

**To:** Operations & Scheduling Committee

**Date:** 02/20/2024

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

**Reviewed by:** *RF*

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**SUBJECT: Transit Signal Priority (TSP) Update**

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### **Background:**

County Connection has been working in partnership with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), the cities of Concord and Walnut Creek, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to deploy a centralized conditional Transit Signal Priority (TSP) system on certain County Connection buses along corridors within the partner cities, with hopes of eventually expanding countywide in the future. The conditional TSP system will provide real-time changes to signal timing parameters in response to priority requests from buses by either extending a green phase or shortening a red phase. Conditional priority is granted for transit vehicles at signalized intersections when certain conditions are met (e.g., bus is more than two (2) minutes behind schedule and/or is more than fifty percent full). The goal of the project is to improve transit reliability, reduce transit travel times, and increase ridership without unnecessarily delaying side street traffic. In May 2022, a contract was awarded to Global Traffic Technologies (now Miovision) to implement the system.

### **Project Status:**

Routes 4 and 5 in Walnut Creek and Routes 15 and 20 in Concord were selected for the pilot project. TSP is being implemented at a total of sixty-six (66) signalized intersections, including thirty-one (31) in downtown Walnut Creek and thirty-five (35) along Willow Pass Rd, Clayton Rd, and Concord Blvd between Farm Bureau Rd and Diamond Way. At this time, thirty-one (31) County Connection buses have been equipped for TSP. However, this does not currently provide enough of a buffer to ensure that TSP-equipped buses are always being used on the four routes, so the project team is looking at enabling TSP on additional buses.

Deployment was originally planned for last summer, but supply chain issues and chip shortages resulted in delays in obtaining traffic controller hardware. Route 4 has also been on multiple long-term detours due to the closure of Broadway Plaza and more recently, construction along Locust St. However, testing of the project intersections as well as conditional TSP functionality, including passenger occupancy and schedule adherence, is now near completion. Staff anticipates that the system will go live in the coming weeks and that system acceptance testing will be completed in mid-March. Following deployment, an evaluation study will be conducted to assess the project benefits using a variety of data sources including Swiftly, which will provide data on run times, delays, and schedule adherence. The project partners will also be coordinating on a public awareness campaign to educate the public and promote the benefits of the system.

**Financial Implications:**

The project is being funded by MTC through the Innovative Deployments to Enhance Arterials (IDEA) grant program with a budget totaling \$1,320,792, which includes \$20,000 to offset the subscription cost for Swiftly. County Connection provides in-kind IT and planning services on an ongoing basis.

**Recommendation:**

None, for information only.

**Action Requested:**

None, for information only.

**Attachments:**

None