County Connection

Agenda Item #5

To: Administration and Finance Committee **Date:** October 1, 2026

From: Kyle Boehm, Grants Administrator **Reviewed by:**

SUBJECT: Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) – FY 2025-26

Background:
The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) provides cap-and-invest funding for transit to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve mobility, with a priority on serving disadvantaged communities (DACs). Over time, the guidelines for eligible projects have been revised, allowing for increased flexibility in the use of these funds. In the last few years, County Connection has utilized these funds to operate Route 99X, connecting the Martinez Amtrak station to the North Concord BART station via Pacheco Blvd. and Morello Ave.; and to implement free fares on routes in the Monument Corridor, including Routes 11, 14, 16, 311, 314 and 316, offering fare free service 7 days a week.

This year, due to the timing and reauthorization of the Cap and Invest program in the 2025 legislative session, the LCTOP program was split into two separate cycles, an A and B.

Proposed Projects:
On August 31, 2026, the State Controllers' Office (SCO) released final apportionments for the LCTOP program, with County Connection set to receive a total of $1,672,564. This is higher than the SCO's initial estimate of $1,527,425. Staff proposes using these funds to maintain the existing level of service between Amtrak and BART, serving DACs in Martinez and North Concord; and subsidizing fares on Routes 11, 14, 16, 311, 314, and 316, which serve AB 1550 low-income communities and communities of concern in Downtown Concord and the Monument Corridor, as defined by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The funds will also be used to cover the eligible associated paratransit fares for both the 99x, and the routes detailed above serving the Monument Corridor.

Revenues			
	FY 2025-26 Cycle A	FY 2025-26 Cycle B	**FY 2025-26 Total**
Population-Based (99313)	$871,564	$558,405	**1,429,969**
Revenue Based (99314)	$147,861	$94,734	**$239,734**
Total Revenues	**$1,019,425**	**$653,139**	**$1,672,564**

Expenses			
	FY 2025-26 Cycle A	FY 2025-26 Cycle B	**FY 2025-26 Total**
Monument Free	$810,555	$388,406	**$1,198,961**
Martinez Amtrak to BART	$208,870	$264,733	**$473,603**
Total Expenses	**1,019,425**	**$653,139**	**$1,672,564**

Financial Implications:
Based on final apportionment amount for FY 2025-26, County Connection will receive a total of $1,672,564 in LCTOP funds. Staff plans to use $473,603 to operate service between Amtrak and North Concord BART within the DAC, and $1,198,961 to subsidize fares on routes serving the Monument Corridor, and the eligible associated paratransit fares for both projects.

Recommendation:
Staff recommends using LCTOP funds to operate service between Martinez Amtrak and North Concord BART and to subsidize fares on routes serving the Monument Corridor, and the eligible associated paratransit fares for both projects.

Action Requested:
Staff requests the Administration and Finance Committee recommend Board approval for the projects listed above.

Attachments:
None