

To: Marketing, Planning, & Legislative Committee

Date: June 29, 2016

From: Rick Ramacier, General Manager

SUBJECT: State Legislative Update

Background:

AB 1746 (Stone)

AB 1746 would have authorized select counties and/or operators to run bus on shoulder (BOS) transit service in select corridors. Each authorized transit system would have to work with and receive the concurrence of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Caltrans before providing BOS service in an eligible corridor under AB1746.

This bill would have allowed County Connection to provide bus on shoulder service on the 680 corridor as recommended by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) I-680 Transit Investment & Congestion Relief Study. AB1746 passed out of the Assembly with no opposition. However, at its first stop in the Senate, opposition came on quickly when AB1746 was scheduled for hearing before the Senate Transportation Committee this past Tuesday. The emerging opponents included the California Highway Patrol Officers Association and the Engineering Association of Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG). This opposition made the fate of AB1746 doubtful before the Senate Transportation Committee. Thus, assembly member Stone pulled AB1746 from the hearing agenda. This, means that AB1746 is all but dead.

SB 824 (Beall)

This bill was introduced to modify several components of the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP). Much of these modifications would make it easier for County Connection to use its share of these funds. With recent and/or pending amendments, SB824 will do two things that are crucial to us using LCTOP funds fully and effectively.

The bill, among many other things will give County Connection the ability to continually spend LCTOP funds year-to-year on services originally made possible through LCTOP, provided the service in question shows on-going reductions in greenhouse gases. Additionally, the requirement that 50% of LCTOP funds be used to directly or indirectly serve disadvantaged communities will apply on a programmatic (statewide basis) as opposed to an operator-by- operator basis.

With these two amendments, SB824 will go a long way to helping County Connection spend its full share of LCTOP funding in a more useful and rational manner.

Action Required:

This update is for review and discussion by the MP&L Committee. No action is requested at this time.