

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Appointment of LAVTA Board Members to Paratransit Demonstration Project Committee

FROM: Michael Tree, Executive Director

DATE: July 12, 2021

Action Requested

The recommendation is that the LAVTA Board appoint Chair Karla Brown and Board Member David Haubert to the Paratransit Demonstration Project Committee.

Background/Discussion

At the February 2021 Board of Directors meeting a 15-month paratransit pilot program was approved between LAVTA and County Connection through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Board Member David Haubert requested staff create a joint committee between LAVTA and County Connection. The committee will consist of two LAVTA Board Members and two County Connection Board Members. The Paratransit Demonstration Project Committee will establish goals, policies, and metrics to monitor the success of the program during the demonstration project.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Recommendation

The recommendation is that the LAVTA Board appoint Chair Karla Brown and Board Member David Haubert to the Paratransit Demonstration Project Committee.

Attachments:

1. February 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Submitted: _____

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2021 ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
LAVTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Bob Woerner at 4:00pm.

Board Chair Bob Woerner informed the public that LAVTA's meeting is being conducted according to the COVID-19 rules that are detailed at the beginning of the agenda explaining why this is a Zoom teleconference.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members Present

Jean Josey – City of Dublin
 Melissa Hernandez – City of Dublin
 David Haubert – County of Alameda
 Kathy Narum – City of Pleasanton
 Karla Brown – City of Pleasanton
 Bob Woerner – City of Livermore
 Brittini Kiick – City of Livermore

3. Meeting Open to Public

Steven Dunbar

Steven Dunbar informed the Board that he provided an update via email on what Mr. Dunbar and Executive Director Michael Tree have been working on and it's been very fruitful. Steven Dunbar is very appreciative and wanted to say thank you, but noted there are more things to do.

Teamsters Local 70

Teamsters Local 70 Rich Fierro requested that agenda item 5d be removed on the consent agenda and would like to speak on this item.

4. January Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee Minutes

Chair Herb Hastings of the Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee (TAAC) reported on the minutes of the January 6, 2020 TAAC Zoom teleconference meeting. Discussed at the TAAC meeting were updates on Paratransit Operations and Maintenance RFP, Public Input on COVID-19 Emergency Service Changes, Para-Taxi Debit Card Pilot Program, One Seat Regional Ride Pilot Program, and Go Tri-Valley. Herb Hastings informed the Board of Directors he is communicating with East Bay Advisory Committee, the SRAC and encouraging them to endorse the idea of having East Bay Paratransit involved with the One Seat Regional Ride Pilot Program. Herb Hastings will provide a status update on East Bay Paratransit at a future meeting.

5. Consent Agenda

Recommend approval of all items on Consent Agenda as follows:

A. Minutes of the December 7, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

B. Treasurer’s Report for November 2020 and December 2020

The Board of Directors approved the November 2020 and December 2020 Treasurer’s Report.

C. 2021 Legislative Program

The Board of Directors approved Resolution 04-2021 affirming LAVTA’s 2021 Legislative Program.

Director David Haubert motioned to pull Consent Agenda Item 5d for further discussion and to approve Consent Agenda Items 5a-5c.

Approved: Haubert/Narum

Aye: Narum, Woerner, Brown, Josey, Kiick, Haubert, Hernandez

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

D. Evaluation of Paratransit Services

Chair Bob Woerner opened public comment on Consent Agenda Item 5d.

Teamsters Local 70

Teamsters Local 70 Rich Fierro informed that he met with Executive Director Michael Tree after the last Board meeting and realizes the cost savings with a 15-month pilot program. Rich Fierro requested the Board Members to provide their thoughts on this long term. Rich Fierro expressed concerns about the RFP bidding and keeping the door open on pilot projects.

The item was discussed by the Board of Directors and staff. Director David Haubert asked Executive Director Michael Tree if LAVTA has guardrails around the timing of the pilot program and if there is a metric in place to measure success in this program. Executive Director Michael Tree informed the pilot program would run 12-15 months and a joint Committee will be created between LAVTA and CCCTA. The Committee would look at what both agencies would like to accomplish during the pilot period in regard to policies and establish metrics to determine success. Executive Director Michael Tree noted that all policies for the Wheels service area will remain under the governance of the LAVTA Board and will be brought back to the Board. Executive Director Michael Tree informed that at the conclusion of the Pilot Program either a joint RFP will be done with CCCTA or LAVTA will complete their own. Board Members are interested to see if the partnership works out and will look carefully at the process, since the goal is to save money, continue to have LAVTA run at the status it currently is at, and provide additional services into Contra Costa County.

The Board of Directors approved Resolution 06-2021, authorizing the Executive Director to reject all proposals from RFP 2020-04 for Paratransit Operations and Maintenance and negotiate and exercise an MOU with CCCTA to establish a 15-month pilot where

LAVTA will share CCCTA's paratransit contractor in an effort to more efficiently achieve common goals toward a more seamless paratransit program.

