

# County Connection

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

## MARKETING, PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE

### MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, January 6, 2022  
8:30 a.m.

**PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 361, WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A TELECONFERENCE.**

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

Topic: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee  
Time: Jan 6, 2022 08:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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Public comment may be submitted via email to: [hill@cccta.org](mailto: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.

Should Zoom not be operational, please check online at: [www.countyconnection.com](http://www.countyconnection.com) for any updates or further instruction.

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\*Enclosure

FY2021/2022 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**

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.

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Communication
3. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2021\*
4. Federal Legislative Focus for 2022 – Information Only\*  
(Staff will highlight the likely items and ideas to influence a 2022 County Connection Federal Legislative Program.)
5. I-680 Corridor Projects – Information Only\*  
(Staff will provide an overview of the various projects and grant opportunities being discussed for the I-680 corridor.)
6. Community Events – Information Only\*
7. Committee Comments
8. Future Agenda Items
9. Next Meeting – February 3, 2022 (8:30am, location to be determined)
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](http://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](mailto: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 20, 9:00 a.m., via teleconference
Administration & Finance:	Wednesday, January 5, 8:30 a.m., via teleconference
Advisory Committee:	Tuesday, January 11, 1:00 p.m., via teleconference
Operations & Scheduling:	Friday, January 7, 8:15 a.m., via teleconference

**The above meeting schedules are subject to change. Please check the County Connection Website ([www.countyconnection.com](http://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](http://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 2, 2021, 8:30 a.m.**

*Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted as a teleconference pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 361.*

**Directors:** Amy Worth, Candace Andersen, Kevin Wilk

**Staff:** Rick Ramacier, Bill Churchill, Ruby Horta, Melody Reeb, Madeline Chun

**Public:** None

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Director Worth.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda.

**2. Public Communication**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2021**

The Committee approved the minutes.

**4. Mt. Diablo USD Meeting**

Mr. Churchill informed the Committee that staff met with several mayors and the new superintendent of the Mt. Diablo School District to discuss traffic congestion around school bell times. Moving forward, staff hopes to meet regularly with the school district's transportation coordinator and look into ways to share data to better serve the schools.

**5. Pass2Class Update**

Ms. Horta presented the results from the Pass2Class program in partnership with 511 Contra Costa. Over 30,000 trips total were taken using the pass during the months of August and October, and more than half of the trips were on 600-series school routes. The top three 600-series routes were Routes 601, 602, and 606 serving WCI, OIS, and Miramonte HS, while Routes 10, 18, 20, 21, and 35 carried the majority of Pass2Class trips on local routes.

**6. Federal Legislative Update**

Mr. Ramacier provided an update on four pieces of federal legislation related to public transit. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has been enacted and includes a 65% increase in direct spending on public transit. Some of this funding is expected to assist with the transition to zero-emission buses. With the Build Back Better Act, which is almost double the amount of the IIJA, there could be funding available through

competitive grants for some of the types of services that County Connection began operating during COVID, such as trips to access health care, food, and shopping. The Fiscal Recovery Funds Infrastructure Flexibility Act would allow state and local governments to spend some of their ARP funding on transit. The transit budget at the federal level has been enacted and includes \$17 billion for public transit.

**7. PEPR & Federal Section 13(c)**

Mr. Ramacier informed the Committee that in October, the US Department of Labor informed FTA Region 9 that due to the alleged conflict between PEPR and Section 13(c), they intend to withhold all California transit operator federal grants, including ARP funds. Staff estimates that if federal funding is withheld for more than two years, TDA reserves will be exhausted, and service will need to be cut.

**8. Community Events**

Ms. Horta provided a summary of outreach being conducted in December. She noted that the goal for 2022 is to have more consistency in terms of locations and have a set schedule on where staff will be.

**9. Committee Comments**

None

**10. Future Agenda Items**

None

**11. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. via teleconference.

**12. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

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

## INTER OFFICE MEMO

**TO:** MP&L Committee

**FROM:** Rick Ramacier  
General Manager (retired as of 12/30/21)

**DATE:** December 29, 2021

**SUBJ:** 2022 Federal Legislative Program Planning

### Background

Assuming the pandemic is subsiding after a peak of the Omicron wave, the traditional annual visits to Congress and select meetings with US DOT or FTA officials in March of 2022 should be considered. It's also possible that many offices may be willing to meet via Zoom, etc.

Regardless, I recommend that County Connection prepare a 2022 federal legislative advocacy program. So below, I will outline a brief process and suggest likely items to address in the program. Through an agreement with County Connection, I will provide support to the new General Manager for this as he will not have in house ability to produce a program in the near term.

### Process

Staff aims to present to you in February, a draft program and a recommended approach to meeting with the Congressional delegation and/or select federal officials. The formats will be tied to in person meetings and/or Zoom meetings. They will be flexible to meet those two different ways of meeting. Staff (with my support) will reach out to various offices in mid-January to gain a sense of how they anticipate meetings will be handled in March.

