

To: Operations & Scheduling Committee

Date: 05/26/2017

From: Ruby Horta, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by: *RH*

SUBJECT: Low-No Grant Route Selection

Background:

In 2016, County Connection was awarded a FTA Low-No grant for four additional electric buses and associated charging infrastructure including four additional depot plug-in chargers and one on route wireless charger. The work scope for this project calls for choosing an appropriate route and charger location that is driven by objective, data-driven information. The goal of this task was to reduce operational risk and ensure the lowest operational costs for the electric bus deployment during the early stages of the project. County Connection recently completed this process with support from the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE), who was included in the grant to provide technical assistance for deployment planning and technology assessment.

This memo provides a brief summary of the work CTE conducted. A more detailed presentation will be delivered at the Board of Directors meeting on June 15th.

Summary:

Staff and CTE identified routes throughout the service area to begin the analysis process. However, most routes were eliminated due to operational constraints presented by the electric bus. Hilly and long distance routes were not feasible options. Of the three final routes, 5, 7, and 91X, Route 5 was selected as the ideal candidate for the next deployment of electric buses. Route 5 has a roundtrip distance similar to Route 4. The two routes will be able to share the inductive chargers at BART Walnut Creek and like Route 4; three buses are required to operate Route 5.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the O&S Committee forward CTE's recommendation to deploy the next four electric buses on Route 5. The Board of Directors will have the opportunity to hear more about the route selection process from CTE staff at the June 15th meeting.