

To: Board of Directors

Date: September 09, 2020

From: Bill Churchill, Assistant General Manager of Administration

Reviewed by: 

SUBJECT: Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan

Summary:

Following the March 17 shelter in place order in Contra Costa County and the Statewide Stay-at-Home Order, County Connection began working in partnership with the other Bay Area transportation agencies to develop policies, procedures as well as a host of other mitigation efforts that include enhanced communication, vehicle modifications, improved sanitation and modified work schedules to promote the safety of employees, passengers and the communities we serve. Simultaneously, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) established the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force with the goal of guiding the nine county Bay Area's transportation network through the pandemic. The task force expressed a desire for a unified transit response to protect transit employees, passengers and the Bay Area communities from the spread of Covid-19.

In response, the Bay Area's twenty seven operators collaborated on the development of the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan which provides a unified and comprehensive framework of health and safety mitigation standards, communication efforts and responsibilities for both transit operators and the riding public. This plan was not developed in a vacuum, rather, operators relied upon guidance from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as others to develop a solid foundation to ensure a safe transportation network in the Bay Area. Another key component of the Plan is the assessment of plan effectiveness through monitoring and data collection and the publication of results through a common dashboard that all operators will contribute to each month. The greatest strength of this plan however is its flexible approach that responds appropriately as new information is gained on how to effectively mitigate Covid-19.

The Plan was presented to MTC on Wednesday August 19th and the commission adopted a resolution at their August 26th meeting requiring that all twenty seven Bay Area operators adopt a resolution that commits each operator to implementing the Plan by the end of September. Furthermore, the resolution that MTC adopted requires each operator to forward their resolution committing to the implementation of the plan to MTC for verification. As one of the Bay Area's operators, County

Connection staff participated in the development of the plan and is comfortable with the Authorities ability to comply with all requirements it contains. The current County Connection Covid-19 policies, procedures and mitigation efforts meets or exceeds all components of the plan.

Financial Implications:

None at this time.

Action Requested:

The O&S Committee and staff requests the full Board approve Resolution 2021-009 committing to implement the baseline set of measures contained in the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan.

Attachments:

Resolution: 2021-009

Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-009

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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**ENDORING THE RIDING TOGETHER: BAY AREA HEALTHY TRANSIT PLAN AS A
BASELINE SET OF MEASURES THAT CCCTA, ALONG WITH OTHER BAY AREA TRANSIT
AGENCIES WILL IMPLEMENT TO ENSURE THE HEALTH OF TRANSIT RIDERS AND WORKERS
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the County of Contra Costa and Cities of Clayton, Concord, the Town of Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, the Town of Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon and Walnut Creek (hereinafter "Member Jurisdictions") have formed the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority ("CCCTA"), a joint exercise of powers agency created under California Government Code section 6500 *et seq.*, for the joint exercise of certain powers to provide coordinated and integrated public transportation services within the area of its Member Jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, like other Bay Area transit systems, the health of riders and transit workers continues to be CCCTA's number one priority; and

WHEREAS, despite an unprecedented loss of ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many riders continue to depend on Bay Area systems for essential travel; and

WHEREAS, survey data increasingly suggests that the majority of riders will return to transit when allowed to do so; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented transit systems with an historic set of challenges, including the need to adjust protocols and procedures to ensure a safe operating environment; and

WHEREAS, since the start of the pandemic, transit systems have collaborated with each other and with regional leaders, transit workers, rider advocates, public health experts, and others to create the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan, which outlines a baseline set of measures that transit systems will implement to protect riders and workers; and

WHEREAS, the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan provides guidance in the areas of vehicle disinfecting, physical distancing, face coverings, touchless payments, ventilation, employee personal protective equipment, testing, contact tracing, and employee wellness assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan will coexist and complement system specific plans developed by individual transit agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan is a living document and is intended to evolve as transit agencies continue to monitor rider and employee health on their systems and collaboratively take steps to respond to changing conditions; and, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that CCCTA supports the implementation of the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan on our system and throughout the Bay Area to keep transit riders and workers healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, that through the method established for transit system reporting of health metrics related to the COVID-19 pandemic, that CCCTA will report monthly on CCCTA's performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan.

Regularly passed and adopted this 17th day of September 2020, by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Andersen, Dessayer, Haydon, Hoffmeister, Hudson, Noack, Storer,
Schroder, Tatzin and Wilk

Noes: None


Abstain: None

Absent: Director Hudson



Keith Haydon, Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Lathina Hill, Clerk to the Board