

INTER OFFICE MEMO

To: Administration & Finance Committee

Date: 01/26/2024

From: Amber Johnson, Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by: WC.

SUBJECT: Independent Accountant's Report on Federal Funding Allocation Data for Federal Transit Administration for Fiscal Year 2023

Background:

Annually our independent auditors, Brown Armstrong, CPA's, are required to review the data we report to FTA on Form FFA-10 which is included in the National Transit Database report (NTD).

Summary of Issues:

The FTA Form FFA-10 reports hours, miles, passengers, passenger miles and total operating expenses.

Staff filed the NTD report in December and Brown Armstrong completed their review in January. Brown Armstrong reviewed the data and financial information and issued the reports without exceptions.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the A&F Committee review the report for approval.

Action Requested:

Staff requests that the A&F Committee forward the independent accountant's report on federal funding allocation data for Federal Transit Administration for fiscal year 2023 to the full Board and recommend their approval.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures for Federal Funding Allocation Data Federal Transit Administration

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

NATIONAL TRANSIT DATABASE REPORTING

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON
APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION DATA
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2023**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Administration and Finance Committee and Board of Directors of
Central Contra Costa Transit Authority
and the Federal Transit Administration

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has established the following standards with regard to the data reported to it in the Federal Funding Allocation Statistics Form (FFA-10) of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority's (the Authority) annual National Transit Database (NTD) report:

- A system is in place and maintained for recording data in accordance with NTD definitions. The correct data are being measured and no systematic errors exist.
- A system is in place to record data on a continuing basis and the data gathering is an ongoing effort.
- Source documents are available to support the reported data and are maintained for FTA review and audit for a minimum of three years following FTA's receipt of the NTD report. The data are fully documented and securely stored.
- A system of internal controls is in place to ensure the data collection process is accurate and that the recording system and reported comments are not altered. Documents are reviewed and signed by a supervisor, as required.
- The data collection methods are those suggested by FTA or otherwise meet FTA requirements.
- The deadhead miles, computed as the difference between the reported total actual vehicle miles data and the reported total actual vehicle revenue miles (VRM) data, appear to be accurate.
- Data are consistent with prior reporting periods and other facts known about transit agency operations.

We have applied the procedures enumerated in Attachment A to the data contained in the Authority's FFA-10 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Such procedures, which were agreed to and specified by the FTA in the Declarations section of the *2023 NTD Policy Manual* and were agreed to by the Authority, were applied solely to assist you in evaluating whether the Authority complied with the standards described in the first paragraph of this report and that the information included in the NTD report and that the FFA-10 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, is presented in conformity with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 630 and as presented in the *2023 NTD Policy Manual*. The Authority's management is responsible for compliance with the standards described above. The Authority has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated results and findings, if applicable, are described in Attachment A.

We were engaged by the Authority to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We were not engaged to, and did not, conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the procedures and findings included in this report. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management of the Authority and the FTA and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

BROWN ARMSTRONG
ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

*Brown Armstrong
Accountancy Corporation*

Stockton, California
January 26, 2024

**CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
NATIONAL TRANSIT DATABASE REPORTING
ATTACHMENT A – AGREED UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

The procedures listed below, which are referenced in order to correspond to the *2023 National Transit Database (NTD) Policy Manual* procedures, were applied separately to each of the information systems used to develop the reported actual vehicle revenue miles, passenger miles traveled, and operating expenses of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (the Authority) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, for the *Motor Bus Service – Directly Operated (MBDO)*, *Motor Bus Service – Purchased Transportation (MBPT)*, and *Demand Response – Purchased Transportation (DRPT)*.

Our procedures and associated findings are as follows:

- A. Obtain and read a copy of written system procedures for reporting and maintaining data in accordance with NTD requirements and definitions set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 630, and as presented in the *2023 NTD Policy Manual*. If there are no procedures available, discuss the procedures with the personnel assigned with the responsibility for supervising the NTD data preparation and maintenance.

Finding: We discussed procedures related to the system for reporting and maintaining data in accordance with the NTD requirements and definitions set forth in 49 CFR Part 630, and as presented in the *2023 NTD Policy Manual* with the personnel assigned with the responsibility of supervising the preparation and maintenance of NTD data. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- B. Discuss the procedures (written or informal) with the personnel assigned with the responsibility for supervising the preparation and maintenance of NTD data to determine:

- The extent to which the Authority followed the procedures on a continuous basis, and
- Whether Authority personnel believe such procedures result in accumulation and reporting of data consistent with NTD definitions and requirements set forth in 49 CFR Part 630, and as presented in the *2023 NTD Policy Manual*.

