

# County Connection

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

## MARKETING, PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE

### MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, February 3, 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.**

Join Zoom webinar

When: Feb 3, 2022 08:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Link to join Webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89410759058>

Or One tap mobile :

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International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89410759058>

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 the 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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FY2021/2022 MP&L Committee – Board member annual assignments are assigned at the September Board meeting.

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



The committee may take action on each item on the agenda. The action may consist of 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 January 6, 2022\*
4. Draft 2022 County Connection Federal Legislative Advocacy Program\*  
(Staff will present a draft of the 2022 County Connection Federal Legislative Advocacy Program and will also discuss how to approach our 2022 federal legislative advocacy work with the Committee.)
5. State Legislative Efforts – Verbal Update  
(Staff will provide a summary of current state legislative efforts and their potential impacts.)
6. Network Management Business Case – Verbal Update  
(Staff will provide updates on the ongoing efforts for the Network Management Business Case.)
7. Community Events – Information Only\*
8. Future Agenda Items
9. Next Meeting – March 3, 2022 (8:30am, location to be determined)
10. Adjournment

## General Information

Public Comment: If you wish to address the Committee, please follow the direction at the top of the agenda. If you have anything 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 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 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, February 17, 9:00 a.m., via teleconference
Administration & Finance:	Wednesday, February 2, 2:00 p.m., via teleconference
Advisory Committee:	Tuesday, March 8, 1:00 p.m., via teleconference
Operations & Scheduling:	Friday, February 4, 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 the 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, January 6, 2022, 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:** Bill Churchill, Ruby Horta, Melody Reeb, Rick Ramacier, Madeline Chun  
**Public:** Andy Smith, Judy Barrientos

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Director Worth.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda.

**2. Public Communication**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2021**

The Committee approved the minutes.

**4. Federal Legislative Focus for 2022**

Mr. Churchill introduced former General Manager Mr. Ramacier who provided some initial insights on the federal legislative program for 2022. Mr. Ramacier said that staff will be monitoring whether the annual meetings with Congress in March will be able to resume in person. He also noted that there will be a slight shift in County Connection's delegation with redistricting.

Director Wilk stressed the importance of having meetings in person in order to move things forward. Director Andersen recommended being proactive and setting up in person meetings for March but to be prepared to shift back to a virtual format. Director Worth asked whether meetings would be held locally or in Washington DC, and that MTC is not planning to have any staff or Commissioners in Washington DC. Mr. Ramacier suggested contacting MTC staff to see if there would be any coordination opportunities within the region.

**5. I-680 Corridor Projects**

Ms. Horta provided an update on the projects along the I-680 corridor that staff is working on in partnership with CCTA and LAVTA. A proposal has been submitted to MTC for TIRCP funds to implement an express bus service from Martinez to Dublin/Pleasanton BART that

would use hydrogen fuel cell buses, once they become available. While the future demand for commuter service is still unknown, it would provide an opportunity to test hydrogen fuel cell technology and prepare for the transition to a zero-emission fleet.

**6. Community Events**

Ms. Horta presented the calendar of outreach planned for January 2022.

**7. Committee Comments**

None

**8. Future Agenda Items**

None

**9. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. via teleconference.

**10. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Melody Reeb, Director of Planning, Marketing, & Innovation

**To:** MP&L Committee

**Date:** 01/27/2022

**From:** Bill Churchill, General Manager

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**SUBJECT:** Draft 2022 Federal Advocacy Program

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**Background:**

Attached you will find the first draft of County Connection's Federal Advocacy Program, highlighting the Authority's top priorities for 2022. The need for an on-going reliable federally funded transit program remains crucial to the ability of County Connection to provide reliable, safe, and effective service to its communities.

**Program Presentation Format and Congressional Office Meeting Visits**

At this time last year, the COVID-19 pandemic required congressional office visits to be completed remotely. This led the Authority to facilitate a number of meetings with its delegation virtually, including the presentation of our Advocacy Program through a brief PowerPoint presentation and PDF based leave behind regarding our interests.

While we are not completely out of the pandemic, the Authority is still under discussion about what visits with our delegation will look like this year. Thus, staff will be providing a PowerPoint presentation draft to the MP&L Committee for review, highlighting the Authorities top priorities and a focus on our essential services. Staff is prepared to convert this presentation to a brochure if it is determined that we have the ability to safely meet in person.

**Financial Implications:**

None.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends forwarding a final draft of the 2022 Federal Advocacy Program to the Board of Directors for action.

**Action Requested:**

Staff requests that the MP&L Committee review the draft program and priorities, provide feedback on the content, and consider forwarding to the Board of Directors for action.

**Attachments:**

1. Draft 2022 Federal Advocacy Program Priorities
2. Staff will provide a PowerPoint presentation to the MP&L Committee at its February 3, 2022, meeting.

