

# County Connection

2477 Arnold Industrial Way    Concord, CA 94520-5326    (925) 676-7500    countyconnection.com

## CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

February 20, 2025

#### 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, Hillis, Hoffmeister, Noack, Storer and Worth. Directors Rubio and Tatzin arrived after the meeting convened. Director Howard was absent.

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

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:** None

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

**MOTION:** Director Storer moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 16, 2025. Director Hoffmeister seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

#### REPORT OF CHAIR:

Chair Kevin Wilk welcomed new board members, Marisol Rubio and Kerry Hillis.

#### REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

##### Announcement of Bus Rodeo Competition & Employee Awards

General Manager Bill Churchill informed the board that our annual Bus Rodeo competition and Employee Awards ceremony will be held this Saturday, February 22. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

##### Upcoming Board Workshop Reminder scheduled for March 20, 2025

Director Tatzin arrived at 9:08 a.m.

General Manager Bill Churchill reminded the Board that the Board workshop is scheduled for March 20, 2025 and lunch will be provided.

## Federal Policy Update

General Manager Bill Churchill explained that since January 27th there have been a number of memos, lawsuits and court orders potentially impacting the distribution of federal dollars for public transit. It feels like we are all watching a tennis match with all the back and forth and none of us know where the ball will eventually land.

One memo we received was issued on January 31st by the new Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy, titled “Ensuring Reliance Upon Sound Economic Analysis in DOT Policies Programs and Activities”. This memo, while open to some interpretation and which may not have full legal authority, essentially states that the DOT will not disperse funds that do not comply with a social value calculation as laid out by the new administration. The memo is clear that the DOT will not disperse funds that would impose vaccine & mask mandates. Additionally, funds to be distributed would require local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement and other goals and objectives specified (but not listed in the memo) by the President of the United States.

He believes our normal formula funds (typically 5307) that we use for vehicle replacements and some ADA Paratransit services will most likely be distributed. This represents about \$21.5 million in FY25 and FY26 grants. However, the non-formula discretionary funds and the \$4 million in Community Project Funds carried by Congressman DeSaulnier for a total of \$11.6 million may be at risk.

## State Legislative Update

Director Rubio arrived at 9:16 a.m.

General Manager Bill Churchill explained that Senator Wiener has submitted SB63, a placeholder for a bill that would support a Bay Area Region tax measure for funding public transportation and other things. Additionally, Senator Weiner and Senator Arreguin have proposed to the legislature a \$2 billion dollar “bridge” allocation from the general fund to support BART, CalTrain, SFMTA and AC Transit through their immediate fiscal cliffs. It is unclear at this time whether if the legislature and the Governor were to agree to this, the region would still move forward with seeking authorization for a regional measure this year.

It seems highly unlikely that a \$2 billion transit ask would prevail given the enormous expense the LA region has for fire recovery. Indeed, the State has already passed AB 4 X1 and SBX1-3 sponsored by (Wiener & Gabriel) to collectively provide \$2.5 billion for initial emergency response and recovery from the general fund.

MTC spent the month of January polling residents across the Bay Area regarding the funding of public transit with the hope the results would inform the development of a framework for a regional measure. These polling results were presented to the joint MTC/QABAG legislation Committee on Friday last week. While many that attended the meeting considered the results promising, it is clear to me when taking into account the error factor we just barely get over the 50% threshold for a citizens initiative and nowhere close to a two thirds vote.

AB 394 has been introduced (Wilson), a bill that would extend protections to all transit employees from individuals that engage in violent behavior. Current law only provides protections for public transit operators, not contracted operators or field supervisors or stations agents. Wilson's office is working with the ATU, Teamsters and the California Transit Association in the development of the bill. CTA has reached out to me for input on the language once developed. Wilson is considering language that would more explicitly allow public transit agencies to suspend disruptive passengers from riding the buses. This is primarily where CTA has requested my input, as County Connection has a passenger suspension policy that was developed in coordination with the FTA and its Civil rights office back in 2015.

## Electric Bus Update

Scott Mitchell, COO, informed the Board that we currently have four electric buses running and we are contacting different agencies to see about getting used equipment to support our buses. Although we are not working with our full capacity of electric buses, we are getting more buses up and running as we speak. As new developments occur, we will continue to update the Board.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee**

#### APTA AdWheel Award Update – Information Only

Andrew M. Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing, gave brief background stating that every year, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) conducts an awards program called AdWheel that recognizes marketing, communication, and customer experience programs from public transportation agencies across the country. AdWheel Awards fall under three main categories for Best Marketing and Communications: Workforce Development, Increase in Ridership or Sales, and Educational Initiative. Within those categories, first place awards are given for each of five subcategories (print media, electronic media, special event, social media, and comprehensive campaign), with the winners honored at the annual APTA Marketing, Communications, & Customer Experience Workshop, held this year in Long Beach, CA. From there, a single Grand Award winner will be chosen for each of the three main categories, who are honored at the annual APTA TRANSform Convention, held this year in Boston, MA.

