

County Connection

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Agenda Item 5.a.

CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

September 18, 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, Farley, Hillis, Noack, Rubio, Storer, Tatzin and Wilk. Directors Hoffmeister and Worth arrived after the meeting convened.

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Director Noack moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 17, 2025; (b) Investment Report as of June 30, 2025; (c) Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award – FY 2025-26 and Resolution No. 2026-11. Director Rubio seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

REPORT OF CHAIR:

Election of CCCTA Officers

MOTION: Director Andersen moved approval of the Election of CCCTA Officer:

Chair: Robert Storer

Vice Chair: Laura Hoffmeister

Secretary: Tim Farley

Director Noack seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

Seating of New CCCTA Officers and Announcement of 2025-2026 Committee Assignments

Director Worth arrived at 9:04 a.m.

Administration & Finance Committee

Laura Hoffmeister, Sue Noack and Don Tatzin

Marketing, Planning & Legislation Committee

Candace Andersen, Marisol Rubio, Kevin Wilk and Amy Worth

Operations & Scheduling Committee

Jim Diaz, Tim Farley and Kerry Hillis

Director Hoffmeister arrived at 9:06 a.m.

Chair Wilk informed the Board that the Closed Session regarding the General Manager position will be pushed back to October 2025.

REPORT OF ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER:

Recognition of employees

Don Avelar-35 years

Rom Allison-24 years

Ruby Horta was named Top 40 under 40 in the nation.

State Legislative Update

General Manager Bill Churchill stated that SB63 did, in fact, pass the Legislature and is now on the Governor's desk. Despite a myriad of amendments that seemed to be changing the bill almost from hour to hour to hour, it finally passed. The three transit operators in Contra Costa will have \$15.7 billion a year if the Governor signs it and the voters vote for it next year. Roughly, that will translate to, and those numbers are not yet finalized, about \$6.5 million a year in new revenues for this agency. It would represent the single largest influx of new revenue this agency has received in over 30 years.

Those funds are eligible for transit capital, transit operations, and repaving on roadways that have transit routes.

Julie Sherman, Legal Counsel discussed SB707. This is the bill that reforms the Brown Act and would give advisory bodies or subsidiary bodies the ability to conduct their meetings in a remote manner. This bill had a lot of hands on it and went through a lot of amendments. There's a lot of issues with provisions that are not drafted well. It is anticipated that there will be some cleanup. We are still keeping an eye on this and will keep the Board informed.

Joint Legislative State Audit Committee Update

Bill Churchill, General Manager, informed the Board that he testified in front of the JLAC committee regarding the state auditor auditing a number of Bay Area transit operators for the purposes of exploring consolidation. He cannot discuss, either in closed session or open session, any details of the audit. He would be subject to a misdemeanor if he did. It's expected to take, about 6 months. The auditors do not think they will be done until sometime in April. There will be a final report, and we will have an opportunity to provide our own comments.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Route 4 Restructuring Proposal

Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning, explained that Route 4 historically provided a direct connection between Walnut Creek BART and downtown Walnut Creek, including traveling along Broadway Plaza (the street that passes through the shopping mall of the same name). After the construction of the Plaza Escuela shopping center and southerly extension of Locust Street in the early 2000s, the route was restructured to incorporate a figure-8 movement along Botelho Drive and Locust Street, thereby adding two-left turns and necessitating travel along Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Locust Street to Main Street in both inbound and outbound directions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Broadway Plaza (the street) was closed for security reasons, forcing a rerouting to travel along South Broadway and Newell Avenue. Following the pandemic, ridership and traffic increased, creating significant congestion that affected the route's on-time performance. In addition to general traffic, the route's numerous left turns and frequent stops to accommodate its popularity caused delays leading reduced time for charging electric buses. As a result, staff will be proposing a new alignment of Route 4.

