County Connection
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CCCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

June 18, 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, Hoffmeister, Noack, Rubio and Wilk. Directors Tatzin and Worth arrived after the meeting convened.

Staff: Churchill, Sherman, Boehm, Dixit, Glenn, Hill, Horta, Jones, Johnson, Martinez, Sanderson and Smith

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

Director Worth arrived at 9:02 a.m.
Director Tatzin arrived at 9:10 a.m.

Various bus operators representing AC Transit, Transdev and Soltrans, spoke in support of CCCTA bus operators receiving more break times between their routes.

Public Hearing: CCCTA FY 2027 Operating and Capital Budget

a) Assembly Bill 2561

b) Status of Job Vacancies*

At 9:22 a.m. Chair Robert Storer opened the public hearing regarding the following two purposes. First, to consider the status of agency vacancies and recruitment and retention efforts. Second, to invite public comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets for County Connection.

Kristina Martinez, HR Director stated that as of May 31, 2026 with regard to the Amalgamated Transit Union, local 1605, representing the transit operators, there are 150 budgeted positions in which there are no vacancies. And with regard to the Teamsters, local 856, representing transit supervisors, there are 11 budgeted positions in which there are no vacancies. And, with regard to the Machinist Automotive Trades District, Lodge Number 1173 representing mechanics, service workers and storekeepers, within the maintenance department there are 31 budgeted positions in which 5 are vacant, representing 16.1% vacancy rate. No public comments or labor union presentations were received or provided during the hearing.

The public hearing then moved to the Budgets item. Amber Johnson, CFO said that the total fiscal year 2027 Operating and Capital Budgets is $62,506,625. The Operating Budget of $59,324,125 is funded 82% with local and state funds, 9% from farebox and special fare revenues, 3% federal funds, and 7% with other revenue.

The Operating Budget will support approximately 195,000 revenue hours of fixed-route service and 105,000 revenue hours of County Connection LINK dial-a-ride services.

Chair Storer asked for any public comments, seeing none the public hearing closed at 9:26 a.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Director Wilk moved approval of the Consent Calendar, consisting of the following items: (a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 21, 2026; (b) Investment Report as of March 31, 2026; (c) Amend Conflict of Interest Code and Resolution No. 2026-27; (d) Adoption of Gann Appropriations Spending Limitation for FY 2025-2026 and Resolution No. 2026-29; (e) Approve Allowing Advisory Committee to Meet Remotely Pursuant to SB 707 and Resolution No. 2026-30; (f) BusAID – Monument Corridor Transit Speed Improvements; (g) Go San Ramon Update; (h) Summer Bid Update. Director Rubio seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

REPORT OF CHAIR: None

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER:

Update Re: CARB Amendments to the Cap & Invest Regulation

General Manager Bill Churchill explained that the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) released proposed amendments authorized by AB 1207 on April 14th that significantly change the regulations for the Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and market-based compliance mechanisms that fund the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

The proposed amendments would significantly expand the number of free allowances to utility companies in order to increase the size and or number climate credit rebates returned to utility customers.

Additionally the proposed amendments would significantly increase emission credits to refineries, cement companies and other known polluters.

Recently, the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and the Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Energy held a joint oversight hearing regarding the CARB proposed amendments to the Cap-and-Invest program. Lisa Sanchez, CARB Board Chair attended to answer questions. At the hearing, strong opposition to the amendments were voiced and I am told some statements were rather vehement. In particular, I am told Senator Laird stated if the amendments are approved it means all the deals we carved out with CARB are over. He did not specify exactly what deals he is referencing.

I had an opportunity to chat yesterday afternoon following the hearing with a couple of different lobbyists, they believe Laird was referring to a nexus between Cap and Trade (Invest) funding and the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation. Many believe that if the amendments are approved at the May 28th CARB meeting, then the ICT should be repealed as there would be essentially no identified funding for the ICT.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration & Finance Committee

AHSC Implementation and Cooperation Agreement for Route 4

Resolution No. 2026-28

Andrew M. Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing, gave a brief background stating that County Connection partnered with the City of Walnut Creek and Resources for Community Development (RCD) on an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) for the Civic Crossing project, a new affordable housing development at 699 Ygnacio Valley Road. The grant was awarded in April 2024 and provides funding for several transit-related improvements, including operating funds to restore 15-minute frequency on Route 4 on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The grant provides County Connection with a total of $4.15 million over the course of approximately five years for the expanded service on Route 4.

The AHSC Implementation and Cooperation Agreement specifies the level of additional service provided on Route 4 and the payment structure whereby County Connection will be reimbursed for the related costs. Reimbursements will be provided annually based upon County Connection's marginal operating costs.

The costs associated with operating the additional service are fully covered by the grant, which will fund these expenses for approximately five years. These revenues and associated expenditures were incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2027 Draft Budget that was presented earlier at this meeting.

