

INTER OFFICE MEMO

To: Board of Directors

Date: 07/11/2022

From: Rashida Kamara, Director of ADA and Specialized Services **Reviewed by:** *RK*

SUBJECT: Travel Training Program

Background:

Currently, residents of Central Contra Costa have access to one travel training program. This specific program is geared towards people with disabilities and is provided by the Independent Living Resources of Solano & Contra Costa Counties (ILRSCC). Findings from the Contra Costa Accessible Transportation Strategic (ATS) Plan point to the need for transit agencies and non-profit organizations to champion an existing travel training program with the intent to expand to other geographic areas. County Connection, in partnership with the ILRSCC, can accomplish this by expanding existing services to both people with disabilities **and** seniors living in Central County service area.

Enhancing Access to Transportation Resources:

In March of 2021, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) published the findings from an extensive study on Contra Costa County's Accessible Transportation Services. Twenty-two different strategies were identified and categorized under two different tiered groups through input from survey findings. Travel training was identified as a short-term, Tier 1 strategy in that this and other types of programs/ services have been found to:

- Have a high transportation benefit
- Have a strong community support
- Leverage existing programs/resources
- Easy to implement (cost effective)

The established need in Contra Costa County for travel training programs for seniors and people with disabilities along with the impact on ridership associated with COVID-19 provide a great opportunity to start a program that will enhance access to transportation resources in the area, for these two groups.

TRANSPAC Measure J Line 20a Grant:

TRANSPAC, the Regional Transportation Planning Committee (RTPC) for Central Contra Costa issued a Call for Projects in late December 2021 for Measure J Line 20a funds to be used for "*Additional Transportation Services for Seniors & People with Disabilities*". These funds are available for FY 2022-2023 through 2023-2024. County Connection was awarded close to \$80K in grant funding to provide a travel training program to Central County service area.

The new travel training program will include expanded services such as:

- Orientation to existing fixed route systems in the area
- One on-one and group training sessions to navigate the existing fixed route systems, including trip planning, familiarization with existing accessibility features, and learning how to navigate the ADA Paratransit system effectively.
- How to use available technologies to aid with trip planning, bus locating, fare purchasing, etc.
- How to access and navigate alternative transportation services including:
 - Transportation Network Company (TNC) operators that provide services to disabled and elderly
 - Enrollment of eligible applicants for city-based programs
 - Special services such as Alamo Creek Shuttle, St. Mary's Shuttle, and Go San Ramon
 - Non-Profit organizations that provide transportation services to seniors and disabled people

Ongoing evaluation of the travel training program's effectiveness will be performed through monthly and quarterly reports. This will provide a means for County Connection to gauge the impact on riders and transportation service agencies in Central County and is also a requirement of all recipients of TRANSPAC funding. Key performance indicators will include the number of trainees, the cost per training, and noted changes in trainees' riding habits or use of associated transportation apps/software.

Financial Implications:

County Connection was awarded \$79,124 of Measure J Line 20a funds over a two-year period to provide the travel training program described, herein. All associated expenses will be covered by the grant.

Recommendation:

The O&S Committee and staff recommend entering into a contract with ILRSCC for the purposes of providing travel training.

Action Requested:

The O&S Committee and staff request that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 2023-004, authorizing the General Manager enter into an agreement with ILRSCC for the course of two years to start in July 2022 in the amount of \$79,124.

Attachments:

Resolution No. 2023-004

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-004

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

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**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT
TO THE INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCES OF SOLANO & CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES
TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER A TRAVEL TRAINING PROGRAM
FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

WHEREAS, the County of Contra Costa and the 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 ("County Connection"), 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, in December 2021, the Regional Transportation Planning Committee for Central Contra Costa ("TRANSPAC") issued a call for projects for Measure J Line 20a funds to be used for transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities;

WHEREAS, County Connection submitted a proposal related to providing a new travel training program and was awarded \$80,000 in grant funding from TRANSPAC for the implementation of a new travel training program;

WHEREAS, County Connection will engage the Independent Living Resources of Solano & Contra Costa Counties ("ILRSCC") to implement and administer the travel training program; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends award of a contract to ILRSCC in the amount of \$79,127.00, which recommendation was supported by the Operations and Scheduling Committee at its July 1, 2022 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority Board of Directors hereby awards a contract to Independent Living Resources of Solano & Contra Costa Counties for the implementation and administration of a travel training program for seniors and people with disabilities in the not-to-exceed amount of \$79,127.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager is authorized to execute a contract with the Independent Living Resources of Solano & Contra Costa Counties on behalf of County Connection, subject to approval as to form by Legal Counsel.

Regularly passed and adopted this 21st day of July 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Dave Hudson, Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Lathina Hill, Clerk to the Board