

To: A&F Committee

Date: April 30, 2020

From: Rashida Kamara, Manager of Accessible Services

Subject: Paratransit Contract Amendment, New Federal Guidelines under COVID-19 Pandemic

Background:

Effective March 16, 2020, a Shelter in Place order was issued by the Governor of California. Californians were instructed to stay at home and limit trips outside of the home for essential functions only. These functions included trips to essential job duties, grocery shopping and medical trips. As a result, regular paratransit trip volume dropped by 80%.

In an effort to keep essential services going throughout the community, County Connection partnered with Meals on wheels to deliver food for seniors that were affected by the stay at home order. Since March 30th, County Connection LINK service (Transdev), delivers up to 400 meals a week. County Connection also partnered with Mt Diablo School district and Transdev delivers meals and groceries for up to 50 students a week.

In addition, the Contra Costa Health Department has asked all the Transit providers to transport passengers that are positive with COVID-19 to hospitals, and to hotels for quarantine. This has resulted in up to 40 transports a week

All of these services were unanticipated by our contractor and it is only appropriate to provide a different scope of work under a contract amendment. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic new federal guidelines, transportation providers are allowed to amend their transportation contracts to meet the needs of the community, such as described above.

Proposed Amendment:

The amendment will allow County Connection to pay Transdev for hours spent providing essential services, such as meal delivery, grocery delivery, and specific transit needs as requested by the County EOC. The amendment also redefines productivity by minimizing passengers on the bus at any given time, to comply with social distancing and pay staff for maintaining service levels as needed. By doing this, County Connection, and the contractor keep essential drivers working and essential services provided to the community. This also enables us to keep a ready work force in the event of a surge in demand and to retain Paratransit drivers on payroll when we are ready to resume normal services.

Fiscal Impact:

It is important to note that the amendment only changes the definition of what our contractor does, it does not change the authorized not to exceed amounts in the original contract. As a result, there is currently no fiscal impact. This amendment allows the authority to use funds provided by the CARES Act if we so choose to pay for the services mentioned.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the A&F Committee forward to the Board a resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into an Amended Agreement with Transdev Services, Inc. under the new federal guidelines. This enables Transdev to provide essential services as described above and County Connection pay them for such services for as long as the pandemic and its orders remain in place, in a form as approved by Legal Counsel.