

County Connection

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CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

April 16, 2026

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, Hillis, Noack, Wilk and Worth. Director Tatzin was absent. Director Rubio arrived at 9:03 a.m. Director Hoffmeister arrived at 9:18 a.m.

Staff: Churchill, Sherman, Boehm, Glenn, Hill, Horta, Jones, Johnson, Longmire, Martinez 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 March 19, 2026; (b) Independent Auditor’s Statements for NTD; (c) Income Statements as of December 31, 2025. Director Worth seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

REPORT OF CHAIR:

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

Update on APTA Legislative Conference

General Manager Bill Churchill, Director Farley and Director Storer all spoke on the APTA Legislative Conference. They were able to meet with the following offices:

- Garamendi – Sophia Legislative Assistant
- Padilla- Harper Rubin Legislative Aide
- Schiff- Gabriel Gonzalez Correspondence Manager/Legislative Correspondent
- DeSaulnier: Redi Degefa Policy Advisor

Bill Churchill stated that the current Surface Transportation ACT (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or the IJA) will expire on September 30, 2026. The House has been working very hard on a bi-partisan effort for a re-authorization of a Transportation ACT. As the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is set to retire at the end of this year, there was considerable hope that this was possible. Initially

language was expected to be published on April 15, 2026, but it currently has no timeline for language and a subsequent markup. We are hearing it most likely will not happen until next year.

The federal gas tax has not been increased since 1993 and the fund is projected to go broke in 2027/28. Last week Congressman Rick Larsen of Washington proposed a federal vehicle registration fee indexed on vehicle weight as a potential solution. APTA members have been asked for opinions on this concept, and the association is working on a number of potential scenarios as feedback to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

President Trump's budget proposal that was released last week calls for a 23% reduction in funding to public transit programs. While his budget is just an initial proposal it does set the stage for areas he would like to see cut in a final federal budget.

President's budget:

Public Transit request = 16.3 Billion represents a 23% reduction

Passenger Rail programs = 2.8 Billion represents and 82% reduction in revenue

The proposal also discontinues advance appropriations in the existing IJJA, which results in substantial reductions to key public transit and passenger rail investments:

Capital Investments Grants: -1.6 Billion

Low or No Emission Competitive Grants -1.05 Billion

State of Good Repair Grants -1 Billion

Finally, his proposed budget does not include any US Department of Transportation (DOT) Surface Transportation Authorization (STA) funding or policy proposals, which interestingly is a major priority in Congress at the moment and in the House it currently has bipartisan support.

SB1408 Update

Bill Churchill, General Manager stated that the local Measure J sales tax is set to expire in 2034. SB 1408 would extend Measure J revenue This tax is profoundly important to Contra Costa County and funds so many different things from highway projects to bike projects as well public transit operations. Senator Arreguin is carrying the Bill for Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). The Bill was heard at the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday of last week and passed on a 9 to 2 vote. County Connection offered a position of support for the Bill to the Committee. Next the Bill will be heard in the Senate Rev and Tax Committee on Wednesday April 22 next week.

Electric Bus Update

Marcel Longmire, Director of Maintenance, informed the Board that the electric buses are working, and we have had no significant issues as of late.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

We moved up item 8.b. due to CCTA Staff being in attendance to provide a presentation.

Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Summer Outreach Calendar and Youth Ride Free

Ruby Horta, Assistant General Manager Administration introduced the item and introduced CCTA staff in attendance, Tim Haile, Danielle Elkins and Lindy Johnson. CCTA staff gave a presentation on a Youth Ride Free

program that will roll out in the summer. After a lengthy discussion regarding naming of the program, branding of the program and community outreach, Board direction was given to staff.

Administration & Finance Committee

Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Draft Operating and Capital Budget* **Resolution No. 2026-23**

Amber Johnson, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) stated that County Connection’s draft budget for July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (FY 2027) proposes \$59.3 million in operating expenses for fixed route and paratransit services with revenues to offset these costs. An additional \$3.2 million is proposed in capital expenditures and associated revenue during the budget year.

The operating expense budget of \$59.3 million is a 4.7 percent increase over the FY 2026 budget and allows for fixed route service to continue at existing levels, with a conservative but optimistic assumption that vacant operator positions will be filled during the fiscal year. The capital budget of \$3.2 million includes non-revenue vehicle replacements, multi-year facility upgrade plans, and updates to critical bus equipment. These projects are funded by local capital funds.

