

Central Contra Costa Transit Authority Citizens Advisory Committee Report to Board of Directors, April 2024

The stated purpose of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority Citizens Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) is to bring feedback to the County Connection Board of Directors reflecting the voices and needs of the communities, riders, and other stakeholders represented by our Advisory Committee members, but as the Board members are aware, we are currently in the process of reexamining how the Advisory Committee can best gather relevant information and effectively transmit it to the Board, which will be the subject of a planned joint meeting/workshop between the Board and the Advisory Committee in May, 2024.

March 2024 Advisory Committee Meeting

The Advisory Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 12, 2024. We achieved a quorum as two of the three current Advisory Committee members attended.

As has been the case in most meetings of the Advisory Committee to date, at the March meeting the Advisory Committee received several informational reports from staff, including an updated ridership report for the fixed route system, a paratransit performance report, and a report on the FY 2025 marketing plan; all reports were for informational purposes and required no committee action. Advisory Committee member Birdwell provided an update regarding her attendance at the last meeting of the Paratransit Coordinating Council, as the Advisory Committee’s representative on that body.

Ongoing Advisory Committee Vacancies

As noted above, the Advisory Committee currently consists of three members, with eight seats vacant. Filling these vacancies would bring our Advisory Committee to a full roster of eleven members, and we respectfully renew our request that the Board help facilitate appointments of members from those jurisdictions with vacancies.

In addition to recruiting new committee members through the traditional channels, at the January meeting the Advisory Committee resolved to send a letter directly from the Advisory Committee to each jurisdiction with a vacant seat, urging an appointment as soon as is feasible. Staff is still gathering input from Advisory Committee members so that we can finalize and send the recruitment letter.

When recruiting new members, we seek specifically to identify candidates who are potential or actual local riders, closely connected with their communities, and who can bring diverse perspectives and experience to the Advisory Committee.

Improving Collaboration Between Board and Advisory Committee

Also as noted above, there is a joint meeting scheduled in May to examine how the Advisory Committee can assume a more impactful role within County Connection governance, and we appreciate the Board's ongoing support and commitment to working collaboratively on this issue. Although it is unknown how many Advisory Committee members will be able to attend the joint meeting, I look forward to a productive session that can establish a sound framework for future collaboration as the Advisory Committee eventually fills out its roster of vacancies.

Our next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Ian McLaughlin, Chair