

County Connection

2477 Arnold Industrial Way Concord, CA 94520-5326 (925) 676-7500 countyconnection.com

MARKETING, PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, January 7, 2021
8:30 a.m.

DUE TO COVID-19, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-25-20 AND N-29-20, WHICH SUSPEND CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON.

Committee Directors, staff and the public may participate remotely by calling:

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Public comment may be submitted via email to: hill@cccta.org. Please indicate in your email the agenda item to which your comment applies. Comments submitted before the meeting will be provided to the committee Directors before or during the meeting. Comments submitted after the meeting is called to order will be included in correspondence that will be provided to the full Board.

The committee may take action on each item on the agenda. The action may consist of the recommended action, a related action or no action. Staff recommendations are subject to action and/or change by the committee.

*Enclosure

FY2020/2021 MP&L Committee

Amy Worth – Orinda, Candace Andersen – Contra Costa County, Kevin Wilk – Walnut Creek, Rob Schroder – Martinez

Clayton • Concord • Contra Costa County • Danville • Lafayette • Martinez
Moraga • Orinda • Pleasant Hill • San Ramon • Walnut Creek

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Communication
3. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2020*
4. 2021 Federal Legislative Program*
(Staff will discuss the draft 2021 Federal Legislative Program.)
5. 2021 Service Proposals Public Hearings – Verbal Update
(Staff will provide a verbal update on the public hearings scheduled in January.)
6. Blue Ribbon Task Force Update – Verbal Update
(Staff will present an update on the work of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Blue Ribbon Task Force.)
7. Committee Comments
8. Future Agenda Items
9. Next Meeting – February 4, 2021 (8:30am via teleconference)
10. Adjournment

General Information

Public Comment: If you wish to address the Committee, please follow the directions at the top of the agenda. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the Committee and included for the official record, please include it in your email. Comments that require a response may be deferred for staff reply.

Consent Items: All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered by the committee to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a committee member or a member of the public prior to when the committee votes on the motion to adopt.

Availability of Public Records: The agenda and enclosures for this meeting are posted also on our website at www.countyconnection.com.

Accessible Public Meetings: Upon request, County Connection will provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings and provide comments at/related to public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be sent to the Assistant to the General Manager, Lathina Hill, at 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, CA 94520 or hill@cccta.org. Requests made by mail must be received at least two days before the meeting. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

Currently Scheduled Board and Committee Meetings

Board of Directors:	Thursday, January 21, 9:00 a.m., via teleconference
Administration & Finance:	Wednesday, January 12, 8:30 a.m., via teleconference
Advisory Committee:	Tuesday, January 12, 1:00 p.m., via teleconference
Marketing, Planning & Legislative:	Thursday, January 7, 8:30 a.m., via teleconference
Operations & Scheduling:	Friday, February 5, 8:15 a.m., via teleconference

The above meeting schedules are subject to change. Please check the County Connection Website (www.countyconnection.com) or contact County Connection staff at (925) 676-1976 to verify date, time and location prior to attending a meeting.

This agenda is posted on County Connection's Website (www.countyconnection.com) and at the County Connection Administrative Offices, 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, California

Summary Minutes
Marketing, Planning, and Legislative Committee
Thursday, December 3, 8:30 a.m.

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted as a teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

Directors: Amy Worth, Candace Andersen, Kevin Wilk, Rob Schroder
Staff: Rick Ramacier, Bill Churchill, Ruby Horta, Melody Reeb, Julie Sherman
Public: Andy Smith

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Director Worth.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda.

2. Public Communication

None

3. Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2020

The Committee approved the minutes.

4. Clipper Card Outreach

Ms. Horta informed the Committee that since fare collection resumed on November 1st, staff has distributed close to 900 promotional Clipper cards. This is close to 25% of current daily ridership.

5. Clipper START and Youth Fare Outreach

Ms. Reeb provided an overview of the marketing and outreach campaign being developed with MTC for the launch of the Clipper START and youth fare pilot programs in January. She also presented an overview of how staff is planning to evaluate the two programs. Mr. Ramacier added that the Clipper Executive Board recently voted to move up the timeframe for adoption of open payments, which would allow riders to use a credit or debit card to directly pay their transit fare.

6. Actions for County Connection Relative to the Introduction of a Bill Similar to AB2057

Mr. Ramacier informed the Committee that Assembly Member Chiu will likely reintroduce a bill similar to AB2057 sometime in January. Staff is planning to set up virtual meetings in December with the East Bay delegation to inform them of the challenges that such a bill may pose, as well as what the operators are currently doing to meet some of the goals of the legislation. Director Andersen emphasized the importance of keeping the message clear and simple. She also suggested that staff bring this issue to

the mayor's conference. The Committee forwarded the item to the Board for additional feedback.

7. 2021 Federal Legislative Program

Mr. Ramacier provided an update on potential upcoming federal legislation affecting transit. The federal transportation bill received a one-year extension until September of next year, and there is an effort currently underway to pass another stimulus package. In terms of the next reauthorization, staff believes that the main areas of interest will be similar to the ones put forth last year, including modernizing the definition of public transit.