Finding: We discussed with various personnel the procedures noted in Procedure “A” above to determine whether the Authority follows the procedures on an ongoing basis and that the procedures result in the accumulation and reporting of data consistent with the NTD requirements and definitions as set forth in the *Uniform System of Accounts (USOA) and Records and Reporting System; Final Rule*, and specified in the 49 CFR Part 630, and the most recent *2023 NTD Policy Manual*. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- C. Ask these same personnel about the retention policy that the Authority follows as to source documents supporting NTD data reported on the Federal Funding Allocation Statistics Form (FFA-10).

Finding: We noted that the retention policy that is followed by the Authority regarding source documents supporting the FFA-10 data reported are retained for a minimum of three years by the Authority. In addition, we noted that the Authority maintains the computer files more than three years depending on the need of historical data. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- D. Based on a description of the Authority’s procedures from Procedures “A” and “B” above, identify all the source documents that the Authority must retain for a minimum of three years. For each type of source document, select three months out of the year and determine whether the document exists for each of these periods.

Finding: We identified the source documents that are to be retained by the Authority for a minimum of three years. We randomly selected three months out of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, October 2022, January 2023, and February 2023, and verified that each type of source document existed for each of these periods. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- E. Discuss the system of internal controls. Inquire whether separate individuals (independent of the individuals preparing source documents and posting data summaries) review the source documents and data summaries for completeness, accuracy, and reasonableness and how often these individuals perform such reviews.

Finding: We discussed the system of internal control with personnel responsible for supervising and maintaining the NTD data. The method is mostly automated with a few manual procedures. We determined that individuals preparing source documents were independent of individuals posting data summaries, reviewing the source documents, and summarizing data for completeness, accuracy, and reasonableness. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- F. Select a random sample of the source documents and determine whether supervisors' signatures are present as required by the system of internal controls. If supervisors' signatures are not required, inquire how personnel document supervisors' reviews.

Finding: As noted above, the method is mostly automated. As such, there are no physical signatures documenting the supervisors' review and approval of the source documents. The software utilized automatically accumulates the data from the Clever Devices Automatic Passenger Counter on each vehicle. Monthly reports are prepared for the Operating and Scheduling Committee and are reviewed by management electronically, as allowed by the 2023 NTD Policy Manual. Approval is given by authorizing the posting of the monthly data to NTD. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- G. Obtain the worksheets used to prepare the final data that the Authority transcribes onto the FFA-10. Compare the periodic data included on the worksheets to the periodic summaries prepared by the transit agency. Test the arithmetical accuracy of the summaries.

Finding: We obtained the Authority's year-end cumulative reports that are used to prepare the FFA-10. We compared the prior year data to the current year data and investigated any changes over 10%. We also compared the source documents to the year-end cumulative report (Form S-10). We also recalculated summarizations of supporting documentation which were tested in "D" above. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- H. Discuss the procedure for accumulating and recording passenger miles traveled (PMT) data in accordance with NTD requirements with the Authority's staff. Inquire whether the procedure is one of the methods specifically approved in the 2023 NTD Policy Manual.

Finding: During fiscal year 2023, the Authority used the procedure of an estimate of passenger miles traveled (PMT) based on statistical sampling, meeting the FTA's 95% confidence and $\pm 10\%$ precision requirements based on a qualified statistician's determined procedure. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- I. Discuss with the Authority's staff (the auditor may wish to list the titles of the persons interviewed) the Authority's eligibility to conduct statistical sampling for PMT data every third year. Determine whether the Authority meets NTD criteria that allow transit agencies to conduct statistical samples for accumulating PMT data every third year rather than annually. Specifically:

- According to the 2010 Census, the public transit agency serves an urbanized area (UZA) with a population less than 500,000.
- The public transit agency directly operates fewer than 100 revenue vehicles in all modes in annual maximum revenue service (VOMS) (in any size UZA).
- Service purchased from a seller is included in the transit agency's NTD report.

- For transit agencies that meet one of the above criteria, review the NTD documentation for the most recent mandatory sampling year (2023) and determine that statistical sampling was conducted and meets the 95% confidence and $\pm 10\%$ precision requirements.
- Determine how the transit agency estimated annual PMT for the current report year.

