

County Connection

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CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

December 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/CONFIRM QUORUM

Chair Kevin Wilk called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. Board Members present were Directors Andersen, Diaz, Hoffmeister, Howard, Hudson, Noack, Sos, Storer and Worth. Director Tatzin arrived after the meeting convened.

Staff: Churchill, Sherman, Boehm, Dixit, Glenn, Hill, Johnson, Jones, Martinez, Mitchell, Sanderson and Smith

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Director Hudson moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 21, 2024. Director Hoffmeister seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

Aye:	Directors Andersen, Diaz, Hoffmeister, Howard, Hudson, Noack, Sos, Storer, Wilk and Worth
No:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Director Tatzin

Director Tatzin arrived at 9:09 a.m.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

MTC Transportation Revenue Update

General Manager Bill Churchill provided an update on the regional revenue measure efforts. He stated that the proposed four-county revenue measure encompassing Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties would generate about \$560 million annually, but will not completely mitigate the fiscal cliff -- most notably for San Francisco.

The second potential revenue measure framework has a foundation of five counties, and it could encompass all nine counties but requires an opt in. It is a rather complex hybrid utilizing both a fifty percent sales tax and a 9 cent per square ft parcel tax, and it would generate approximately \$1.3 to \$1.5 billion per year. This measure would mitigate the fiscal cliff for all transit agencies with the potential exception of the SMART rail program in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

The MTC authorized staff to move forward in polling these two options with the public and bring the results back in early February.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Marketing, Planning & Legislation Committee

Pass2Class Report-Information Only

Andrew Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing, gave a brief background stating that the Pass2Class Program was funded by 511 Contra Costa as part of its efforts to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution by reducing the number of cars being driven to school. Pass2Class offered free transportation to Contra Costa students on AC Transit, WestCAT, Tri Delta Transit, and County Connection, thereby encouraging the use of public transit to and from school. Applications were available from July 6 to October 14, 2024, offering each household up to two passes. Once an application was approved, passes were issued and valid for unlimited rides through October 31, 2024 on all County Connection fixed route services. WestCAT, AC Transit, and Tri Delta Transit also participate in the program, offering their own pass products.

This year, 511 Contra Costa issued over 2,024 passes, which is 41 fewer passes than were sold in 2023. Pass2Class users on County Connection fixed routes totaled 48,296 trips (3,712 fewer than in 2023), with 70% of the trips being taken on 600-series school routes, 28% on local routes, and 3% on express and weekend routes.

Pass2Class was promoted across social media through paid ads, at our Mobile Lobby, as well as through the school districts, which shared information on the discounted passes directly with parents.

511 Contra Costa will be reimbursing County Connection at the rate of \$1.00 per ride (the same as our regular youth fare) for a total amount of \$48,926.00. All costs associated with the promotion and marketing of the program were either covered by 511 Contra Costa or included in the FY 2025 Promotions budget.

Operations & Scheduling Committee

Monument Free Program Update – Information Only

Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning, informed the Board that in March 2020, the onset of the shelter-at-home order led to a system-wide decline in ridership as businesses closed and remote work became prevalent. The pandemic exacerbated existing social inequities, as essential workers, often from low-income and minority communities, continued to rely on transit.

While Monument Corridor routes serving predominantly disadvantaged communities experienced a similar initial ridership drop, they have seen a more pronounced recovery compared to other fixed routes. As of October 2024, weekday ridership on Routes 11, 14, and 16 have exceeded pre-pandemic levels. In contrast, on Routes 4, 5, 7, and 99X, which are also free, weekday ridership remains at approximately 65% of pre-pandemic levels.

Post-pandemic shifts in ridership patterns have also impacted weekend service along the Monument Corridor. Routes 311, 314, and 316 have seen a 50% increase in weekend ridership over pre-pandemic levels, whereas, by comparison, weekend ridership on Route 4 is about the same as its pre-pandemic levels.

County Connection prepared a Fare Equity Analysis prior to implementing free fares on the Monument Corridor routes on a permanent basis, as required by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations. The equity analyses and public hearings were conducted in March 2020 for the continuation of weekday free fares, and in December

2022 to add weekend free fares. Given that all six routes serve a higher proportion of low-income and minority riders compared to the system-wide average, both equity analyses concluded that the Monument Free program did not disproportionately impact minority riders or burden low-income riders.

Following these processes, the Board approved making the free fare program permanent, contingent on continued funding availability.

