

To: O&S Committee

Date: January 2, 2017

From: Rashidi Barnes, Director of Innovation and Shared Mobility

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### **SUBJECT: DVC Transportation Working Group and Survey Update**

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#### **Background**

County Connection staff has been working with Diablo Valley College (DVC) in support of its grassroots efforts to engage students on transportation issues. Within the last 6 months, two transportation surveys targeting the student and faculty groups have been issued; one prepared by 511 Contra Costa (CC) and the second by the Associated Students of Diablo Valley College (ASDVC) student group.

Below are a few highlights of the results of the 511 CC Survey:

- 2% survey response rate (571 returned surveys)
- 80% of faculty/staff drive alone, while 55% of students do the same
- Compared to faculty/staff, students are 8 times more likely to walk and 4 times more likely to use the bus
- Buses are used 14% of the time, once a week by students vs. 5% by faculty/staff
- Respondents identified the need for “better/more frequent bus transit” (26.3%), and stated “Subsidized Transit” (19.6%) would encourage them to utilize public transportation

The second survey was issued by the ASDVC to students only. This survey asked a host of transportation-related questions, to include: living distance from campus, how many times one uses County Connection, and if students are willing to pay a transportation fee in return for free rides throughout a semester. As of December 4, 2017, 517 students had responded with 60% of them in favor of having a transportation fee imposed.

Staff has also recently joined DVC’s Sustainability Committee. The committee develops recommendations to the college that are designed to promote “community conservation, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and other measures consistent with sustainable living.” In recent months, the topic of transportation related recommendations, i.e. a free student transit pass, has gained momentum.

No commitments or agreements to date have been approved. Staff will continue to participate in these grassroots initiatives to strengthen the relationship between County Connection and DVC, as well as remain a part of the conversation that relates to innovative approaches to improving the transportation network at DVC. If/when DVC students are successful with getting onto a future school ballot, it will then be some time before funds are made available, at which point constructive discussions will move forward.