

County Connection

INTER OFFICE MEMO

To: MP&L Committee

Date: April 25, 2016

From: Kristina Martinez

Reviewed by:

SUBJECT: Background on State Legislative Activity at County Connection

BACKGROUND:

Following the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference in March 2016, the County Connection Board of Directors requested an update on the Authority's focus on legislative issues, particularly at the state level. Therefore, staff has prepared a brief report on County Connection's attention to state legislation.

Federal Legislation

The APTA Legislative Conference is held on an annual basis. Legislative issues at the federal level follow a more organized process as bills are addressed within a specific timeframe. The conference is the ideal opportunity for County Connection staff and Board of Directors to address and discuss federal legislative matters at this level.

State Legislation

Contrary to federal legislation, County Connection is involved with state legislative matters on an as-needed basis, which often times is frequent. Since the beginning of 2016, staff has visited with the staff of our state legislators seven times.

The Authority has developed and continues to build strong working relationships with state legislators, particularly with the offices of Assembly Member Susan Bonilla, Assembly Member Catharine Baker, and California Senator Steve Glazer. Furthermore, the General Manager is currently a member of Assembly Member Baker's Transportation roundtable which meets on a quarterly basis within her district. The last meeting was held this past fall.

2016

Since the beginning of the year, County Connection has supported a number of bills, including the pilot project on autonomous vehicles (AB 1592 – Bonilla), modifications to the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) (SB 824 – Beall), and the most recent Bus on Shoulder (BOS) bill which would allow County Connection to operate BOS transit service along the I-680 corridor (AB 1746 – Stone). In previous years, staff has appeared in front of legislators and has testified on behalf of County Connection's support or opposition of bills. We can expect to see the same actions with regard to the above bills mentioned.

Other Activity

Over the last twenty years, the General Manager has been an active participant within the California Transit Association (CTA) and is also serving his fourth term as Chair of the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT) Board. He is currently serving as Vice Chair on the Transit subcommittee of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advisory Committee. This committee is involved with the public process for drafting an updated rule on zero emission based requirements for public transit. The General Manager has also met with a number of CARB committee members on how these requirements will affect the public transit industry.

Similar to County Connection's Federal Legislative Program, the Authority has put forth a State Legislative Program in the past. However, it has been years since a program has been in place primarily due to a quicker and more fluid state legislative process. The number of bills each year is unanticipated and varies greatly from year to year with regard to how these may affect County Connection. Often in previous years, meetings have been held with our state legislators and County Connection Board of Directors. These meetings have been scheduled as determined by the Board of Directors and General Manager.

Although the state legislative process differs from the federal level, staff believes the attention to state legislation remains a priority. Staff continues to stay up to date on public transit issues at the state level and makes every effort to keep both the MP&L Committee as well as the Board of Directors well-informed on how these issues may affect County Connection. The interactions with legislators have proven to be successful, and staff looks forward to continuing to build working relationships that will help assist addressing legislative issues in the future.

ACTION REQUIRED:

No action is requested. Staff looks forward to your comments and asks that you forward this to the Board of Directors for their comments.