Choice in Aging MOU Extension
Resolution No. 2025-17

John Sanderson, Director of ADA & Specialized Services, explained that in January 2022, following a nearly two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Board again approved a demonstration pilot project as County Connection staff worked with Choice in Aging (CiA) staff to reopen and identify new passengers. The new pilot also included a same-day booking option for the first time, enabling qualified program participants to book same-day trips to CiA using SilverRide ride sharing service. The same-day option was intended to eliminate unforeseen no-shows to the CiA day program and gave other clients the opportunity to benefit from the program by reducing or eliminating unused program placements.

In January 2023, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a one-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CiA for reimbursement of SilverRide program expenses. The Board acted again in December of 2023 to authorize a new MOU allowing County Connection to continue reimbursing CiA's program expenses through December 2024.

Staff has continued to monitor the program over the past two years. On-time performance has remained exemplary, while the anticipated decrease of CiA day-program no shows due to late LINK rides has been sustained since the beginning of the program. At the same time, the CiA - SilverRide program has benefited the LINK program by reducing both trip demand and the administrative load for dispatch during the busiest hours of the day. The proven success of the program for all parties more than justifies County Connection's continued support.

MOTION: Director Storer moved adoption of Resolution No. 2025-17 authorizing the General Manager to enter a new one-year MOU enabling County Connection to reimburse CiA for its SilverRide trip costs. Director Hudson seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

Aye: Directors Andersen, Diaz, Hoffmeister, Howard, Hudson, Noack, Sos, Storer, Tatzin, Wilk and Worth
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Spring Bid Update – Information Only

Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning, explained that ridership has been growing steadily over this past year. This positive trend is particularly pronounced for weekend and school ridership. Weekend ridership has exceeded pre-pandemic levels for over a year, likely due in part to the expansion of the Monument Free program and a shift in travel patterns. Meanwhile, school ridership has also shown a significant recovery, reaching 102% of pre-pandemic levels as of October 2024. Weekday ridership currently sits at 81% of pre-pandemic levels for local routes and 55% for express routes. Overall ridership was at 82% of pre-pandemic level in October 2024.

The Spring Bid, effective January 12, 2025, will introduce several service adjustments. These changes are informed by an analysis of current schedules, ridership levels, passenger feedback, operator recommendations, and resource optimization.

Approval of Revised Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Resolution No. 2025-16

Scott Mitchell, COO, explained that the purpose of the PTASP is to make working on and managing the bus transit system inseparable from delivering safe and "accident-free" service. This covers all the operations on property, onboard our buses, at our bus stops, and everywhere the County Connection operates. To fulfill this purpose, the plan establishes safety programs and practices that prevent accidents, injuries and illnesses; provides guidance on how to prepare for an accident or emergency and provides guidance on how to respond to hazards and incidents.

On September 25, 2024, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a General Directive to address the significant and continuing national-level safety risk related to assaults on transit workers. The General Directive requires each transit agency subject to FTA's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) Final Rule to conduct a safety risk assessment, identify safety risk mitigations or strategies, and provide information to FTA on how it is assessing, mitigating, and monitoring the safety risk associated with assaults on transit workers. Each transit agency serving a large urbanized area must involve the joint labor-management Safety Committee when identifying safety risk mitigations. County Connection followed this process and made updates to the PTASP to respond to the General Directive.

MOTION: Director Storer moved adoption of Resolution No. 2025-16 2025-16, authorizing the General Manager to formally recognize that County Connection has adopted the revised County Connection Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). Director Worth seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

Aye: Directors Andersen, Diaz, Hoffmeister, Howard, Hudson, Noack, Sos, Storer, Tatzin, Wilk and Worth

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

REPORT OF CHAIR:

Presentation of a proclamation honoring the Schroder family for their dedication to County Connection and public transportation in Contra Costa County

Board Chair Kevin Wilk, read the proclamation that is dedicated to Rob Schroder and family. The Board thanked Rob Schroder for his many years of dedication to transportation and wished him well in his next endeavors.

MOTION: Director Wilk moved adoption of A Proclamation Renaming the Administration Building in Honor of the Schroder Family in Recognition of Bob and Rob Schroder's Outstanding Leadership and Service to the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority. Director Sos seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

Aye: Directors Andersen, Diaz, Hoffmeister, Howard, Hudson, Noack, Sos, Storer, Tatzin, Wilk and Worth

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Invitation to attend the unveiling of the renaming of the County Connection Administration Building

Board Chair Kevin Wilk invited all that were in attendance of the Board meeting to come to the main office building to see the unveiling of the newly renamed Schroder Administration Building.

BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Director Wilk acknowledged the opening of the Family Life Center that Director Andersen is heavily involved with. It is a great resource for anyone that is in need.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Wilk adjourned the regular Board meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Lathina Hill

Asst to the General Manager/Clerk to the Board of Directors

Date: January 6, 2025