Staff has partnered with the City of Walnut Creek and RCD Housing on an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant for the Civic Crossing project, a new affordable housing development at 699 Ygnacio Valley Road.

The grant provides County Connection with a total of \$4.15 million over the course of five years for the expanded service on the Route 4. The costs associated with operating the additional service are fully covered by the grant, which will fund these expenses for approximately five years. Staff will be presenting a Title VI Equity Analysis and holding a public hearing at the October Board meeting for potential approval of the proposed service.

Youth Ride Free Pilot Update

Ryan Jones, Manager of Marketing and Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning, gave a brief background stating that the Youth Ride Free (YRF) pilot program, administered by County Connection, was a self-funded two-month pilot with the goal of getting area youth to ride public transportation. Prior to the summer launch, the program grew countywide to include Tri Delta Transit and WestCAT, both of which built their marketing materials using County Connection's marketing toolkit to ensure a unified brand image. WestCAT required youth to show an ID to board, but otherwise, the pilot was the same across the three agency service areas.

With the YRF pilot now complete, County Connection staff have reviewed the extensive data that was collected to determine the program's efficacy. County Connection's bus operators used their Mobile Data Terminals to track youth boardings for the YRF pilot, consistent with past student pass programs. Additional systems, including Automatic Passenger Counters and Automatic Vehicle Location, provided detailed ridership and trip data such as Passenger Miles Traveled and average trip length. Over the course of the two-month pilot, youth riders collectively traveled over 95,500 miles, averaging 3.86 miles per trip. All direct costs of the program will be covered under the existing marketing promotions budget.

Directors Andersen and Noack left at 10:42 a.m.

Operations & Scheduling Committee

Underground Storage Tanks In Place Closure Resolution No. 2026-09

Scott Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer explained that County Connection issued an Invitation for Bids for the Underground Storage Tanks In Place Closure Project. The Bid was advertised on County Connection’s website and in the Contra Costa Times. At the bid opening on July 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., three (3) bids were received from interested contractors. The bids received were 1) American Integrated Services, Inc., \$232,920.00, 2) Armer Norman & Associates, \$233,200.00, and 3) GEMS Environmental Management Services, Inc., \$249,396.69

MOTION: Director Farley moved adoption of adopt Resolution No. 2026-09 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a Contract with American Integrated Services, Inc. for the Tank Closure Project. Director Wilk seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

Electric Bus Update*
Resolution No. 2026-08

Scott Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer gave a brief background stating that in 2016 and 2017, County Connection purchased a total of eight (8) battery electric buses. These buses used a 4C Proprietary Battery Management System that required an Efacec charge controller that could only utilize an Efacec plug-in charger for charging at the facility in Concord. The buses also utilize the WAVE System for on-route charging.

Efacec stopped supporting its equipment in 2018. County Connection, with assistance from Gillig, retrofitted the batteries and updated the Battery Management System to BAE in 2020, but could not update the charge controllers at that time. County Connection has used the Wireless Advanced Vehicle Electrification, Inc. (WAVE) inductive charger exclusively since that time to keep its buses in service. This has presented challenges because WAVE has had issues supporting its equipment, which has resulted in significant unscheduled downtime of the electric buses.

MOTION: Director Rubio moved adoption of Resolution No. 2026-08 authorizing the General Manager to execute a sole source contract with Gillig LLC to update the batteries, battery management system, and the charger controllers for eight battery electric buses, for an amount not to exceed \$804,112. Director Hillis seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

Clever Insights Contract
Resolution No. 2026-10

Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning stated that the upgraded Clever Insights platform is a web-based reporting solution that provides planners and dispatchers easy access to service information. This new software allows staff to create customized reports and test various data processing scenarios without compromising the integrity of the core data.

