

To: Advisory Committee

Date: April 2, 2026

From: Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by: AMS

SUBJECT: Spring Bid Update

Background:

Up to four times a year, County Connection updates its service and schedules to reflect current passenger demand, traffic conditions, school schedules, staffing, and funding availability. These service changes coincide with the start of the four annual bid periods, commonly known as the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter bids. To ensure regional coordination, two of the four bids are aligned with other Bay Area transit agencies, specifically for the January and August service dates. Furthermore, the persistent increase in regional traffic congestion has necessitated frequent schedule adjustments to maintain reliable service delivery.

Spring Bid Changes:

Effective March 29, 2026, the Spring Bid will include several key adjustments designed to improve reliability, connectivity, and the overall rider experience. Below are specific changes:

- **Route 4 (Walnut Creek)**
A major route alignment is being implemented to simplify travel and improve on-time performance. Additionally, weekday frequency is being increased from one bus every 20 minutes to every 15 minutes. This enhancement is funded by an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant awarded to Resources for Community Development (RCD – an affordable housing developer) in coordination with County Connection and the City of Walnut Creek.
- **Weekend Routes 310, 311, 314, 315 & 320 (Concord, Clayton, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek)**
Schedules are being modified to ensure better on-time performance and to maintain operator break time in light of increased traffic congestion. Changes are also being made to improve bus-to-bus transfers and connections with BART.
- **School Routes 606 and 623 (Lamorinda, Danville-Blackhawk)**
One afternoon bus is being reallocated from Route 606 (serving Miramonte High School) to Route 623. This additional vehicle is being deployed to address overcrowding issues at Monte Vista High School while still maintaining adequate capacity for Miramonte High School students.
- **Minor Stop Changes (Martinez)**
Stop name changes and stop consolidations are being implemented on Alhambra Ave and Berrellesa Ave. These modifications, coordinated with WestCAT and Tri Delta Transit, are being

made in preparation for an upcoming pilot project with MTC to install new shared-operator bus stop flags (signs) as part of MTC’s Regional Mapping and Wayfinding Project.

Ridership Trends:

Following three years of sustained growth, ridership has begun to stabilize, as illustrated in **Figure 1**, with weekend ridership and school services both above pre-pandemic levels. While weekend ridership has recently begun to plateau, school ridership has continued to grow, reflecting shifting rider demographics and the positive impact of youth programs such as last summer’s Youth Ride Free pilot program and Pass2Class. As of December 2025, ridership on weekend and on our 600-series school routes reached 114% and 126% of pre-pandemic levels respectively, while ridership on weekday local routes sits at 75% of pre-pandemic levels, and weekday express routes are at 43% of pre-pandemic levels. Systemwide ridership is at 82% of pre-pandemic level year-to-date.

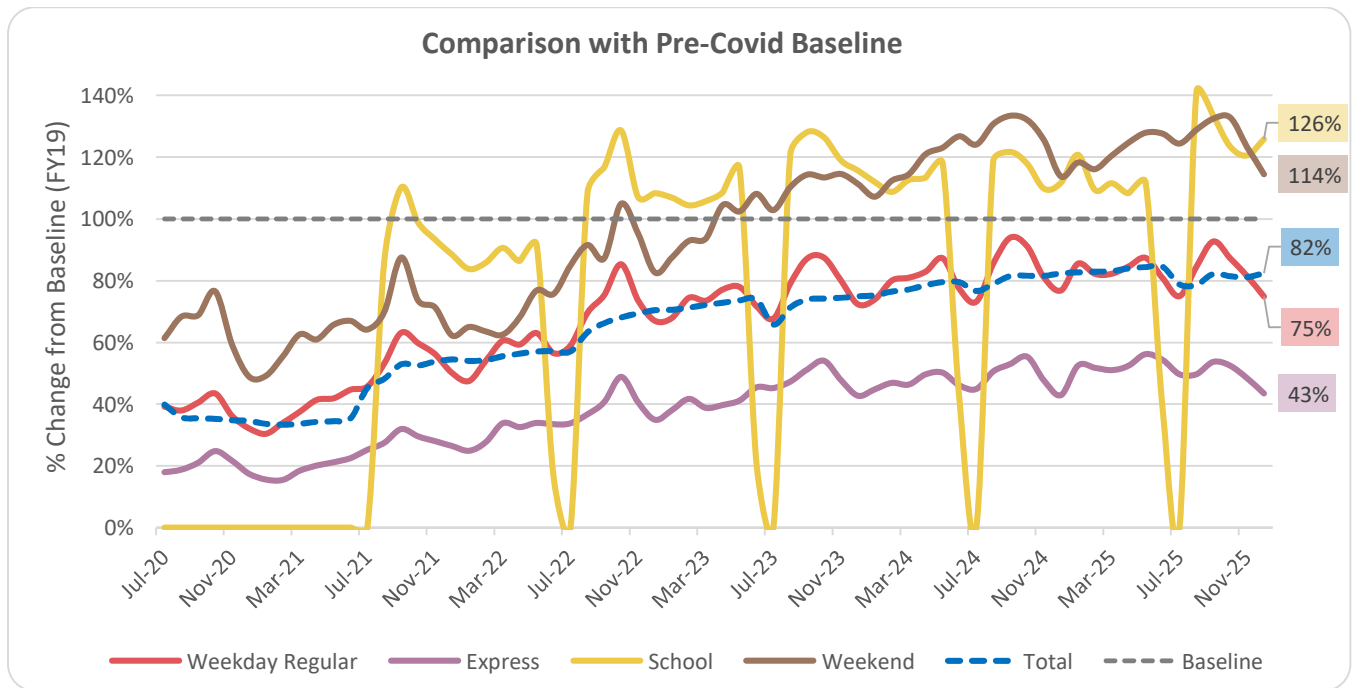


Figure 1: Ridership Recovery Trend

Financial Implications:

None, for information only.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.

Attachments:

None.