

To: Advisory Committee

Date: July 31, 2026

From: Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by: AMS

SUBJECT: Fall 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 changes have become more frequent in recent years as the persistent increase in regional traffic congestion has necessitated frequent schedule adjustments to maintain reliable service delivery. The four annual 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 service changes are also aligned with other Bay Area transit agencies, specifically the biannual “Big Sync” in January and August.

Fall Bid Changes:

Effective August 9, 2026, the Fall Bid will include several key adjustments designed to improve reliability, connectivity, and overall rider experience, including the following:

- **Routes 4, 7 and 16 (Walnut Creek, Concord, Pleasant Hill and Martinez)**
Schedules are being modified to improve operator recovery times and reduce early mid-trip arrivals
- **Routes 93X (Walnut Creek, Concord, and Antioch)**
In response to passenger feedback, a minor schedule adjustment will be made to the last run of the day to improve connections with BART.
- **Stop spacing improvements (Routes 15, 16, 17, 18 and 316)**
Six closely spaced stops will be removed to reduce route delays. Fewer frequent stops mean fewer delays, resulting in shorter trip times for passengers.
- **Resume 600 School Series (Systemwide)**
School service resumes for Academic Year 2026-27 (school service to schools in the Mt. Diablo School District resumes three days earlier on August 6, 2026).

Ridership Trends:

Following three years of sustained growth, ridership has begun to stabilize, as illustrated in **Figure 1**. Weekend ridership and ridership on our 600-series school routes are both above pre-pandemic levels, reflecting shifting commute patterns, changing rider demographics, and the positive impact of youth programs such as Youth Ride Free and Pass2Class. As of May 2026, ridership on weekends and on our 600-series school routes reached 130% and 119% of pre-pandemic levels respectively, while ridership

on weekday local routes sits at 85% of pre-pandemic levels, and weekday express routes are at 51% of pre-pandemic levels. Systemwide ridership is at 84% of pre-pandemic level year-to-date.

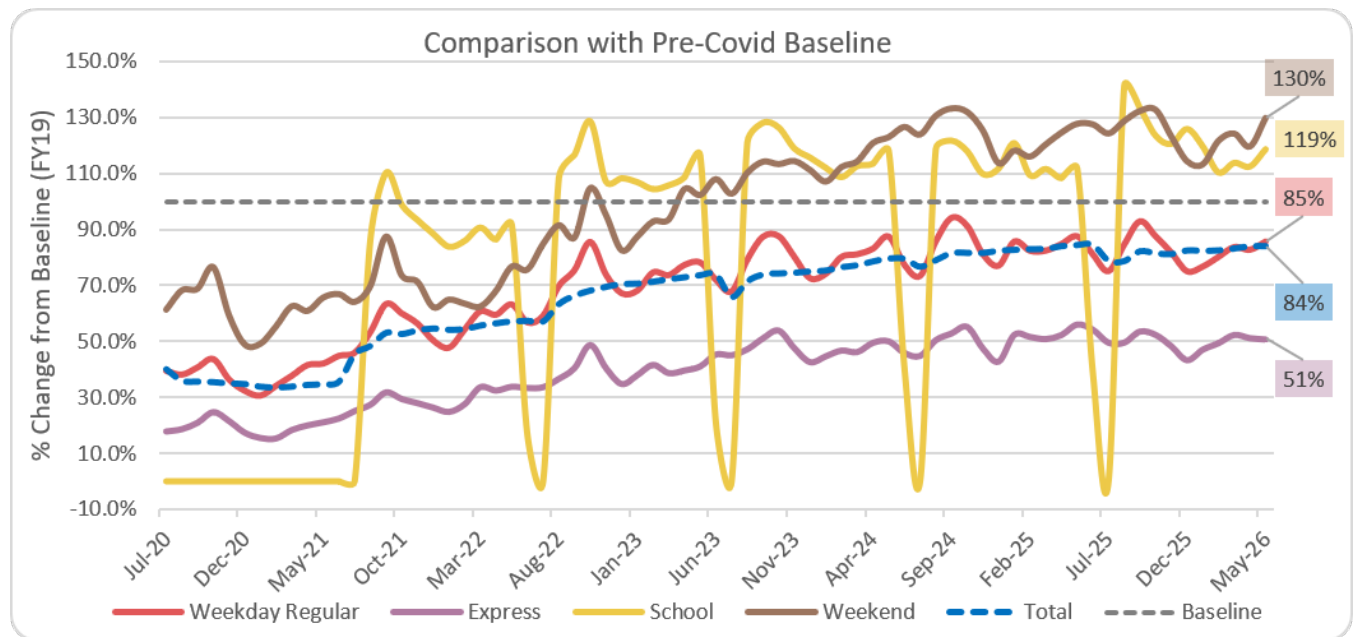


Figure 1: Ridership Recovery Trend

Financial Implications:

None, for information only.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.

Attachments:

None.