

To: A&F Committee

Date: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

From: Bill Churchill

Reviewed by:

Director of Transportation

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## **SUBJECT: Inter-Agency Employee Free Rides**

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### **Summary of Issues:**

Back in the early nineties in an effort to demonstrate cooperation and to ease regional transportation needs, the four small operators, Benicia Transit, County Connection, LAVTA and TriDelta Transit entered into a formal agreement allowing passengers to ride free with a transfer from one Authority's service area to another. Out of this policy and unknown to management grew the practice of allowing employees to ride free when traveling in a neighboring Authority's service area with a valid employee ID. A contributing factor to the growth of this practice may be the fact that both TriDelta Transit and County Connection have policies that allow their employees and their dependents use of their respective bus services for free

Sometime in 2007 Cindy Dalhgren, Director of Administration, discovered the practice and worked with TriDelta Transit to establish a one year trial period where employees of County Connection could ride free in the TriDelta Transit service area and County Connection would reciprocate the practice for TriDelta Transit employees. Cindy clearly had the goal of legitimizing the practice, unfortunately she failed to notify the General Manager of the agreement and nothing was established at the end of the trial period. While it appears the formalization of allowing employees to ride free in neighboring service areas faded into the background, the practice has continued to exist by our respective employees.

Since Cindy's efforts in 2007, this practice has quietly gone un-noticed, primarily due to the small number of employees taking advantage of it. Staff estimates there are two to three County Connection employees regularly using the TriDelta Transit service and only one known TriDelta Transit employee using County Connection buses. Recently however, following a shift change at TriDelta Transit, a bus operator refused to allow a County Connection employee to ride free. This particular employee has been riding free for over a decade and was rather surprised at the response and decided to bring the issue to management. As a result, staff at both County Connection and TriDelta Transit began to research this issue and

found the practice of giving free rides to employees from the other agency has existed since the early 90's. Although this has been going on a long time the volume of ridership has always been so small that it is meaningless in terms of lost revenue and vehicle load capacity for either agency. In conclusion staff at both County Connection and TriDelta Transit agreed to bring this issue to their respective boards and recommend the practice of providing free rides to employees from the other agency be allowed to continue.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the committee authorize staff to provide employees of TriDelta Transit the use of County Connection fixed route bus services for free with a valid TriDelta Transit employee ID card.

**Financial Implications:**

The volume of ridership generated by allowing TriDelta Transit employees use of County connection's service area is so minimal that there is no financial impact.

**Options:**

- 1) **Approve recommendation**
- 2) **Decline recommendation**
- 3) **Other**