The proposed budget also incorporates the transfer of an estimated \$700,000 of discretionary revenues to a reserve account in FY 2027. Revenue sources that are considered discretionary include advertising revenue and interest income. This fund transfer is considered in combination with the TDA reserve held by MTC when calculating County Connection’s total reserve balance.

The budget assumes that ridership will continue to improve and that recruitment efforts to fill vacant operator positions will be successful, resulting in a conservative increase in operating expenses as compared to the current year.

The FY 2027 capital budget includes several facility and vehicle maintenance and modernization projects. Major project additions include in ground hydraulic lift replacements, bus wash overhaul, replacement of building roofs, an automated fuel system upgrade, and on-board technology improvements. These projects are expected to take place over the next few years and will be funded with TDA capital funds.

Adoption of the draft FY 2027 budget will establish expenditure authority of \$59.3 million in operating expenses and \$3.2 million in capital expenditures for the budget year. The draft budget will serve as the basis for the Authority’s claim of TDA revenues for the year-ended June 30, 2027.

MOTION: Director Noack moved adoption of Resolution No. 2026-23, authorizing filing applications and supporting documents for allocations of funds by the MTC. Director Hoffmeister seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Update on Issuance of Non-Domiciled Commercial Drivers' Licenses (CDL)* Information Only
Director Noack left at 11:25 a.m.

Yvette Glenn, Director of Transportation explained that staff have been closely monitoring the changes surrounding the issuance of non-domiciled CDL's. Initially, individuals with non-domiciled CDL's, which were current, or not due for renewal, were not required to take any action at the time. In November 2025, the DMV issued a notice to some non-domiciled commercial drivers that their license would be canceled in sixty (60) days, or on January 5, 2026, unless they met the new federal guidelines. In late January 2026, the DMV issued a secondary notice, informing these drivers that the cancellation was postponed for an additional 60 days, or on March 6, 2026.

As of March 6, 2026, six of County Connection's workforce has been affected by the new federal rule issued by the DOT. This has included employees with existing CLPs, those that were due for a CDL renewal, or whose CDL was canceled following notification from the DMV. Upon cancellation or expiration, drivers have had the ability to immediately reapply for a commercial license and have been issued a temporary, non-commercial driver's license for a period of ninety (90) days.

Staff recognizes that this rule presents challenges both internally and externally and is working to support employees to the extent possible during this transition. Efforts have included exploring internal recruitment opportunities and/or offering the option of a temporary leave of absence. It is County Connection's understanding that a compliance plan in response to the new federal guidelines must be reviewed and approved by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration before state licensing agencies have the ability to resume the issuance of non-domiciled commercial licenses and permits. Unfortunately, there is no clear timeline on when this may occur for the California DMV. As changes occur, we will continue to update the Board.

Operations & Scheduling Committee

Revised Draft Alternative Service Plan

Director Andersen left at 11:38 a.m.

Andrew M. Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing explained at the March 2026 Board of Directors and Operations & Scheduling Committee meetings, staff presented two scenarios for an Alternative Service Plan to address the budget reductions necessary should Bay Area voters not approve the Connect Bay Area Transit Initiative in November. The two scenarios varied in that Scenario 1 relied on cutting County Connection's lower productivity routes (as measured by passengers per revenue hour), while Scenario 2 took a more balanced approach of cutting only the very least productive routes and reducing frequency on the remaining routes in ascending order of productivity. Both the Board and the Committee expressed a preference for the approach taken in Scenario 2, as well as keeping all of County Connection's 600-series fixed routes, which serve schools.

Based on input provided by the Board and Committee, staff has created a new Scenario 3, which is a variant of the previously reviewed Scenario 2. This new scenario includes all of the service cuts and frequency reductions included in Scenario 2, except that it also proposes to end service on the weekday Route 18 (a lower-ridership route that runs between the Pleasant Hill BART and Martinez Amtrak stations), in order to preserve the existing frequency/headways on the weekday Route 10 (County Connection's second-highest ridership route, travelling east on Clayton Road from the Concord BART station), the weekend Route 4 (the downtown Walnut Creek "trolley", County Connection's second-most productive weekend route), and the afternoon portion of the weekday Route 20 (County Connection's third-highest ridership route, connecting the Concord BART station with DVC). Both scenarios preserve all of County Connection's 600-series fixed routes that serve schools, and both propose to discontinue paratransit service for trips beginning or ending more than the federally mandated three-quarter-mile buffer from any fixed route.

