

To: Board of Directors

Date: August 12, 2014

From: Anne Muzzini, Director of Planning & Marketing

Reviewed by:

Subject: Continuation of the Senior and Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program

Background:

At the August 2013 Board of Directors meeting, the Board directed staff to implement mid-day free fares for seniors riders and those with disabilities between the hours of 10am and 2pm seven days/week as a pilot fare program.

At the July 2014 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the Title VI Equity Analysis needed to continue the fare program beyond its pilot period.

Summary of Issues:

From implementation in December 2013 to June 2014, over 75,000 senior and disabled riders have utilized the mid day free fare program. This would equate to nearly \$66,000 in fare revenue that was forgone and this section of ridership equals around 4% of total boardings during this period. Senior and disabled boardings have increased 16% from December 2012 to June 2013 compared to total ridership increasing only 0.6% during that period.

This fare program has drawn praise from groups representing seniors and those with disabilities including the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Paratransit Coordinating Council.

Recommendation:

The A&F Committee recommends that the Board continue this popular fare program, which complies with County Connection's Disparate Impact or Disproportionate Burden policies by adopting resolution # 2015-006.

Options:

1. Recommend the Board authorize the continuation of the Senior and Disabled mid-day free fare program.
2. Allow fare program to expire.
3. Other action determined by the committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-006

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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APPROVING CONTINUATION OF SENIOR/DISABLED MID-DAY FREE FARE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the County of Contra Costa and the Cities of Clayton, Concord, the Town of Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, the Town of Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon and Walnut Creek (hereinafter "Member Jurisdictions") have formed the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority ("CCCTA"), a joint exercise of powers agency created under California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.*, for the joint exercise of certain powers to provide coordinated and integrated public transportation services within the area of its Member Jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, County Connection's Board of Directors (Board), at its meeting of August 15, 2013, approved the implementation of a pilot program, effective in December 2013, providing free mid-day fares for seniors and disabled customers (Senior/Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program); and

WHEREAS, staff has analyzed the pilot Senior/Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program and has concluded that it should be continued because it has drawn praise from groups representing seniors and those with disabilities, including the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Paratransit Coordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, staff has also undertaken a Title VI Equity Analysis of the Senior/Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program that assessed the potential effects of the Senior/Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program on minority and low-impact populations, which analysis was presented to and approved by the Board at its July 17, 2014 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Administration and Finance Committee recommends the Board approve the continuation of the Senior/Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the continuation of the Senior/Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program include meeting the financial needs and requirements of County Connection and obtaining funds for operating expenses, therefore exempting this action from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority hereby:

1. Finds that the continuation of the Senior/Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program serves the purposes of meeting the financial needs and requirements of County Connection and obtaining funds for operating expenses as referenced in the California Environmental Quality Act statutory exemption at Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8); and

2. Approves the continuation of the Senior/Disabled Mid-Day Free Fare Program.

Regularly passed and adopted this 21st day of August 2014, by the following vote.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Bob Simmons, Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Lathina Hill, Clerk to the Board