suggested additional changes, which will be incorporated in the final brochure. The brochure will be used by those attending the APTA Legislative Conference .

**BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Director Worth mentioned that one of the groups that she honored as part of the Mayor’s Award was the Middle School Green Team. While talking to these young people, she realized that although we do community outreach, there are kids out there who will be utilizing our services and they want to know what’s out there for them. There might be an opportunity for County Connection to get involved not only in our communities but also our schools.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation  
Government Code Section 54956.9  
Initiation of litigation (one potential case)

At 10:25 a.m. Chair Simmons announced the Board would take a break and reconvene for a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9, regarding Initiation of litigation (one potential case)

**OPEN SESSION**

**A. REPORT OF ACTION(S) TAKEN DURING THE CLOSED SESSION**

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:44 a.m. Legal Counsel Madeline Chun announced the Board met in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9, regarding Initiation of litigation (one potential case). No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Simmons adjourned the regular Board meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes prepared by

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Lathina Hill  
Assistant to the General Manager

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Date