

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 2021

Ridership

During the month of April, we have continued to see slight increases in ridership. Our average weekday ridership thus far in April 2021 is about 1,450, compared to an average weekday ridership of about 1,300 in March of this year and 1,200 in February 2021. In April 2020, which marked our pandemic low point, our average weekday ridership was about 750. Our April 19, 2021 ridership total of 1,635 was the highest we have had in more than a year. When compared our average weekday ridership of about 7,100 in the month prior to the start of the pandemic, we are currently just under 25% of our pre-COVID ridership.

School Services Update

We are continuing to see increased ridership on our services to area middle and high schools, but again well below pre-pandemic levels. Schedule adjustments were implemented on March 12 to better align departures from schools with the student boarding process. As a result, students are getting home about 10-15 minutes earlier than previously. Effective Monday, March 19, Pleasanton middle and high schools increased the number of in classroom instruction days from two days per week to four days per week, resulting in increased utilization of the service we have been providing. PUSD has also invited us to be part of a planning meeting regarding planning for the 2021-22 school year.

Installation of Active Air Purifiers

The COVID-19 Pandemic has required the transit industry to investigate new ways to improve the safety and health of our staff and customers. Given the latest research which points toward airborne particles as the primary transmitter of the novel coronavirus, LAVTA has identified the need to install technology that will inactivate the virus in the air of our buses. Staff will provide additional details on the technology/device being considered at the meeting.

Paratransit Services Update

The pilot program with Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA) was launched on April 1. As the time of this reporting, the average on-time performance of the service is over 98 percent, which is a significant improvement from the previous contractor. LAVTA and CCCTA staff is working on a set of performance metrics to be used and tracked during the pilot period and will present to the board once it is finalized.

LAVTA to receive \$4.3 million for Rapid bus stop improvements. Recently LAVTA staff learned that its \$2 million request to improve Rapid facilities at three key stops (East Dublin/Pleasanton BART, Las Positas College, and Lawrence Livermore/Sandia National Labs) was for funding as part of MTC's Safe and Seamless Quick Strike grant program. At the same time, MTC has offered up to \$2.3 million in Regional Measure 2 funding for corridor-level improvements to Rapid stops along the 30R (East and Portola Avenues) and 10R (Stanley Blvd and First Street) to bring these corridors up to Rapid standards following realignment of Rapid service in 2016.

Earmarks and Fast Act Reauthorization Bill

During the month of March and April staff has been working towards several earmarks and a project for the Fast Act Reauthorization Bill. Key asks for earmarks have been funding for the development of a hydrogen bus with Gillig as a partner, and funding for Phase II of the Shared Autonomous Vehicle Program. For the upcoming 5-year reauthorization bill staff has been working towards funding for the Atlantis Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Tri-Valley Hub Network Integration Study

The Tri-Valley Hub Network Integration Study's Technical Advisory Committee has completed their review of the draft study. All comments that were submitted are now under review by our consultant. The final report is on schedule to be presented to the Projects and Services Committee in May for possible Board action in June.

FY23 Budget Preparation

The draft FY23 Budget will be presented to the F&A Committee in May and the LAVTA Board in June. Key to the budget are the operating scenarios anticipated during the COVID recovery period. It is anticipated that the FY23 Budget will include staffing changes at the Authority to accommodate increasing levels of capital projects over the next several years.



Valley Link Project

Staff has been very busy with the Valley Link project. A key milestone for the project will be reached in May as the Valley Link Board will consider certifying the environmental work and adopting the project. The Authority is closing in on the steps necessary to become an FTA grantee and will soon begin 30% design on the project.

Rapid Medallion Sign Relocation Project

Staff has been working with Kimley Horn to relocate seven Rapid medallion signs that are in locations no longer served by the Rapid routes. The signs are being relocated to Rapid bus stops along route 10R and 30R that are lacking the signs.

Atlantis Transit Facility

Staff is currently working with Kimley-Horn on finalizing the Schematic Design (SD) plans for the Atlantis Transit Facility. The work items in the SD plans include: civil site plans, landscape architectural plans, site lighting plans, site electrical plans, and building architectural plans. In an effort to keep the project moving along, LAVTA recently submitted a funding request to the Alameda CTC for the next phase of the project, which is the development of the bridging documents and 60% design plans. The outcome of the funding request will be known in the next few months.

Shared Autonomous Vehicle (SAV) Project

Phase 1 of testing/demonstration is progressing efficiently. Rides are being offered to the public on Wednesday and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Phase 1 is scheduled to complete in July. LAVTA, MTC, and City of Dublin staff has been working closely to develop the project plan for Phase 2. The project plan includes: procuring and testing communication systems at intersections, route and service designs, vehicle acquisition, and design and construction of mobility hubs. Phase 2 will extend the current route from the Persimmon Place retail center to the high-density business park on Central Parkway. Staff is currently working to secure funding for Phase 2.