## 2022 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

County Connection relies on federal transit funding for necessities crucial to the Authority. The CARES, CRRSAA, ARP, and the IIJA Acts together have placed County Connection in reasonable financial condition as we hopefully begin to emerge from the Pandemic. However, the need for an on-going reliable federally funded transit program remains critical to enable County Connection to provide reliable, safe and effective service to its constituents. Thus, County Connection supports the following:

### **Priority #1: FY23 Federal Public Transit Appropriations**

County Connection relies on federal funds for the timely completion of capital projects and to support its services to folks with disabilities. In FY23, we are expecting to receive roughly \$1.5 million in 5307 formula funding to support our ADA paratransit program. This program serves the most frail members of our community and was crucial in providing life line based services during the height of the Pandemic. We also will pursue formula funding to help with our continued transition to an all Zero Emission Based (ZEB) fleet. To ensure that we receive this critical capital funding, the federal transit program must be fully funded at levels consistent with the levels set out in the House passed INVEST Act and/or the recently enacted IIJA.

### **Priority #2: Re-authorization of the Federal Transportation Bill**

While we applaud the enactment of the IIJA as it will bring \$107 billion to public transit over five years, it is not the re-authorization of the federal transportation bill. IIJA is also paid for outside of the federal highway and transit trust funds. In order to address long term transit needs in an adequate and predictable manner, we seek re-authorization of The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) which has effectively expired.

Historically, County Connection has received \$8 million dollars in federal support on an annualized basis from federal transportation acts and authorizations. These funds are primarily used to replace aging buses and vans for far cleaner and reliable buses. Thus, re-authorization of FAST is a top priority for County Connection.

The House passed the INVEST Act to re-authorize FAST. This bill increases the federal investment in public transit by 133% over FAST. We applaud this. County Connection urges that this legislation be taken up in the Congress in 2022 for further action.

### **Priority #3: Enact APTA's Recommendations on Mobility & Innovation**

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) have adopted a set of recommendations for federal enactment to promote and support innovative mobility solutions to increase the ability of all sorts of people to use public transportation throughout their everyday lives. These innovations in mobility must serve to improve and enhance traditional public transportation, not replace it. These innovations should also promote and provide opportunities to prepare the next generation of public transportation workers through work force development programs.

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Many areas such as the one County Connection serves need to greatly improve their public transportation options to attack the housing crisis, climate change, equity, and aging population. However, historical growth patterns in these areas make traditional public challenging to provide. Thus, innovative mobility solutions are needed. They will also make established transit in these areas more effective and increase ridership.

Public transit agencies like County Connection are well positioned to deliver these innovative solutions along with their traditional fixed route services in an integrated and coordinated manner, if allowed to and support by federal policy.

## **Priority #4: Restore the Federal Highway and Mass Transit Accounts**

With the Federal Highway and Mass Transit Accounts nearly broke, more and more of the federal transit program is at risk of not being funded. We urge that a permanent fix to this problem be found. Without financial stabilization for these accounts, many County Connection projects will be at risk.

## **Priority #5: Supporting Directed Spending Request(s) From CCTA**

Directed Congressional Spending (Earmarks) are alive and well and in the FY22 federal budget to as much as \$40 billion depending on how it's defined. The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) was successful in securing such funding from both the offices of Congressman DeSaulnier and Congressman Swalwell for projects that have good benefit and application to County Connection's mission. CCTA may seek more of such funding in 2022. County Connection should be a partner in those efforts should they come.



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

**Date:** 1/26/2022

**From:** Melody Reeb, Director of Marketing, Planning & Innovation

**Reviewed by:** *Ref*

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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:**

None, for information only.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1: February 2022 Calendar

FEBRUARY -- 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> Farmer's Market Concord	<u>2</u> Orinda BART	<u>3</u> Martinez Amtrak	<u>4</u> Clayton Stop #453 Marsh Creek Rd/El Molino Dr (El Molino Park)	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> Walnut Creek Library	<u>8</u> Moraga Library	<u>9</u> Pleasant Hill BART	<u>10</u> Lafayette Library	<u>11</u> Danville Stop #1118 Railroad/Prospect (Museum of San Ramon Valley)	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> San Ramon Stop #2045 Bollinger Canyon Rd/S. Monarch Rd	<u>15</u> Clayton Library	<u>16</u> Concord Library	<u>17</u> Orinda Library	<u>18</u> Walnut Creek BART	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Martinez Stop #2263 Muir Rd/Kaiser	<u>22</u> Danville Senior Center	<u>23</u> San Ramon Transit Center	<u>24</u> Moraga Stop #1350 Moraga Rd/Kendall Cir (Rheem Shopping Center)	<u>25</u> Pleasant Hill DVC	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> Lafayette BART					