Finding: For MBDO, the Authority uses an alternative sampling technique, which is a statistically valid technique, other than 100 percent count, which was certified by a qualified statistician in 2009 when the Authority was testing the method to ensure it met the mandated accuracy and precision levels. We reviewed the certification of the statistician and determined that the individual was qualified and had the proper credentials. We also ensured that the statistician certified that the Authority's alternative technique used the minimal 95% confidence and ± 10 precision requirements for estimating boarding and passenger miles. We also obtained an understanding of how the Authority collects data, software utilized, and the estimation process. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure. For Demand Response Purchased Transportation (DRPT), the Authority does not use estimates, but rather uses the information collected by Transdev, the Purchase Services Seller. This data is derived from driver counts and data generated from Trapeze. The information from the Purchase Services Seller is included in the NTD report. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- J. Obtain a description of the sampling procedure for estimation of PMT data used by the Authority. Obtain a copy of the Authority's working papers or methodology used to select the actual sample of runs for recording PMT data. If the Authority used average trip length, determine that the universe of runs was the sampling frame. Determine that the methodology used to select specific runs from the universe resulted in a random selection of runs. If the Authority missed a selected sample run, determine that a replacement sample run was random. Determine that the Authority followed the stated sampling procedure.

Finding: We obtained a description of the sampling procedure for estimation of PMT data used by the Authority. We obtained a copy of the Authority's working papers and methodology used to select the actual sample of runs for recording PMT data. We determined that the Authority followed the stated sampling procedure. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- K. Select a random sample of the source documents for accumulating PMT data and determine that the data are complete (all required data are recorded) and that the computations are accurate. Select a random sample of the accumulation periods and recompute the accumulations for each of the selected periods. List the accumulations periods that were tested. Test the arithmetical accuracy of the summary.

Finding: We randomly selected three months, October 2022, January 2023, and February 2023. We obtained the source documents for accumulating PMT data, determined they were complete, and recomputed the accumulation periods without exception. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- L. Discuss the procedures for systematic exclusion of charter, school bus, and other ineligible vehicle miles from the calculation of actual vehicle revenue miles with Authority staff and determine that they follow the stated procedures. Select a random sample of the source documents used to record charter and school bus mileage and test the arithmetical accuracy of the computations.

Finding: We discussed the procedures for systematic exclusion of charter, school bus, and other ineligible vehicle miles from the calculation of vehicle revenue miles with the Authority staff and determined that stated procedures were not applicable as the Authority does not provide a charter or school bus service.

M. For actual VRM data, document the collection and recording methodology and determine that deadhead miles are systematically excluded from the computation. This is accomplished as follows:

- If actual VRMs are calculated from schedules, document the procedures used to subtract missed trips. Select a random sample of the days that service is operated, and re-compute the daily total of missed trips and missed VRMs. Test the arithmetical accuracy of the summary.
- If actual VRMs are calculated from hubodometers, document the procedures used to calculate and subtract deadhead mileage. Select a random sample of the hubodometer readings and determine that the stated procedures for hubodometer deadhead mileage adjustments are applied as prescribed. Test the arithmetical accuracy of the summary of intermediate accumulations.
- If actual VRMs are calculated from vehicle logs, select random samples of the vehicle logs and determine that the deadhead mileage has been correctly computed in accordance with FTA definitions.

Finding: We discussed with personnel the procedures for the collection and recording of VRM data and noted that VRMs are calculated upon inception of the route based on the distance between the first stop and last stop, including deadhead miles. We noted that the scheduled deadhead miles are systematically excluded to calculate VRMs. Furthermore, daily trip sheets are used to subtract missed trips and unscheduled deadhead miles. We also discussed the accumulation of VRMs for DRPT. We noted that VRMs for DRPT are accumulated and reported by the respective contractors through trip sheets and monthly ridership worksheets by route. These schedules are submitted by the contractors and are reviewed for clerical accuracy by Authority personnel. We recalculated the VRMs and agreed the total VRMs to the Authority's Month-End Ridership Summary report for a sample of trips in the months of October 2022, January 2023, and February 2023. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

N. For rail modes, review the recording and accumulation sheets for actual VRMs and determine that locomotive miles are not included in the computation.

Finding: We inquired of personnel the procedures with which the Authority accumulates actual VRMs for rail modes. We noted that the Authority does not provide such service. Therefore, this procedure was not applicable.

