

To: Board of Directors

Date: 12/20/2019

From: Ruby Horta, Director of Planning, Marketing & Innovation

Reviewed by: WC.

SUBJECT: Early Bird Express Update

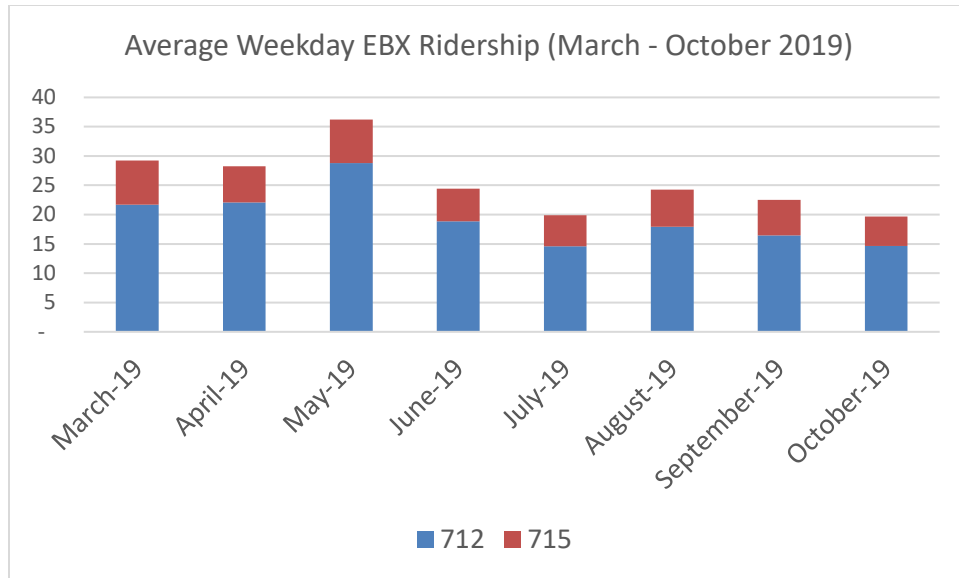
Background:

At the November 2018 Board meeting, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with BART to provide early morning bus service. The service started in February 2019 and is expected to last for three and a half years. BART's weekday service was cut back in order for BART to conduct needed long-term maintenance on the Transbay Tube. Many transit agencies throughout BART's service area are part of the "Early Bird Express" (EBX) service set in place to cover the transit needs of early morning BART passengers in the 4am to 5am hour.

Update on Early Bird Routes 712 and 715

For County Connection's summer bid, starting on June 9th, BART requested two changes to the existing early bird service. For Route 712 (Bay Point BART to 20th St and Telegraph Ave in Oakland via Pleasant Hill BART), BART requested to cancel the 4:20am trip, and requested a new trip earlier at 3:50am. This change altered our span of service, which required dispatch to open 15 minutes earlier at 2:45am. For Route 715 (service from North Concord BART to Lafayette stopping at all BART stations along the way) BART requested to end the route at Walnut Creek, due to low ridership to Lafayette. The goal was to provide a timed transfer from Tri-Delta's early bird express, Route 709.

The table on the next page has ridership information starting in March, the first full month of EBX 700s service. Ridership was steadily increasing until the month of June. Given that these are solely BART passengers, staff has not conducted an in-depth analysis regarding the ridership decline. Staff will continue to work with BART and adjust schedules as needed.



Financial Implications:

All costs associated with operating the service are paid for by BART.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.