

To: Board of Directors

Date: 7/10/2024

From: John Sanderson, Director of ADA and Specialized Services

Reviewed by: *Ref*

SUBJECT: Automated Driving Systems (ADS) Program Update

Background:

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), County Connection and May Mobility, Inc. will jointly be conducting a demonstration pilot project, which will provide limited transportation service in Martinez using Autonomous Vehicles (AVs). For the past several months, County Connection staff have been working closely with CCTA and May Mobility to develop an operationally feasible scope of work for the pilot that satisfies project requirements without duplicating County Connection bus service. The program will operate for one year starting Summer 2024. CCTA is the project sponsor, May Mobility is providing the AVs, and County Connection has committed to providing union-represented drivers to operate the AVs. The committee previously received an update about the ADS project in April 2024.

Project Update:

In May 2024, following several months of discussion and negotiation, staff were able to execute a three-party agreement with CCTA and May Mobility outlining roles and responsibilities, as well as the actual scope of services that the program will provide. Under the agreement, County Connection will provide all drivers for the project, through our paratransit contract. The first three driver positions will be paid for by County Connection, and CCTA will fund the additional drivers and other contracted labor as needed.

The Automated Driving Systems (ADS) program will consist of a daytime component that will help select passengers obtain access from the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center to nutrition and medication resources, and an evening component that will provide point to point service for the public after County Connection's service in the area stops running. Service will be available Monday through Friday, and the evening service will be limited to the hours between 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM. The schedule for the daytime nutrition/medication access component has not yet been finalized. Preliminary plans are currently under development for a launch event, to be held in Martinez in Summer 2024, as well as a promotional campaign to publicize and attract riders for the pilot program.

In support of the project, staff has also negotiated terms for a contract amendment with Transdev to cover the cost of the operators and other support staff. The terms negotiated are based on Transdev's fully burdened labor costs for drivers and other personnel. The three drivers will be recruited from Transdev's current pool of paratransit drivers and will be selected based on a combination of seniority and aptitude. Additional drivers will be selected through open recruitment. Once selected, each driver must complete a rigorous Autonomous Vehicle Operator (AVO) training course conducted by May

Mobility. The AVO training course consists of online and classroom components, as well as closed course and public road behind the wheel training. As of this writing, recruitment for the initial cohort of drivers is complete and onboarding is under way.

Financial Implications:

County Connection has committed to funding three full-time AVO positions for one year in support of the project. The cost has been included in the FY 2025 budget.

Recommendation:

None. Information Only.

Action Requested:

None. Information Only.

Attachments:

None