

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 2021

Ridership on Fixed Route and Paratransit

Our ridership in January continues to be well below pre-COVID levels. On an average weekday we are carrying about 1,100 passengers, compared to 7,000-7,500 a year ago. That represents about an 85% reduction. Weekends are a little better. Our current average weekend day varies from 600-800, compared to 1,400-1,700 pre-COVID. The December 7 Stay at Home Order definitely had an impact on our numbers, as our weekday ridership had been back up around 1,400 a day in November 2020 before dropping back to the current level.

Clipper START Program

As you may recall, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) established an 18-month pilot program to offer discounted transit fares to low income individuals throughout the Bay Area. Known as Clipper START, the program will allow adults who live in the Bay Area and whose annual earnings are up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level to qualify. In November, the LAVTA Board approved a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to notify MTC of our desire to participate in this pilot program.

There were three phases of implementation among the 22 participating transit agencies. We are in the third phase, which starts on Monday January 25. Our low-income passengers will be eligible to apply for the discount Clipper card at clipperstartcard.com. Once approved, they will receive a card that will provide a 20% discount off of our \$2.00 cash fare.

Public Input on COVID-19 Emergency Service Changes

At the December 7 Board of Directors meeting, staff was directed to open a public comment period regarding emergency service changes that have been implemented as a result of reduced ridership attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. This input process is required under LAVTA's Board adopted Public Hearing Policies and Procedures which covers fare and service changes. In this case, because the emergency service changes implemented as a result of the pandemic have lasted in excess of 180 days, an input process was called for. Staff will provide an update on the process and the input received at the February 1 Board meeting.

Rider Survey on Impacts of COVID-19

In October 2020, the consulting firm Nelson\Nygaard conducted an online survey of Wheels riders to determine the impacts of COVID-19 and how the pandemic had impacted their ridership as well as their thoughts on riding during and after the pandemic. This survey was conducted as part of Nelson\Nygaard's contract with LAVTA to prepare a Short-Range Transit Plan. Samantha Erickson, Senior Associate with Nelson\Nygaard, will provide the Board of Directors with a brief presentation of the results of the survey at the February 1 Board meeting.

Blue Ribbon Task Force

The Blue Ribbon Task Force continues to meet regularly and is working on a Network Management concept that would have a small Executive Committee or similar small group provide direction for components of public transportation such as schedules, fares, etc. Additional information will be provided at the P&S Committee meeting.

Zero-Emission Bus Study

The Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) is currently under contract to conduct a zero-emission bus (ZEB) study in order to develop a transition plan outlining the capital projects required to fully electrify the fleet in accordance with the new California Air Resources Board (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit Rule. Staff will provide a more comprehensive update at the upcoming Board meeting.

Atlantis Transit Facility

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. is currently under contract to assist with project management services for planning and concept design for LAVTA’s Atlantis Transit Facility. Staff will provide a more comprehensive update at the upcoming Board meeting.

Shared Autonomous Vehicle (SAV) Project

LAVTA has been testing the SAV in the City of Dublin over the last several months. Staff will provide a more comprehensive update at the upcoming Board meeting.

Pleasanton BRT Corridor Enhancement Project (Rapid Stops on Santa Rita)

New concrete for the Rapid medallion signs and new amenities was placed in December and January, preparing for installation of the new equipment and amenities in late January and early February. Work installing electrical components and passenger amenities began in mid-January and is expected to continue into early February, with project completion scheduled by the end of next month.

Dublin Parking Garage Project

Alameda County serves as the Lead Agency on this project in partnership with LAVTA as project sponsor. The County is in the process of advertising the design-build RFP for construction of the garage, with LAVTA staff participating as a member of the selection committee. Alameda County staff anticipates County awarding the construction contract in spring 2021, with completion in 2023.