If County Connection sends a group to Washington DC in March, you should go in conjunction with the APTA Legislative Conference, set for the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Issues

The issues in play that are national in scope are likely to include:

- Possible separate federal highway and transit re-authorization. While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has been enacted. It does not in theory replace the need for transportation re-authorization. The IIJA is not funded by the federal highway and mass transit accounts for example. However, it is also possible that the IIJA will become the de facto reauthorization. This will be likely in debate in 2022.
- The Build Back Better Act (BBB) is seemingly still alive, hanging by a thread. This legislation would likely have significant funding opportunities for public transit. Its chances of moving through Congress has to be considered slim, though.
- If reauthorization stalls, a separate bill on bus operator safety may move.
- Other issues may emerge from members of congress.

Relative to County Connection, there are two other areas of federal interest. The first is the reemergence of directed spending or “earmarks”. These are likely to be part of the federal budgeting process in 2022. Both Congressmen DeSaulnier and Congressman Swalwell are interested in carrying earmark attempts for County Connection should something clear and obvious be at hand. Projects that help County Connection move towards a zero-emission fleet, create innovative solutions to customer focused projects, or promote equity are likely to gather potential interest. Staff will provide with some examples at your February meeting.

Finally, the issue of PEPR and the possibility of the Biden administration holding up California transit deferral grants because of it looms. The Court may decide on February 11, 2022, that USDOL cannot use Section 13c of the federal transit laws to hold up California grant solely because PEPR was enacted by the State in 2013. A decision like that will likely put this issue at rest for a bit. However, should court allow the lawsuit to proceed and lift the current Stay on USDOL from holding grants, then the issue will grow towards a severe challenge for County Connection. It would be appropriate to inform and seek assistance from its Congressional delegation with this issue should USDOL begin withholding grants after February 11, 2022.

### **Next Steps**

Staff would like to engage the MP&L Committee in a discussion how we should proceed with a 2022 federal legislative program. We would particularly like to receive your feedback and thoughts on approaches to meetings.

If appropriate we would seek your thoughts on moving this item for a full Board discussion.

Finally, we plan to return in February with a draft program and plan of action.

**To:** Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

**Date:** 12/23/2021

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

**Reviewed by:** WC.

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**SUBJECT: I-680 Corridor Projects**

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### **Background:**

Transportation agencies serving the I-680 corridor between Fairfield and the TriValley have conducted numerous studies aimed at reducing single-occupancy vehicles (SOV) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Most recently, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) completed a study that included commuter service between the Martinez Amtrak Station and the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, with some trips extending to the Pleasanton ACE Station. Those efforts have been incorporated into the Innovate 680 strategies developed by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). By partnering with both LAVTA and County Connection, CCTA has developed a project proposal to seek grant funding.

### **Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)**

One of those programs is the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), which provides grants from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to fund transformative capital improvements that will modernize California's intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems, and bus and ferry transit systems, to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, vehicle miles traveled, and congestion. There have been four prior cycles of TIRCP funding, in which the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) has awarded \$5.8 billion in funding to 73 projects throughout the state. CCTA prepared a draft funding plan that includes various components of the Innovate 680 program such as: shared mobility hubs (SMHs), part-time transit lane (PTTL), express bus, and fare integration.

### **Commuter Service on I-680**

County Connection has been involved in all the Innovate 680 strategies and most recently part of the TIRCP project development for commuter service along the I-680 corridor. CalSTA staff has been encouraging project submittal for zero emission buses, specifically, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The implementation of a one-seat express bus service between the Martinez Amtrak Station and the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station using hydrogen fuel cell buses and fueling stations was included in the funding plan submitted to MTC by CCTA, seeking MTC endorsement.



**Financial Implications:**

The associated costs are expected to be covered by the TIRCP grant, matching funds from Measure J and RM3 and the agencies' existing fleet, on an interim basis.

**Recommendation:**

None, for information only.

**Action Requested:**

None, for information only.

## INTER OFFICE MEMO

**To:** Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

**Date:** 12/22/2021

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

**Reviewed by:** WC.

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**SUBJECT:** Community Events

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**Background:**

County Connection participates in select community and business events, and coordinates Class Pass field trips for schools with service along fixed-routes, as well as offering a mobile lobby. See attachment for complete list of events.

**Financial Implications:**

Any costs associated with events are included in the Promotions budget.

**Recommendation:**

For information only.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1: January Calendar

# JANUARY -- 2022

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Walnut Creek - Library	<u>4</u> Farmers Market - Concord	<u>5</u> Orinda BART	<u>6</u> Martinez Amtrak	<u>7</u> Clayton - stop at Center/Easley	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> San Ramon - DVC	<u>11</u> Moraga - Library	<u>12</u> Pleasant Hill BART	<u>13</u> Lafayette - Library	<u>14</u> Danville - stop at Railroad/Prospect	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Martinez - Senior Center	<u>18</u> Clayton Library	<u>19</u> Concord BART	<u>20</u> Orinda - stop at Camino Pablo/Moraga Way	<u>21</u> Walnut Creek BART	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Lafayette BART	<u>25</u> Danville - Library	<u>26</u> San Ramon Transit Center	<u>27</u> Moraga - stop at St. Mary's	<u>28</u> Pleasant Hill Senior Center	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> N. Concord BART -					