

County Connection

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Agenda Item 4.a.

CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

November 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/CONFIRM QUORUM

Chair Robert Storer called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. Board Members present were Directors Andersen, Diaz, Farley, Hoffmeister (remote), Rubio, Tatzin and Worth. Directors Hillis, Noack and Wilk were absent.

Staff: Churchill, Louie, Glenn, Boehm, Carroll, Glenn, Hill, Jones, Mitchell, Olivia, Sanderson and Smith

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

Judy Barrientos, ATU President, informed the Board that she and Bill Churchill attended a ATU mentoring program conference. It helps to fill in the gaps between trainees, ATU long term members as well as administration. She stated that it was a great experience and expressed interest in working with administration in the future with these types of conferences.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Director Tatzin moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following item: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 16, 2025. Director Rubio seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

REPORT OF CHAIR:

Chair Storer stated that he would like to move the closed session item to be after the report of the general manager, in case anyone needs to leave early due to prior engagements.

MOTION: Director Farley moved approval to change the order of the agenda. Director Rubio seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

CCCTA/LAVTA Paratransit Ad Hoc Committee Assignment

Bill Churchill, General Manager stated that Director Hillis was appointed last June to the joint County Connection & LAVTA Ad Hoc Committee following the departure of Director Hudson from the Board. This Committee has existed for many years but has been primarily focused on the County Connection and LAVTA collaboration for deployment of paratransit services that began in April 2021. Unfortunately, Director Hillis is not able to remain on the Ad Hoc Committee and has informed the General Manager that he is stepping down. There has never been a collaboration such as this in the State of California in providing paratransit services. In order to effectively maintain our partnership, the General Manager thinks it is imperative the Board select another Director to fill this position.

Chair Storer asked the Board members who was interested and after some discussion, he appointed Tim Farley to represent the authority.

Electric Bus Update

General Manager Bill Churchill informed the Board that we are still having issues with our electric buses. Scott Mitchell, COO, explained that one company is closing down, and another company will take over. We will begin talks with the new company to see if they will be able to help us. County Connection is not required to purchase additional electric buses until 2029 with delivery occurring around 2031. As new developments occur, staff will continue to update the Board.

Update on PEPR

Bill Churchill, General Manager, introduced the item and turned it over to our Attorney, Dayna Louie. She informed the Board of a recent lawsuit filed with the Department of Labor regarding PEPR's application to transit agency employees under Collective Bargaining Agreements. She gave a brief summary about how the Department of Labor and courts have handled this issue in the past, and stated that the Department of Labor has changed its position on the issue over time. She is monitoring and tracking the case and will report back to the Board with updates.

Re-Scheduling of Paratransit Workshop

General Manager, Bill Churchill led a discussion on rescheduling the Board workshop that was previously scheduled for the October 2025 Board meeting. After some discussion, it was determined that the next Board workshop will be on January 15, 2025, immediately following the regular Board meeting.

Thanksgiving Feast on November 20, 2025

General Manager, Bill Churchill invited the Board members to today's Thanksgiving feast, that will be here onsite, immediately following this meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board of Directors went into closed session at 9:39 a.m. to discuss the following:

- a) Conference with Chief Negotiator and Labor Counsel Concerning ATU local 1605 & Teamsters 856 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 9:50 a.m.

Report of Action(s) taken during the Closed Session:

Direction was given to labor negotiator.

Director Andersen left at 9:50 a.m.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration & Finance Committee

Paratransit Service Contract Extension – One-Year Option Term Resolution No. 2026-015

John Sanderson, Director of ADA & Specialized Services, gave a brief background stating that the current contract with Transdev Services, Inc., to provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit and related services took effect on July 1, 2022, and includes a four-year “base” term, plus a single one-year “option” term. The fourth and final year of the Transdev contract’s base term runs out June 30, 2026. However, County Connection has the right under the contract to extend the term of the contract through June 30, 2027, by exercising the one-year option and providing written notice to Transdev.

In addition to considerations about Transdev’s contract performance to date, and the requirements for a successful successor contract, the County Connection/LAVTA Paratransit Ad-Hoc Committee must be given the time and space to finish its work by issuing a joint recommendation to the County Connection and LAVTA Boards of Directors, regarding the partnership between County Connection and LAVTA, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to govern the partnership, and guidance for a joint procurement and combined contract for paratransit services. As of this writing, three Ad-Hoc meetings have been conducted, with additional meetings planned for the third quarter of FY26. While the Ad-Hoc committee has not issued a formal recommendation, the members have directed staff to proceed with the execution of the option year.

Extending the current contract will also enable County Connection and LAVTA to negotiate a new mutually satisfactory MOU before developing the scope of work for the new contract and will provide enough time for the Ad-Hoc committee to fully explore the relationship between agencies, considerations regarding the current contract, and potential near future political developments related to transit funding and regulations.

MOTION: Director Tatzin moved adoption of Resolution No. 2026-15, 15 authorizing the General Manager be to execute the one-year option term with Transdev. Director Noack seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

Aye: Directors Diaz, Farley, Hoffmeister, Rubio, Storer, Tatzin and Worth

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Directors Andersen, Hillis, Noack, and Wilk

Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Pass2Class Report – Information Only

Ryan Jones, Manager of Marketing & Communications, gave a brief background stating that the Pass2Class Program is a two-month student pass program administered each year by the Contra Costa Transportation

Authority (CCTA) through its 511 Contra Costa program. 511 Contra Costa determines how many passes are issued to each participating agency through a job/housing formula, which is adjusted every 10 years with the Census. The program came about as an effort to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution by reducing the number of cars being driven to school.