O. If fixed guideway or High Intensity Bus directional route miles (FG or HIB DRM) are reported, interview the person responsible for maintaining and reporting NTD data whether the operations meet the FTA definition of FG or HIB in that the service is:

- Rail, trolleybus (TB), ferryboat (FB), or aerial tramway (TR); or
- Bus (Mode: Bus (MB), Commuter Bus (CB), or Bus Rapid Transit (RB)) service operating over exclusive or controlled access rights-of-way (ROW); and
 - Access is restricted;
 - Legitimate need for restricted access is demonstrated by peak period level of service D or worse on a parallel adjacent highway; and
 - Restricted access is enforced for freeways; priority lanes used by other high occupancy vehicles (HOV) (i.e., vanpools (VP), carpools) must demonstrate safe operation;

Finding: We inquired of personnel the procedures with which the Authority reports VRMs, passenger miles, and operating expenses for fixed guideways segments. We noted that the Authority does not provide such services. Therefore, this procedure was not applicable.

- P. Discuss the measurement of FG and HIB DRM with the person reporting NTD data and determine that he or she computed mileage in accordance with the FTA definitions of FG/HIB and DRM. Inquire of any service changes during the year that resulted in an increase or decrease in DRMs. If a service change resulted in a change in overall DRMs, recompute the average monthly DRMs, and reconcile the total to the FG/HIB DRM reported on the Federal Funding Allocation Statistics Form.

Finding: We inquired of personnel the procedures in which the Authority measures FG DRMs. We noted that the Authority does not provide such services. Therefore, this procedure was not applicable.

- Q. Inquire if any temporary interruptions in transit service occurred during the report year. If these interruptions were due to maintenance or rehabilitation improvements to a FG segment(s), the following apply:

- Report DRMs for the segment(s) for the entire report year if the interruption is less than 12 months in duration. Report the months of operation on the FG/HIB segments form as 12. The transit agency should document the interruption.
- If the improvements cause a service interruption on the FG/HIB DRMs lasting more than 12 months, the transit agency should contact its NTD validation analyst to discuss. The FTA will make a determination on how to report the DRMs.

Finding: We inquired of personnel the procedures with which the Authority measures FG DRMs through the use of maps or retracing routes. We noted that the Authority does not provide such services. Therefore, this procedure was not applicable.

- R. Measure FG/HIB DRM from maps or by retracing route.

Finding: We inquired of personnel whether other public transit agencies operate service over the same FG as the Authority. We noted that the Authority does not provide such service. Therefore, this procedure was not applicable.

- S. Discuss whether other public transit agencies operate service over the same FG/HIB as the Authority. If yes, determine that the Authority coordinated with the other transit agency (or agencies) such that the DRMs for the segment of FG/HIB are reported only once to the NTD on the Federal Funding Allocation Form. Each transit agency should report the actual VRM, PMT, and operating expense (OE) for the service operated over the same FG/HIB.

Finding: We inquired of personnel the procedures for revenue service for each fixed guideway segment. We noted that the Authority does not provide such service. Therefore, this procedure was not applicable.

- T. Review the FG/HIB segments form. Discuss the Agency Revenue Service Start Date for any segments added in the 2023 report year with the persons reporting NTD data. This is the commencement date of revenue service for each FG/HIB segment. Determine that the date reported is the date that the agency began revenue service. This may be later than the Original Date of Revenue Service if the Authority is not the original operator. If a segment was added for the 2023 report year, the Agency Revenue Service Date must occur within the Authority's 2023 fiscal year. Segments are grouped by like characteristics. Note that for apportionment purposes, under the State of Good Repair (§5337) and Bus and Bus Facilities (§5339) programs, the 7-year age requirement for FG/HIB segments is based on the report year when the segment is first reported by any NTD transit agency. This pertains to segments reported for the first time in the current report year. Even if a transit agency can document an Agency Revenue Service Start Date prior to the current NTD report year, the FTA will only consider segments continuously reported to the NTD.

Finding: We inquired of personnel the procedures for revenue service for each fixed guideway segment. We noted that the Authority does not provide such service. Therefore, this procedure was not applicable.

- U. Compare operating expenses with audited financial data after reconciling items are removed.

Finding: We reconciled OE presented to the audited financial statements. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- V. If the Authority purchases transportation services, interview the personnel reporting the NTD data on the amount of purchased transportation (PT)-generated fare revenues. The PT fare revenues should equal the amount reported on the Contractual Relationship form (Form B-30).