8. Committee Comments

Director Wilk noted that the city will be updating its Climate Action Plan starting early next year and that transportation will likely be a significant element.

9. Future Agenda Items

None

10. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for January 7th at 8:30 a.m. via teleconference.

11. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning

TO: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

DATE: December 30, 2020

FROM: Rick Ramacier
General Manager

SUBJECT: County Connection 2021
Federal Advocacy Program

Background

Staff is identifying issues and priorities for the County Connection 2021 Federal Advocacy Program. Next month, we will present a draft program for your review and comment. Also, we will present a mock-up of our annual pamphlet.

Below are brief descriptions of the issues we are anticipating will be the priority focus of our 2021 program.

Identified Priority Points

The incoming administration has indicated that supporting public transit will likely be a priority for them. However, we will not really begin to see how that plays out until February. Meanwhile, we have three important hold over issues that will be actively engaged on in some manner in 2021.

Additional Stimulus/Relief Related to Covid-19

The Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act was just enacted. At just under one trillion dollars, the Act is about half of what the stated needs are. Thus, the incoming administration is stating that another such act may be pursued. Among the things yet to be addressed in this most recent legislation are state and local relief funding and public transit support for about 75% of the parts on the country that will not see any help from the Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act.

Under the Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act, roughly 75% of the country will see none of the \$14 billion going to public transit. This is due to a unique clause put into the legislation regarding federally designated Urbanized Areas (UZA). How this relates to the Bay Area is as follows: The Bay Area (MTC) will receive just under a billion dollars for public transit support from the Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act. However, the language of the bill is such that only three of the 12 UZA in the Bay Area can receive funding from the Act. These UZA include the San Francisco-Oakland, San Jose, and Santa Rosa UZAs. County Connection operates in the Concord UZA. Thus, County Connection cannot receive any funding from the latest Act. Also excluded in the Bay Area are the Livermore, Antioch, Napa, Fairfield, and Vacaville, among others. This scenario is repeated throughout the country.

Therefore, discussions have begun to ensure that a next round of federal Covid-19 stimulus/relief funding include support for all transit operators, not just those serving a few select UZAs.

So, staff plans to include this issue in the draft program next month.

Federal Transportation Re-authorization

The Federal Transportation Authorization (FAST) was set to expire at the end of September 2020. It was extended for one year to September 30, 2021. Thus, it will be a top priority of the incoming administration and the new congress to enact a transportation reauthorization. To that end, the House passed such a reauthorization called The Invest In America Act (INVEST) this past summer. The Senate has yet to take action.

INVEST increases federal support by 133% over existing record levels. That is the good news. The challenge with this draft is that it does not move forward the interests of County Connection – and many other public transportation agencies across the county – relative to supporting and promoting innovative solutions to first and last mile services, and other mobility programs that are customer focused. Furthermore, in a few instances, the draft bill makes things perhaps more difficult.

So, staff is likely to include language in the draft federal program that is similar to what we called for relative to federal transportation reauthorization in our 2020 federal advocacy program.

Full Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Federal Transit Appropriations

As it is often said in politics, you can't spend an authorization. There has to be an appropriation. Over the recent past, the federal transit appropriations in the federal budget have matched the authorized levels. However, this has not always been the case. During certain times, appropriations have been significantly lower than authorized levels. This was especially true during the last stretch of time where deficit and debt reduction were top priorities of congress.

Given how large the debt is growing at this time, talk has re-emerged in congress regarding deficit and debt reduction once we return to a pre Covid-19 economy. Thus, it would not be surprising if transit finds itself having to work to see federal transit appropriation bills meet authorized levels as early as the FY22 budget year. County Connection has a large bus procurement project coming up in FY22 that could be jeopardized should the federal transit appropriations be significantly lower than what is likely to be authorized.

Thus, staff will include requesting that federal transit appropriations be fully funded to authorized levels in the FY22 budget.

Restoring the Highway Trust Fund (Mass Transit Account)

As has been discussed for a few years, the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), including the Mass Transit Account (MTA) are/have running out of money. This is largely due to the federal gas tax rate paid at the pump having not been increased since 1993. Thus, the HTF has lost a great deal of its purchasing power over that time. With both of these accounts near broke, much of the projects and programs they support are being funded by general funds out of the general federal budget and not the trust funds themselves. This leads to a good deal of uncertainty and also cost increases on the project side. Restoring the HTF and MTA to their previous purchasing power remains a top priority for transportation providers of all kinds.

Staff will include the issue of restoring the HTF and MTA in our draft federal program.

Committee Feedback & Direction

Staff requests that the Committee discuss this item and provide us with feedback and direction regarding the drafting of 2021 County Connection federal advocacy program. Also, are there other issues you would like us to include? We will take such feedback and direction and use it to help prepare a draft program for your review in February.