Through an application process, the Pass2Class program offers up to two free transit passes per household to Contra Costa County students on AC Transit, WestCAT, Tri Delta Transit, or County Connection, thereby encouraging the use of public transit to and from school. This year's applications for County Connection passes were accepted from July 7 to August 7, 2025. All available passes were allotted, and the passes were valid for unlimited rides through September 30, 2025 on all County Connection fixed route services.

This year, 511 Contra Costa issued 1,611 County Connection passes, which is 413 fewer passes than were issued in 2024. Pass2Class users took a total of 32,217 trips on County Connection this year, with 71% of the trips being taken on 600-series school routes, 27% on local routes, and 1% on express and weekend routes.

In coordination with 511 Contra Costa, County Connection staff promoted Pass2Class across social media through paid ads, at our Mobile Lobby, and directly with parents through the school districts. Additionally at the start of the school year, staff attended in-person orientations at Oak Grove, Pine Hollow, and Gale Ranch middle schools, where they promoted Youth Clipper Cards and encouraged parents and students to register for Pass2Class. During these events, staff collected 120 Youth Clipper applications. Nine Zoom sessions were also scheduled, grouped by district and grade level, to share information about County Connection services, the 600-series school routes, and trip-planning tips.

511 Contra Costa will be reimbursing County Connection at the rate of \$1.00 per ride (the same as our youth Clipper fare) for a total amount of \$32,217. All costs associated with the promotion and marketing of the program were either covered by 511 Contra Costa or included in the FY 2026 Promotions budget.

Operations & Scheduling Committee

Schedule Change Overview – Information Only

Andrew M. Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing, gave a brief background stating that up to four times a year, County Connection updates its service and schedules to reflect current passenger demands, traffic conditions, school schedules, staffing, and funding availability. These service changes occur with the start of the four annual bid periods, commonly known as Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Bids. Two of the four bids are aligned with other Bay Area transit agencies, with dates in January and August.

County Connection has made 69 service or schedule changes over the last five years. Of these changes, 33 were made at the request of the ATU. Most of these changes were in response to increasing post-COVID traffic congestion, though some were for the purpose of improving transfer connections, increasing layover times, or shifting layover times to different parts of a route.

Clipper 2.0 Update – Information Only

Andrew M. Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing, explained that on December 10, 2025, Clipper 2.0 (also known as Next Generation Clipper) will go into effect, providing many new features for transit passengers. As described by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), "Clipper 2.0 is a wholesale replacement of the entire backend system and most customer facing fare devices, as well as modernization of retail and customer service and expanded fare media options, including mobile and other capabilities."

Over the course of the eight to 12 weeks following the December 10th starting date, individual Clipper cards will automatically transition to Clipper 2.0, and cardholders will not be able to take advantage of the new features until their card is upgraded. However, cardholders will be able to self-initiate the upgrade, rather than waiting for it to happen automatically, by logging into the Clipper website, using the Clipper app, or calling the Clipper customer service center on or after December 10th.

With the new option to pay fares using contactless credit or debit cards, transit passengers will need to be aware of something called card clash. Until now, many passengers would pay with their Clipper card by holding their wallet or purse up to the card reader, with the radio signal able to reach the card inside. However, now that credit and debit cards will be accepted, the card reader won't know which card to charge if there are multiple cards close to one another. Clipper's public information campaign includes additional campaign materials specific to the card clash issue, educating riders to remove their Clipper, credit, or debit card from their wallet or purse when using it to pay their fare.

We are exciting to be moving into this new phase of Clipper and will report back in the coming months.

Bus-on-Shoulder Update – Information Only

Yvette Glenn, Director of Transportation explained that as part of the I-680 Bus-on-Shoulder Pilot Project, a County Connection bus was equipped with on-board advanced safety technology, specifically the Mobileye Shield collision-avoidance system. This technology enhances operator awareness and overall roadway safety.

Additionally, the bus was equipped with technology that actively communicates with traffic light signals for the purpose of preventing vehicles from entering the freeway at onramps when the bus traveling on the shoulder is passing by.

The operation scenario testing phase was scheduled for the week of October 6–10, 2025 at GoMentum station providing a safe contained environment to conduct realistic live testing. During this period, multiple test scenarios were conducted to assess the technology, feasibility and safety of bus-on-shoulder operations in a multitude of traffic situations.

County Connection staff is profoundly grateful for CCTA's leadership in setting the stage for the development of a bus on shoulder program that will likely have a statewide impact. This effort represents a great example of collaboration between CCTA and County Connection with the goal of enhancing transportation.

Update on Issuance of Non-Domiciled Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDL) – Verbal Update

Kristina Martinez, Director of Human Resources, stated that about 4% of our workforce could be impacted. As of right now, DMV is not issuing any new licenses or renewing licenses but they are not taking away those licenses that are still valid. As new information comes out, we will update the Board.

BOARD COMMUNICATION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Storer adjourned the regular Board meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Lathina Hill

Date: December 3, 2025

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