Finding: We compared the data reported on the Form B-30 to the purchased transportation fare revenues. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- W. If the Authority's report contains data for PT services and assurances of the data for those services are not included, obtain a copy of the Independent Auditor Statement (IAS-FFA) regarding data for the PT service. Attach a copy of the statement to the report. Note as an exception if the transit agency does not have an IAS-FFA for the PT data.

Finding: This procedure is not applicable as assurances over the PT services data are included in Procedures "A" through "V" above.

- X. If the Authority provides PT services, obtain a copy of the PT contract and determine that the contract specifies the public transportation services to be provided; the monetary consideration obligated by the Authority or governmental unit contracting for the service; the period covered by the contract (and that this period overlaps the entire, or a portion of, the period covered by the Authority's NTD report); and is signed by representatives of both parties to the contract. Interview the person responsible for retention of the executed contract, and determine that copies of the contracts are retained for three years.

Finding: We obtained copies of the PT contracts and noted that all contracts specified the specific mass transportation services to be provided; specified the monetary consideration obligated by the Authority; specified the period covered by the contract and that this period is the same as, or a portion of, the period covered by the Authority's NTD report; and signed by representatives of both parties to the contract. We determined that executed contracts are maintained for a minimum of three years. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

- Y. If the Authority provides service in more than one UZA, or between an UZA and a non-UZA, inquire of the procedures for allocation of statistics between UZAs and non-UZAs. Obtain and review the FG segment worksheets, route maps, and urbanized area boundaries used for allocating the statistics, and determine that the stated procedure is followed and that the computations are correct.

Finding: We inquired of personnel whether the Authority provides services in more than one UZA, or between a UZA and a non-UZA. This procedure is not applicable as the Authority does not provide services in more than one UZA.

- Z. Compare the data reported on the Federal Funding Allocation Statistics Form to data from the prior report year and calculate the percentage change from the prior year to the current year. For actual VRM, PMT, or OE data that have increased or decreased by more than 10%, or FG DRM data that have increased or decreased, interview transit agency management regarding the specifics of operations that led to the increases or decreases in the data relative to the prior reporting period.

Finding: We compared the data reported on the FFA-10 to comparable data for the prior report year and calculated the percentage change from the prior year to the current year. For MBDO, DRPT, and MBPT, we noted VRM, PMT and Passenger Trips data has increased or decreased by more than 10 percent. In addition, for DRPT, we noted OE data has increased by more than 10 percent.

Mode	Data	Fiscal Year		Change	% Change	Note
		2023	2022			
MBDO	VRM	1,775,507	2,082,268	(306,761)	-15%	1
	PMT	8,617,980	7,152,580	1,465,400	20%	1
MBPT	VRM	35,082	25,204	9,878	39%	2
	PMT	22,838	10,690	12,148	114%	2
DRPT	VRM	997,060	808,124	188,936	23%	3
	PMT	1,194,730	748,446	446,284	60%	3
	OE	\$ 7,676,093	\$ 6,956,235	\$ 719,858	10%	3

We inquired with the Authority management regarding the specifics of operations that led to the changes in the data relative to the prior reporting period and noted the following:

1. In fiscal year 2023, fixed route VRM decreased due to a school route being eliminated, however, service was reduced midway through fiscal year 2022 which does not reflect in the previous fiscal year numbers. Fixed route PMT and Passenger trips increased due to significant ridership recovery contributed to higher passenger trips.
2. During fiscal year 2022, Route 250 did not start operating until December. Additionally, Alamo Creek, which is a deviated fixed route, had more home pick-ups resulting in higher deviation and higher revenue miles.
3. Dial-A-Ride increased in VRM, PMT, and Passenger trips due to significant ridership recovery contributed to higher passenger miles travelled.

No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.

AA. The auditor should document the specific procedures followed, documents reviewed, and tests performed in the work papers. The work papers should be available for FTA review for a minimum of three years following the NTD report year. The auditor may perform additional procedures, which are agreed to by the auditor and the Authority, if desired. The auditor should clearly identify the additional procedures performed in a separate attachment to the statement as procedures that were agreed to by the transit agency and the auditor but not by the FTA.

Finding: We have documented the specific procedures followed, documents reviewed, and tests performed in the work papers. The work papers are available for FTA review for a minimum of three years following the NTD report year. No exceptions were noted as a result of applying this procedure.