For this year's competition, staff submitted a social media campaign from March 2024 that recognized Transit Operator & Worker Appreciation Day. To build this campaign, staff first put out a call online asking County Connection passengers to submit messages to our transit workers through an online form. There were close to 100 submissions, from which staff developed a graphics template that included the submitted message as well as the first name of the person, their age, and city. Additionally, staff prepared mixed-media posts with three County Connection staff, representing our operators, maintenance team, and customer service staff. Transit Operator & Worker Appreciation Day was March 18, 2024, and the graphics were shared across social media throughout the day.

Staff learned in January that the marketing team had won first place for Best Marketing and Communications on Workforce Development (subcategory: social media). Ryan Jones, County Connection's Manager of Marketing & Communications, will receive this award at the annual APTA Marketing, Communications, & Customer Experience Workshop, held later this month in Long Beach. The Grand Award winners will be notified in mid-summer.

### **Operations & Scheduling Committee**

#### Security Guard Services Contract\* Resolution No. 2025-019

Scott Mitchell, COO, informed the Board that on November 7, 2024, staff published a Request for Proposals for security guard services. The services to be provided include one full-time patrol guard on-site for all contracted hours, including communication with their 24-hour dispatch center.

On December 6, 2024, County Connection received one (1) proposal. The one proposal was from the Guardian Security Agency.

Guardian Security Agency opened in 1992. They are located 3.8 miles from County Connection's facility and have approximately 100 security officers and 16 supervisors. Guardian Security Agency is a woman-owned small

business certified by the Supplier Clearinghouse for the Utility Supplier Diversity Program of the California Public Utilities Commission as a Women’s Business Enterprise.

County Connection is in need of a quality security service to protect its assets and personnel during the late night and weekend hours. Staff has determined that this firm is capable of providing the quality of service needed to protect Authority assets.

MOTION: Director Noack moved approval of Resolution No. 2025-19, that awards the contract to Guardian Security Agency for a three (3) year period with the option for two 1-year extensions for on-site security services. The first three (3) years not to exceed \$406,996.56. Director Worth seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

BART Bus Bridge Update – Information Only

Miguel Duenas, Manager of Transportation, explained that County Connection and BART have a long-standing partnership to provide bus bridges on the Yellow Line. This partnership has been essential in protecting the regional trips coming into and out of Contra Costa County. Scheduled BART Bus Bridges are agreed upon well in advance. They are designed to allow BART to conduct critical track and equipment maintenance to maximize system reliability and safety. Unscheduled bus bridges result from an assortment of emergencies ranging from equipment failures, power outages, fires, derailments, and unauthorized individuals entering the track area. During these emergencies, staff must respond quickly to design and implement a solution. In most cases, County Connection can respond within fifteen to twenty minutes by deploying buses on the road and mitigating emergencies.

The most recent unscheduled emergency BART Bus Bridge was on the early morning of Thursday, January 23, 2025. At approximately 03:45 a.m., there was a vehicle accident on eastbound Highway 4 before the Bailey Road exit that involved a fatality. The vehicle jumped over the center divider and ended up on the BART tracks near the Pittsburg / Bay Point station. BART service was impacted by the accident; no trains were running between the Antioch BART Station and North Concord.

County Connection provided a total of 6 buses for the BART Bus Bridge. Five were dedicated to the Bus Bridge, and the sixth was mutual aid from our 93X route. We moved a total of 1,112 passengers on the bus bridge. The bridge started at 04:00 a.m. and ended at 07:32 a.m.

Automated Driving Systems (ADS) Demonstration Project Update – Verbal Update

John Sanderson, Director of Accessible Services, provided an overview of the ADS pilot project in Martinez. While the project MOU between County Connection, CCTA, and May Mobility considered Autonomous Vehicle Operators (AVOs) as County Connection’s in-kind match, concerns about Auto Liability insurance coverage arose before the project’s launch, and still have not been satisfactorily resolved. Although the insurance coverage provided by May Mobility appears to cover all aspects of the project, including the AVOs when in performance of their duties, full documentation of that coverage has not yet been provided by May Mobility. A minor fender bender in January highlighted this liability issue, and due to the lack of resolution regarding May Mobility's insurance coverage, the AVOs have been pulled from service on the ADS pilot and temporarily reassigned to providing paratransit service. Mr. Sanderson added that CCTA has agreed to cover any additional insurance costs once a permanent solution is determined.

**BOARD COMMUNICATION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Wilk adjourned the regular Board meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Lathina Hill

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

Date: March 13, 2025