MOTION: Director Noack moved adoption of Resolution No. 2026-28, authorizing the General Manager to enter into contract with RCD on behalf of County Connection to accept grant funding paying for increased service on Route 4. Director Wilk seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

Adjustment to Non-Represented Administrative Employees Compensation
Resolution No. 2026-31

Kristina Martinez, Director of Human Resources, gave a brief history stating that County Connection employees consist of the following groups: Transit Operators, Transit Supervisors, Maintenance, and Administrative staff. The Administrative employee group is the only non-represented group. The other three employee groups are all represented by a separate union with distinct Memoranda of Understanding (MOU). Ms. Martinez explained It looks reasonably certain that for fiscal year (FY) 27 the Authority can afford an increase for the non-represented employees. The General Manager requests a 4% cost of living adjustment ("COLA") for all satisfactorily performing administrative employees effective July 1, 2026 (see Attachment 1). This is the same percentage increase included in all three of the recently negotiated MOUs for the represented employees, effective as of September 28, 2025 for the ATU Local 1605 and Automotive Machinists Lodge No. 1173, and June 1, 2026 for the Teamsters Local 856.

Due to the economic uncertainty surrounding Senate Bill (SB) 63, and the anticipated $6.0 million operating deficit that County Connection will be facing next year, staff has begun evaluating austerity measures that balance the agency's financial stability alongside operational needs.

At the April Board of Directors meeting, the Board adopted an Alternative Service Plan to address the budget reductions necessary should voters not approve the sales tax measure in November. At the Board's direction, this plan included both service reductions as well as austerity measures impacting departmental budgets, travel and raises. With this in mind and following careful review, the General Manager has determined that it is necessary to place a temporary hold on any merit or step increases for administrative staff as of July 1, 2026. Thus, the merit pool request, which is generally included at the time of the COLA request made to the Administration & Finance

(A&F) Committee as well as the Board, will not be included for FY27. Additional measures, including departmental budgets and travel will be brought to the Board under the upcoming Operating Budget discussion.

The cost for the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) totals approximately $243,000 and is included in the proposed FY27 budget.

MOTION: Director Noack moved adoption of Resolution No. 2026-31, approving adjustments to the salary ranges for administrative staff. Director Worth seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

<u>Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and Forecast</u>
<u>Resolution No. 2026-32</u>

Amber Johnson, CFO, explained that County Connection's draft Operating Budget for July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027 (FY 2027) includes $59.3 million in operating expenses for fixed route and paratransit services with corresponding revenue to offset these costs. An additional $3.2 million is proposed for capital expenditures and associated revenues.

The fixed route operating expense budget of $45.4 million represents a 4.5 percent increase over the FY 2026 budget. This increase supports the continuation of current fixed route service levels, based on the assumption that operator positions remain fully staffed. A primary driver of the higher operating costs is fuel. Fuel prices have reached historically high levels, and there remains significant uncertainty regarding future pricing due to ongoing international conflicts.

The paratransit operating expense budget of $10.0 million reflects a 1.3 percent increase over the FY 2026 budget. Following a period of rapid growth over the past two years, demand has stabilized and is expected to grow modestly in FY 2027. The paratransit purchased transportation budget assumes a 4% contract escalation and a 2% increase in ridership over FY 2026 levels.

The FY 2027 capital budget totals $3.2 million and includes facility and vehicle maintenance and modernization projects such as in-ground hydraulic lift replacements, a bus wash overhaul, roof replacements, an automated fuel system upgrade, and on-board technology improvements. These projects will be implemented over multiple years and funded with TDA capital funds.

After an extensive discussion between the Board of Directors, it was decided to split the adoption of the proposed Budget into two different votes. One vote would solely be for the Board travel budget and the other one would be for the remainder of the Budget.

MOTION: Director Worth moved approval of having the adoption of the proposed Budget divided into two separate items, thereby having separate votes for (1) the Board travel budget and (2) the remainder of the Budget. Director Noack seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

MOTION: Director Hoffmeister moved approval of the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 line item associated with the Board member travel budget in the amount of $12,500. Director Worth seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

MOTION: Director Andersen moved adoption of Resolution No. 2026-32, approving the proposed FY 2027 Operating and Capital Budget, with the inclusion of the line item associated with the Board member travel budget in the amount of $12,500 that was separately approved, which will result in total expenditure authority of $62,506,625. Director Worth seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

State Audit Report

Ruby Horta, Assistant General Manager gave a brief background stating that on April 23, 2025 State Senator Aisha Wahab (District 10) requested the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) approve an audit of the East Bay transit agencies due to her concerns regarding a highly fragmented transit landscape, fluctuating ridership patterns, and ongoing fiscal stress. The audit scope included the activities related to the coordination amongst agencies, passenger information, ease of transfers and connectivity, ridership trends, funding, and the viability of consolidation. A comprehensive list of the audit's scope can be found in Attachment 1. On June 18, 2025, the JLAC approved the requested audit and the State audit team began their highly confidential work with County Connection staff on August 20, 2025.