Clever Reports will provide new metrics that staff have previously been unable to track, including operator performance, miles, and hours for "deadhead" trips, as well as time-series and map data on vehicle-dispatch communication outages. In the future, this new functionality will also allow County Connection to securely share

data with third-party vendors in a standardized manner. The upgrade to Clever Insights and the addition of Clever Reports will result in a three-year cost increase of \$28,152.91 to the existing Clever Devices annual maintenance contract.

MOTION: Director Rubio moved adoption of Resolution No. 2026-10, authorizing the General Manager to execute the amendment to the Clever Devices maintenance contract. Director Hillis seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

Year-end Fixed Route Report* Information Only

Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning explained that the fixed route ridership increased slightly in fiscal year FY2025, primarily driven by continued increases in usage by transit dependent riders, increased weekend usage, and fare promotions such as Youth Ride Free. Missed trips increased due to the continued operator shortage. Additionally, County Connection implemented a new data platform for providing improved real-time information to passengers and tracking service disruptions such as detours and trip cancellations to help dispatch and customer service staff.

From August to June, various service adjustments were implemented to improve bus performance and efficiency. Changes in August focused on minor route and schedule adjustments to enhance on-time performance in the Concord, Walnut Creek, and Lamorinda areas. In November, schedules were modified to improve on-time performance and layover times for routes in Concord and Martinez, with an additional bus added to a school route to reduce overcrowding in Walnut Creek. January saw more schedule modifications for routes in Concord and Walnut Creek, along with a route change in the Concord industrial area due to a facility relocation. Finally, in June, weekend routes in Concord and Pleasant Hill were adjusted to align with the Bay Area Transit Reliability and Accessibility Network Scheduling Framework and Equitable Regional Plan (TRANSFER Plan), improving bus-to-bus connections at Concord BART. This period also saw a weekend route in the Lamorinda area get extended evening service.

Usage on employer and school pass programs saw a substantial boost, driven by the success of programs like Youth Ride Free and Pass2Class. Clipper usage among fare-paying passengers continued to grow, which can be attributed to enhanced discounts on the Clipper START and Clipper Youth programs, as well as the wider adoption of the Clipper Mobile app. On average, Clipper usage among fare-paying riders reached 81.5%, surpassing the pre-COVID average of 76.4%. Information Item Only.

Public Comment: Glenn Overtrue spoke to the Board regarding safety for the passengers that ride the bus. He has witnessed bus drivers driving fast and making abrupt stops.

Year-end Paratransit Report* Information Only

John Sanderson, Director of Accessible Services, gave a brief background stating that FY25 marked another year of transition for County Connection's Americans with Disabilities Act and non-ADA paratransit programs and services. While demand continues to rebound toward pre-pandemic levels, FY25 was characterized by higher trip volumes, longer average trip distances, and continued increases in operating costs for the County Connection LINK program.

The LAVTA Dial-a-Ride service, operated under contract, experienced modest declines in ridership and service hours but small gains in efficiency. The One-Seat Ride program continued to grow and demonstrated major

efficiency improvements, while non-ADA initiatives such as the Low-Income Fare Equity program, Choice in Aging partnership, and the Autonomous Driving System pilot continued to expand and mature

For FY25, staff budgeted \$8 million for LINK operations, \$2 million for LAVTA Dial-a-Ride, and \$896,309 for other associated costs. Actual LINK costs came in 3.7% below budget. LAVTA costs came in 14.1% below budget, though ridership declines affected cost-per-trip measures.

The OSR program, including all partner costs, was budgeted to operate at 737,827. Total costs in FY2025 amounted to \$1.1 million exceeding the budgeted amount. All variances have been incorporated into the FY26 financial outlook. Information Item Only.

