County Connection

Summary Minutes
Advisory Committee (Ad-Comm)
Thursday, August 6, 2026

Members Present:
Allison Picard, City of Martinez
John Crowe, City of Pleasant Hill
Subhang Mall, At-Large (ZOOM)
Jeanette Green, City of Concord (ZOOM)
Sean Barry, At-Large
Anthony Valdiosera, City of Orinda (ZOOM)

Members Absent:
Ian McLaughlin, City of Walnut Creek
Ivan Fedorenko, City of San Ramon

Staff Present:
Rosa Noya (CCCTA)
Andrew Smith (CCCTA)
Pranjal Dixit (CCCTA)
John Sanderson (CCCTA)

Public Attendees: None

1. Call to Order
The meeting of the County Connection Advisory Committee (Ad-Comm) was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. The Chair announced that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Roll Call
Quorum confirmed with three members present at time of roll call. Members Mall, Green, and Valdiosera joined meeting after roll call.

3. Approval of Agenda
The Committee considered approval of the meeting agenda.
The Chair provided an opportunity for public comment. No public comments were received.
Action: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Crowe and seconded by Chair Picard to approve the agenda as presented.
Roll Call Vote:
- Martinez – Yes
- Pleasant Hill – Yes
- At- Large Member Barry – Yes

Motion passed.

4. Public Communication
The Chair invited members of the public to address the Committee on matters within the Committee's jurisdiction that were not otherwise listed on the agenda.

No public comments were received.

5. Consent Calendar
The Committee considered approval of the Consent Calendar, including the prior meeting minutes.
Chair Picard identified a typographical correction to the minutes.
During consideration of the item, newly appointed Orinda representative Anthony Valdiosera joined the meeting virtually. Mr. Valdiosera advised the Committee that the Zoom link included on the posted agenda was incorrect and that he had obtained the correct link from a previous agenda. Staff acknowledged the issue and indicated that it would be corrected for future meetings.
The Chair provided an opportunity for public comment. No public comments were received.
Action: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Crowe and seconded by Chair Picard to approve the Consent Calendar, including the noted correction.
Roll Call Vote:

- Martinez – Yes
- Pleasant Hill – Yes
- Orinda – Abstain
- At-Large Member Barry – Abstain

Motion passed.

6. Welcome New Orinda Advisory Committee Member
The Committee welcomed Anthony Valdiosera, newly appointed to represent the City of Orinda.
Mr. Valdiosera introduced himself and provided a brief overview of his professional background. He stated that he is a licensed civil engineer with experience in roadway, highway, rail, and transit work and has lived in Orinda since 2020.
Committee members and staff welcomed Mr. Valdiosera and encouraged him to participate in an orientation and tour of County Connection facilities.
No action was taken.

7. Consideration of Re-Appointment of Expiring At-Large Advisory Committee Member
The Committee considered recommending the re-appointment of **Subhang Mall** as an At-Large member of the Advisory Committee for a new three-year term.
Mr. Mall joined the meeting during consideration of the item and confirmed his willingness to continue serving.
The Chair provided an opportunity for public comment. No public comments were received.
Action: A motion was made by member Barry and seconded by Vice-Chair Crowe to recommend to the County Connection Board of Directors the re-appointment of Subhang Mall to a three-year At-Large term.
Roll Call Vote:

- Martinez – Yes
- Pleasant Hill – Yes
- Orinda – Yes

- Barry – Yes
- Mall – Abstain

Motion passed.
Staff indicated that the recommendation would be forwarded to the County Connection Board of Directors for consideration.