The audit reviewed six bus service agencies in the East Bay. These agencies were Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connection), Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA, also commonly known as Wheels), Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority (Tri Delta Transit), Union City Transit, and Western Contra Costa Transit Authority (WestCAT).
A draft report was released to County Connection on March 20, 2026 ahead of the exit interview on March 23, 2026. This report was heavily redacted to exclude data from other the other East Bay bus operators and MTC. In April, we received a courtesy copy of the draft report and were provided a five-day review. We were also informed about the planned public release date of May 28th.

County Connection staff was very impressed with the audit team's effective communication, thoroughness and ability to grasp all of the transit concepts presented. Despite this effort being very labor intensive for CCCTA staff, we appreciate the relationship developed with the audit team.

The final report was released on May 28, 2026. The report provided the summary of key findings and recommendations, an introduction, the audit results, recommendations, appendices and MTC's response to the audit. Since there were no recommendations for the East Bay transit agencies, no response was necessary from us.

Youth Ride Free

Ryan Jones, Manager of Marketing & Communications, explained that County Connection staff has been working to promote Youth Ride Free through targeted social media ads, based on location, age, and spoken language. The primary audience for social media engagement is youth, ages 13-16, who are beginning to gain independence and are more likely to be receptive to programs like Youth Ride Free that allow them to travel on their own. For this age group, many do not yet have driver's licenses or are seeking alternatives to relying on others for rides. Our secondary audience are parents and guardians of children ages 6–12, who are key decision-makers and typically manage their children's activities and schedules.

The primary goal of early messaging was awareness, not only in making riders aware of the YRF program but also driving them to youthridefree.com for more information. Early engagement numbers on social media between May 20th and June 10th were also provided to the Board, which were a mix of paid advertisements and organic posts.

Web traffic to youthridefree.com has also increased; a result of County Connection, Tri Delta Transit, WestCAT, and CCTA's combined efforts to direct people to the program page via social media and QR codes on printed collateral. Staff will coordinate with CCTA to distribute a Youth Ride Free survey. Any costs associated with events are included in the Promotions Budget.

Operating & Scheduling Committee

Regional Mapping & Wayfinding Project – Martinez Pilot

Andrew M. Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing, gave a brief background stating that the Regional Mapping & Wayfinding Project (RMWP), led by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), aims to develop a standardized design for mapping, wayfinding signage, and transit information throughout the Bay Area, which is a key action item in MTC's Transit Transformation Action Plan (TTAP). The intent of the RMWP is to make transit easier to understand for both existing and new riders, and to provide resources and guidelines for the region's transit operators.

Prototype testing started last year at a number of major transit hubs (BART stations, etc.) and includes a new regional network identity that will unify the passenger experience throughout the region. Key elements include a three-color palette and modal icons (train, bus, ferry), adaptive wayfinding signage for all facility types, and a mobile website with real-time updates and accessibility features accessible via QR codes.

Last fall, County Connection staff contacted RMWP staff with a proposal for a pilot program to test the newly designed bus stop signs along the Alhambra Avenue corridor in Martinez. County Connection staff recommended this location because there has yet to be any prototype testing of the new signs outside of major transit hubs and the Alhambra Avenue corridor has nine bus routes from three different operators (County Connection, Tri Delta Transit, and WestCAT), all of which will be included on the new shared signs.

MTC and County Connection are sharing the cost of the pilot program, with MTC producing the signs and conducting an opt-in survey using additional placards with QR codes at the bus stops, and County Connection installing the new signs on existing infrastructure. Production of the new signs will start soon, and installation is expected to occur this summer. This was an information only item.

Report From Advisory Committee

Appointment of Anthony Valdiosera to the Advisory Committee as the member Representing the City of Orinda
Re-Appointment of John Crowe to the Advisory Committee Representing City of Pleasant Hill

Re-Appointment of Alternate Chris Roberts to Advisory Committee Representing City of Pleasant Hill

MOTION: Director Worth moved approval of the appointment of Anthony Valdiosera to the Advisory Committee as the member Representing the City of Orinda. The Re-Appointment of John Crowe to the Advisory Committee Representing City of Pleasant Hill. The Re-Appointment of Alternate Chris Roberts to Advisory Committee Representing City of Pleasant Hill. Director Noack seconded the motion, and it received the following roll call vote of approval:

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

BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Director Wilk informed the Board that former CCCTA Board Member Sue Rainey has passed away.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Storer adjourned the regular Board meeting in remembrance of Sue Rainey at 11:08 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:
Lathina Hill　　　　Date: August 3, 2026
Asst to the General Manager/Clerk to the Board of Directors