

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 2021

Ridership

With free rides offered during the month of September, average weekday ridership saw 13 percent increase from the last two weeks of August. September's weekday ridership was just over 3,400 per day, with about 40 percent of those rides occurring on services to Tri-Valley middle and high schools. During the last two weeks of August, when school was in session, average weekday ridership was about 3,000 per day. Free rides ended on October 6 and during the week of October 11, average weekday ridership remained at about 3,400 per day, which is a positive sign that our numbers are moving in the right direction.

Operator Shortage

The new bid, implemented September 20, has helped better realign the current resources to fill all open work due to the ongoing driver shortage. LAVTA continues to partner with our fixed route contractor MV Transportation to actively recruit and retain drivers, with a current pipeline of new applicants making their way through the hiring and training process. The team has also been providing employee appreciation events and incentives to improve morale and the overall workplace environment. In all, there are 18 people in process to become a bus operator. The operator shortage is currently 20 operators.

ZEB Study Update

The Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) is currently updating a few outdated key variables and assumptions in the cost comparison model to ensure the data presented is the most accurate available. The revised ZEB Master Transition Plan is expected to be ready to present to the Projects and Services Committee in December.

Atlantis Transit Facility

The schematic design plans were submitted to the City of Livermore's Planning Department for review and Staff along with contractor Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA) recently met with the City to go over their initial comments and feedback. The plans were well-received with no major concerns so any minor suggestions will be incorporated before submitting the final planning application to the City. Contract Task Order 5 has been fully executed and Staff is working with KHA on the timeline and anticipates the 60 percent design plans along with the bridging documents will be completed in the next six months.

Shared Autonomous Vehicle Project

Staff has been working to secure funding for the second phase of the Project. Funding from Regional Measure 2 (RM2) was approved at the last ACTC meeting and will go on the MTC agenda as a consent item for their meeting on October 27. Staff has also applied for the Innovative Deployments to Enhance Arterials (IDEA) 2 grant and successfully passed the first stage of the two-stage application process. Staff and consultants are currently working on the second stage application. RM2 and IDEA 2 would be able to fully fund the capital costs of Phase 2 of the SAV Project, which will include: purchase of three SAV vehicles, inductive charging equipment, traffic signal communications systems, and the construction of a mobility hub at the business park near East Dublin/Pleasanton BART.