8. Advisory Committee Bylaws Review Update
The Committee continued its review of proposed revisions to the Advisory Committee Bylaws. Staff reported that the remaining issue concerning annual economic interest disclosures had been reviewed. Members would be required to complete an annual economic interest disclosure; however, the disclosure would not require use of the more comprehensive form previously discussed. Because the bylaws only establish the disclosure requirement and do not prescribe the specific form, no additional bylaw revisions were considered necessary.
Staff also clarified that if a minor serves on the Committee, the applicable financial information would be based on the minor's parent or guardian, consistent with guidance received from legal counsel.
The Committee discussed the proposed staggering of member terms. Initial appointments may be established for shorter periods when necessary to maintain staggered terms, with subsequent reappointments occurring on a three-year cycle. Members noted that this approach would help avoid having a large number of terms expire simultaneously.
The Chair provided an opportunity for public comment. No public comments were received.
Action: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Crowe and seconded by member Barry to approve the revised Advisory Committee Bylaws for final review and approval by the Board.
Roll Call Vote:

- Martinez – Yes
- Pleasant Hill – Yes
- Orinda – Yes
- Barry – Yes
- Mall – Yes

Motion passed unanimously among members voting.

9. Fall Bid Update
Mr. Dixit provided an update on upcoming fixed-route service changes scheduled to take effect in August.
Mr. Dixit explained that County Connection implements service changes four times per year and coordinates certain changes with BART's schedule changes.
Topics discussed included:

- Schedule adjustments intended to improve on-time performance and operator recovery time on Routes 4, 7, and 16.
- A minor Route 93X schedule adjustment intended to improve connection with an evening BART train at Walnut Creek BART.
- Evaluation and consolidation of closely spaced bus stops where appropriate.
- Consideration of sidewalk conditions, passenger usage, roadway conditions, operational impacts, and accessibility when evaluating bus stop consolidation.

- A general planning guideline of approximately 0.3 miles for bus stop spacing in a suburban environment, subject to site-specific conditions.
- Restoration of school-related service following the summer period.
- Coordination challenges resulting from differing school district calendars.
- Use of scheduled timepoints to monitor service and prevent buses from operating ahead of schedule.

Committee members asked questions regarding bus stop spacing, schedule adherence, school service, and operational practices. Staff responded to the questions.

The Chair provided an opportunity for public comment. No public comments were received.

No action was taken.

10. FY27 Advisory Committee Work Plan

The Committee discussed development of the annual work plan as contemplated by the recently revised bylaws.

The Chair explained that a work plan does not necessarily need to involve a major written project and could instead identify one or more areas of County Connection operations that members wish to study in greater depth.

Potential approaches discussed included:

- In-depth presentations or workshops on selected areas of County Connection operations.
- Facility or operational tours.
- Drawing upon members' work with their appointing jurisdictions and other advisory bodies.
- Reviewing topics that could result in recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- Selecting a limited number of subjects each year to avoid creating an undue burden on Committee members or staff.

One suggested topic was workforce recruitment and retention, including its relationship with the agency's ability to provide and expand service.

Staff reported that fixed-route operator staffing had improved significantly and that the agency was at or near its authorized operator staffing level for the first time in a considerable period.

Mr. Sanderson suggested that the Committee's initial work plan focus primarily on education and gaining a deeper understanding of County Connection operations. Potential topics could include recruitment, budgeting, fleet maintenance, bus purchasing, fueling, and other operational functions.

Members also discussed learning more about bid schedules, fleet reliability and road-call performance, including differences between fixed-route and paratransit vehicles.

By consensus, the Committee agreed to continue discussion of the work plan at its next meeting. Staff was asked to provide potential subject areas for further consideration, including subjects for which the Board may value Advisory Committee input.

No action was taken.

11. Committee Member Communications

Chair Picard asked about circumstances under which a fixed-route operator may pick up a passenger at a location other than a designated bus stop. Staff explained that such pickups are not standard practice but may occur in limited circumstances, including as a reasonable modification for a passenger with a disability or due to temporary conditions affecting normal stop access.

Chair Picard also disclosed that they had filed to run for a seat on the Contra Costa Water District Board and stated an intention to consult with staff regarding any potential future conflict-of-interest considerations should they be elected.

No action was taken.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, Member Green, representing the City of Concord, virtually joined and reported that she had had trouble accessing the meeting because of the incorrect meeting link. Staff apologized for the issue.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:26 p.m.

The next Advisory Committee meeting was announced for September 3, 2026.

Minutes prepared by Rosa Noya on August 21, 2026.