

## County Connection

County Connection is a joint powers agency that provides fixed-route and ADA paratransit services through the communities of Clayton, Concord, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, and unincorporated communities in Central Contra Costa County. County Connection operates a fleet of 121 fully accessible transit buses and 63 paratransit vehicles.

## Ridership

County Connection is an integral Bay Area agency linking customers that rely upon public transportation. Our riders are:

- From diverse backgrounds both socially and economically
- Using regional rail like BART, Capitol Corridor and the ACE Train (Altamont Commuter Express)
- Seniors, persons with disabilities, and veterans who are dependent on public transit
- Actively using public transportation to reduce their carbon footprint

- Commuting to work
- Students going to school

### Central Contra Costa County

- Approximately 200 square miles
- Population close to 500,000
- Annual ridership estimated at 3.5 million (fixed-route and paratransit)



## Federal Legislative Program

County Connection relies on over \$7 million dollars annually in federal transit funding for necessities crucial to the Authority such as federally mandated bus replacement and preventive maintenance. Moreover, sufficient federal investments in public transit will be imperative in order to attract new ridership and acquire long-term solutions to issues such as air quality and traffic congestion. County Connection supports the following:

1. Funding the FY 19 federal transit program at authorized levels
2. Adequately funding public transit in any infrastructure initiative
3. Finding a permanent source of funding for the Highway Trust Fund and Mass Transit Account
4. Reforming and updating federal regulations and rules



### **Position #1: Fund the FY 19 Federal Transit Program at Authorized Levels**

County Connection relies on federal funds to maintain service levels and capital equipment to a state of good repair. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act must be honored by appropriating to the full authorized levels of funding in FY 19. The Authority expects to receive \$4.3 million in federal capital funding to support the purchase of 42 paratransit vehicles and \$1.5 million in 5307 funds to assist in supplying Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit services. Without this revenue, these projects at County Connection could be at risk.

## Federal Legislative Program

### **Position #2: Adequately Fund Public Transit in Any Infrastructure Initiative**

The Administration continues to express interest in pursuing a comprehensive infrastructure proposal. Nationwide, there is a projected minimum \$90 billion shortfall to keep the current transit system in a state of good repair. This amount does not include what it would take to add new capacity. While such a comprehensive package has yet to take any final form, County Connection urges that any such proposal contain meaningful funding for public transit.

### **Position #3: Find a Permanent Source of Funding for the Highway Trust Fund and Mass Transit Account**

According to most experts, the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and the related Mass Transit Account (MTA) are on target to be essentially bankrupt by the end of FY21. County Connection urges that Congress and the Administration increase their efforts to find a permanent fix to these growing shortfalls. Without financial stabilization for these accounts, many projects that are planned could be at risk.

### **Position #4: Reform and Update Federal Regulations and Rules**

Technology in transportation is growing at a rapid rate and providing more opportunities for effective public transportation services. U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Secretary Chow has expressed a strong interest in reforming and updating federal transit rules. Currently, many long standing regulations and rules are outdated or restricted when it comes to public transit taking advantage of these opportunities. County Connection urges DOT as they pursue these reforms and also urges Congress to be supportive of these efforts.



## County Connection Innovation

- The highly successful Walnut Creek downtown shuttle is now using **battery electric wireless powered buses**. Partners include Gillig Corporation, BAE Systems, and WAVE, Inc. This project was made possible by a federal grant.
- County Connection maintains nationally recognized public-private **partnerships** with major job centers. The Bishop Ranch Business Park provides frequent shuttles between Bishop Ranch and two **regional rail systems**, BART and the ACE Train. This features significant operating cost reimbursement as well as a fare subsidy from Bishop Ranch.



- The Shadelands Business Park provides **frequent service** back and forth to the Pleasant Hill BART station. Fares are underwritten by the Shadelands property owners.
- County Connection is a **fully technologically supported** bus service. This is highlighted by Clipper (a Bay Area electronic fare payment system).
- All buses enjoy **Wi-Fi** capability. Customers can also use Bus Tracker, a real-time bus stop information system that allows people to access real-time bus arrival predictions from their laptops or smart phones.
- County Connection has participated in the planning of **innovative transit oriented development** projects at both the Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek BART stations. Both stations will serve as major transit hubs for regional connectivity.

## County Connection Provides These Important Transit Benefits

- Commuter shuttles that reduce travel time, relieve congestion, and connect to regional transportation services.
- Comprehensive local services that allow students to use public transit to go to and from school.
- Direct and convenient service between communities of concern which are transit dependent.
- Over 200 jobs directly and hundreds more indirectly through the purchase of American made vehicles and supplies.
- Alternative modes of transportation that support the local economy and environmental improvements, energy independence, senior mobility, student transportation, and connections to the Bay Area region for all activities.
- Direct connections to shopping via shuttles from neighborhoods and BART.



*County Connection*

# 2018 Federal Advocacy Program



*Connecting our community by providing innovative transportation choices when and where you need it.*



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