Year-end Automated Driving System (ADS) Project Report* Information Only

John Sanderson, Director of Accessible Services explained that in July 2023, CCTA entered into an agreement with May Mobility, Inc. to provide the vehicles and AV technology for the Martinez pilot. Per the project agreement between CCTA and May Mobility, County Connection was designated as providing the autonomous vehicle operators for the project. In May 2024, following several months of discussions, staff were able to execute a three-party memorandum of understanding with CCTA and May Mobility outlining roles and responsibilities, as well as the actual scope of services to be provided by the program. Under the MOU, County Connection provides all AVOs for the project through our paratransit operations and maintenance contract with Transdev, with the first three AVOs funded by County Connection, and CCTA providing reimbursement for any additional AVOs. The AVOs are all Transdev employees and members of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU). Although originally scheduled to coincide with the start of the Fiscal Year on July 1, 2024 the actual commencement of pilot operations was delayed until September 16, 2024.

The Martinez ADS pilot has been a valuable learning experience for all concerned, if not entirely successful by traditional transit performance standards, and has enabled CCTA and May Mobility to gather significant AV telemetry, which will be used to further the development of AV technology.

Due to the nature of the project and the uncharted territory around automated technology, labor's role, a pandemic, and the other unforeseen challenges, such as insurance coverages, new types of relationships and agreements were developed.

This delay in reaching an agreement on partner roles and responsibilities, program funding, and the scope of the pilot project itself resulted in a drastically constrained planning and implementation timeline for the design and scheduling of the pilot the service, recruitment, and training of AVOs, and development of the needed contract amendment between County Connection and Transdev to cover the AVOs.

While the ADS pilot has encountered its share of challenges, some bright spots also stand out, particularly the contributions of the AVOs individually, as well as the ATU institutionally. The Martinez ADS pilot remains the only AV project in the US using organized labor in the AVO role.

While there will be a role for AV technology in the future of public transit, what that role will be is still largely hypothetical. Similarly, while the emergence of AVs is likely to redefine organized labor's traditional roles in transit operations, experience with the Martinez ADS project clearly demonstrates that the need for well qualified human personnel onboard public transit vehicles will persist for the foreseeable future.

Total costs for the Martinez pilot project were originally projected at just over \$2.7 million, including approximately \$500,000 for County Connection's in-kind contribution in the form three full-time AVO positions for one year. In FY2025, County Connection paid out just under \$220,000 for AVO labor hours, of which approximately \$96,000 is reimbursable by CCTA. Considering the lower-than-expected actual costs as well as the missed operating time from the delayed start of operations and the hiatus during February and March, the term of the project has been extended through the end of December 2025. Project costs through the end of the calendar

year are still expected to come in below initial projections and have been included in the FY2026 budget. Information Item Only.

Public Comment: Jack Hall and Tim Haile representing CCTA, made a presentation regarding the Automated Driving System (ADS) Project Report and the impacts it has had on CCTA.

Report of the Advisory Committee

- a) Re-appointment of Sarah Birdwell to the County Connection Advisory Committee representing Contra Costa County*
- b) Appointment of Michael Carr, to the County Connection Advisory Committee representing the Town of Danville*
- c) Appointment of Matthew Guo to the County Connection Advisory Committee as an At-Large Representative*

MOTION: Director Farley moved Re-appointment of Sarah Birdwell to the County Connection Advisory Committee representing Contra Costa County, Appointment of Michael Carr, to the County Connection Advisory Committee representing the Town of Danville and Appointment of Matthew Guo to the County Connection Advisory Committee as an At-Large Representative. Director Rubio seconded the motion, and it received the following vote of approval:

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

BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Director Hillis informed the Board that he is stepping down from the CCCTA/LAVTA Ad-Hoc Committee.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board of Directors went into closed session at 11:25 a.m. to discuss the following:
Conference with Chief Negotiator and Labor Counsel Concerning ATU local 1605, Teamsters local 856 & Machinists Lodge 190 collective bargaining agreements and negotiations (pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)

OPEN SESSION: Closed Session Report

The Board of Directors entered back into open session at 11:47 a.m. The Board gave direction to its negotiator.

BOARD COMMUNICATION:

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Wilk adjourned the regular Board meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

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

Date: October 6, 2025