

**Summary Minutes
Operations & Scheduling Committee
Friday, May 2, 8:30 a.m.**

Directors: Robert Storer, Marisol Rubio
Staff: Bill Churchill, Scott Mitchell, Andrew Smith, John Sanderson, Pranjali Dixit, Judy Barrientos
Public: None

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Director Storer.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda.

2. Public Communication

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2025

The Committee approved the minutes.

4. IDEA Transit Signal Priority Update

Mr. Dixit presented an overview of the IDEA Transit Signal Priority (TSP) project, a collaborative effort between County Connection, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), the Cities of Concord and Walnut Creek, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). This project involves deploying a centralized conditional TSP system on select County Connection buses operating on routes within the partner cities, with the long-term goal of system-wide implementation. The TSP system functions by automatically requesting real-time adjustments to traffic signal timing from buses, either extending green light durations or shortening red light durations. Mr. Dixit reported to the committee that preliminary analysis of the before-and-after study indicates positive outcomes, including a reduction in signal delays for buses, decreased overall travel times and fuel consumption, and improved on-time performance.

In response to Director Storer's inquiry regarding the system's longevity, Mr. Churchill explained that the cloud-based TSP approach was selected to enhance the technology's lifespan by utilizing existing onboard hardware.

5. Diesel Tank Replacement

Mr. Mitchell provided an update regarding the diesel tank replacement, which was initially presented to the Board in September 2024. He reported that while the Board had authorized the replacement of two underground fuel tanks, subsequent meetings with contractors and the Contra Costa Health Services Hazardous Material program led to a revised project scope. The new plan is to close the

existing two 25,000-gallon underground fuel tanks in place and replace them with two above-ground 25,000-gallon tanks.

Responding to Director Rubio's question about potential drawbacks of abandoning the existing underground tanks, Mr. Mitchell clarified that the tanks would be filled with slurry to prevent any negative impacts. The Committee agreed to the staff's recommendation to the Board to approve the purchase of two fuel tanks and related equipment from Source Fueling Equipment Solutions, utilizing pricing from the Sourcewell Contract, for an amount not to exceed \$390,210.

6. Automated Driving Systems (ADS) Demonstration Project Update

Mr. Sanderson presented an overview of the Automated Driving System (ADS) pilot project in Martinez. He reported that planning with May Mobility and CCTA is ongoing to extend the service hours to begin earlier in the day. He also highlighted the project's participation in the Countywide Mobility Tour, where Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) were demonstrated, showcasing their operation and how the Autonomous Vehicle Operators (AVOs) assist in securing wheelchair passengers. Mr. Sanderson emphasized the crucial role of attendants in any AV project aiming to serve individuals with mobility disabilities.

Mr. Churchill added to the discussion, explaining that increasing the number of vehicles, whether AVs or Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), can contribute to traffic congestion and reduced speeds on existing roads as evidenced in San Francisco. He also stressed that the pricing of rides on AVs or TNCs could exclude riders in equity priority communities due to affordability issues.

7. Monthly Ridership Reports

Mr. Dixit reported a 2% increase in ridership compared to March 2024, bringing the year-to-date recovery to 84% of pre-pandemic levels. Systemwide productivity remains robust at 14 passengers per revenue hour, exceeding pre-pandemic figures. He noted the growing ongoing operator shortage. Mr. Churchill provided context, explaining that the Employee Test Program, which allowed staff to test and certify operators, was put on hold by the DMV, limiting staff certification to those holding a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). In response to the DMV's request, the agency revised the test route but has not yet received approval. If this issue is resolved, staff would be able to resume hiring drivers without a CDL and conduct in-house certification.

Mr. Sanderson reported a 5.8% increase in paratransit ridership compared to the previous year. However, he also noted a related increase in program costs due to this higher demand. He explained that typically, increased demand should lead to higher productivity, suggesting that the contractor's productivity standard, established during the pandemic, may be re-evaluated in upcoming contract negotiations. While on-time performance figures are currently strong, Mr. Sanderson stated that staff is working on refining the metric to reflect timeliness more accurately.

8. Committee Comments

None

9. Future Agenda Items

None

10. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 6 at 8:30 a.m. in the Small Community Meeting Room at the Pleasant Hill City Hall located at 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Pranjali Dixit, Manager of Planning