MOTION: Director Farley moved approval of the Revised Alternative Service Plan scenario 3. Director Rubio seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

New MOU with Choice in Aging (CiA)*
Resolution No. 2026-24*

Rosa Noya, Manager of ADA Services, gave a brief background stating that Choice in Aging (CiA), an adult social service agency accounted for about 20% of County Connection’s daily paratransit trip volume, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In January 2022, following a nearly two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Board approved a demonstration pilot project through which County Connection reimbursed CiA for door-through-door trips provided by a third-party Transportation Network Company (TNC) operator, SilverRide, for CiA attendees who are County Connection LINK-eligible, but whose needs exceed the standard of care available through shared-ride paratransit service, or who need rides to and from CiA on very short notice. Within a short time, the pilot program proved highly beneficial to CiA and its clients and cost effective for County Connection. As a result, the Board authorized extensions of the pilot program through 2023 and 2024. For 2025, the Board approved transitioning the pilot to a permanent program.

In fiscal year 2025 (FY25), County Connection LINK transported 99,677 registered riders at a total contract cost of approximately \$7.7 million, or roughly \$77.24 each. During the same time period the CiA-SilverRide program transported 9,829 registered riders at a cost of \$36.95 each – an average savings of about \$40.30 per trip, or about \$396,000 overall. \$400,000 was budgeted to support the program through FY26. Actual trip counts have come in slightly higher than expected, and as a result \$450,000 has been included in the preliminary budget for FY27.

MOTION: Director Farley moved adoption of the new MOU, which will include a base term of three (3) years, with two (2) one-year extension options, for a potential term of up to five (5) years. This will allow both CiA and County Connection to effectively incorporate the program into long range plans. Director Rubio seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

Award contract to Alex Kushner General, Inc. for the Installation of a New Above Ground Storage Tank*
Resolution No. 2026-25*

Director Hillis left at 11:44 a.m.

Amber Johnson, Chief Financial Officer gave a brief background by stating that in September 2025, the Board authorized the closure in place of two (2) 25,000-gallon single-wall underground diesel fuel tanks that were originally installed in 1981. This action was required to comply with State Water Resources Control Board regulations mandating that all single-wall underground storage tanks be permanently closed, removed, or replaced by December 31, 2025. The underground tank closure was completed following a competitive Invitation for Bids (IFB) process and brought County Connection’s fuel system into regulatory compliance while preserving its ability to supply diesel fuel for transit operations. One (1) 20,000-gallon double-wall underground fuel tank remains in service at the facility and is fully compliant with current state regulations.

To complete this phase, staff issued a competitive IFB for the Above-Ground Tank Installation project. The solicitation was publicly advertised, bids were received and evaluated, and the procurement was conducted in

accordance with applicable requirements. At the bid opening on March 26, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., three (3) responsible and responsive bids were received from interested contractors.

Following evaluation, staff recommends award of a construction contract to Alex Kushner General, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for installation and commissioning of the above-ground fuel storage system.

The total bid amount submitted by the recommended contractor, Alex Kushner General, Inc., is \$550,000, which includes all required subcontractor work. Staff recommends establishing a project contingency of \$200,000 to address potential unforeseen conditions or cost overruns that may arise during construction.

The total recommended not-to-exceed authorization amount for the Above-Ground Tank Installation project is therefore \$750,000. TDA Capital funds have previously been encumbered for this project and the recommended authorization is within the approved capital budget.

MOTION: Director Diaz moved adoption of resolution 2026-025 authorizing the General Manager to enter a Contract with Alex Kushner General, Inc. for the Above Ground Installation of Diesel Tanks Project. The project cost is not to exceed \$750,000. Director Rubio seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Directors Andersen, Hillis, Noack and Tatzin

Report From Advisory Committee

Appointment of Jeanette Green to the Advisory Committee as the member Representing the City of Concord

MOTION: Director Hoffmeister moved approval of the appointment of Jeanette Green to the Advisory Committee as the member Representing the City of Concord. Director Wilk seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Directors Andersen, Hillis, Noack and Tatzin

BOARD COMMUNICATION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Storer adjourned the regular Board meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Lathina Hill

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

Date: May 11, 2026