Approved: Haubert/Brown

Aye: Narum, Woerner, Brown, Josey, Kiick, Haubert, Hernandez

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Elect New Vice Chair

The Board of Directors nominated and elected a new LAVTA Board Vice Chair from Pleasanton to fill the remaining term of outgoing Boardmember Jerry Pentin.

A motion was made by Chair Bob Woerner to select the following as the LAVTA Board Vice Chair for the remaining FY 2021 term:

Vice Chair – Karla Brown

Approved: Woerner/Josey

Aye: Narum, Woerner, Brown, Josey, Kiick, Haubert, Hernandez

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

7. Welcome of New Board Members and Adoption of Revised Resolution with Committee Assignments

Chair Bob Woerner requested new Board Members to provide a brief introduction about themselves to staff and other Board Members. Director's Brittni Kiick, Jean Josey, and Kathy Narum provided a brief introduction/bio to Staff and other Board Members.

The Board of Director adopted Resolution 05-2021 appointing Brittni Kiick, Livermore City Council Member and Kathy Narum, Pleasanton City Council Member to Finance and Administration Committee, and David Haubert, Alameda County Supervisor and Jean Josey, Dublin City Council Member to the Projects and Services Committee.

Approved: Brown/Narum

Aye: Narum, Woerner, Brown, Josey, Kiick, Haubert, Hernandez

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8. Appointment of LAVTA Representative to the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority

The Board of Directors appointed Brittni Kiick to serve on the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority.

Approved: Woerner/Brown

Aye: Narum, Woerner, Brown, Josey, Kiick, Haubert, Hernandez
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9. State of the System Presentation

Staff provided the Board of Directors a PowerPoint presentation on operations that gave an overview of LAVTAs pre-COVID-19 levels, our services, and overall how the system performance was doing. Staff also informed the Board on what happened to LAVTA's system during the pandemic and how LAVTA views recovery after the pandemic. Executive Director Michael Tree highlighted the Blue Ribbon Task Force, governance, and a Network Manager concept to implement reform among Bay Area agencies. At the next Board of Directors meeting staff will provide information on Capital Projects.

The item was discussed by the Board of Directors and staff. Chair Bob Woerner noted that he attended a Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting when they requested to hear from local operators. Chair Bob Woerner explained that the intent is to not eliminate local operators, but to improve coordination, ridership, and to gain additional funding. Chair Bob Woerner expressed to Board Members to pay close attention and advocate for what is in everyone's best interest. Executive Director Michael Tree agreed to email the PowerPoint presentation to Board Members.

Chair Bob Woerner opened public comment.

Amy Mauldin

TAAC Vice Chair Amy Mauldin provided examples on how reform would help clients with connectivity from one agency to another agency.

Steven Dunbar

Steven Dunbar expressed that this is the right direction to have local control and a Network Manager to make things more seamless and have better communication with riders. Steven Dunbar also shared difficult public transit experiences transferring from one agency to another.

This was informational only.

10. Public Input on COVID-19 Emergency Service Changes

Staff provided the Board of Directors the Public Input on COVID-19 Emergency Service Changes. Staff informed that transit agencies that accept federal money must have a policy in place to accept public input any time fares are changed or there are major service changes. LAVTA's policy was adopted in 2008 and there is a provision that allows for emergency service changes to be made without a public comment period, but if the changes continue past 180 days LAVTA is required to conduct a public comment period. The Board authorized LAVTA to have public input at the December 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Staff advertised the request for public input at: Pleasanton Weekly, Livermore Independent, social media, press releases, and notices were placed on LAVTA's buses in five languages. Staff noted that over the course of seven weeks LAVTA received one public comment from Robert Fleming stating that he had no issues with the changes and he is happy Wheels is still running. Staff explained that occasionally LAVTA receives emails asking when we will bring back service levels on certain routes. Staff stated bringing back service levels will be part of a larger discussion with

prioritizing which services will come back and another public input will be conducted at that time.

The item was discussed by the Board of Directors and staff. Director Brittini Kiick inquired when bus drivers will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Staff explained that public transit are in tier 2 for the vaccine; however, the state of California is planning to move away from the tiers and instead going to an age based prioritization.

Chair Bob Woerner opened public comment.

Teamsters Local 70

Teamsters Local 70 Rich Fierro informed the Board of Directors that they have been pushing both regionally statewide and nationally for essential workers to receive higher priority for COVID-19 vaccines. Rich Fierro requested Board Members and staff if they have influence with Governor Newsom to chime in on being a priority for the vaccine, because drivers have interaction with the public every day.

This was informational only.

11. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Michael Tree reported on the capital projects. Executive Director Michael Tree noted LAVTA has a 2.7 million dollar request in at MTC for the Shared Autonomous Vehicle Project to fund Phase II. Executive Director Michael Tree will reach out to Board Members to assist with the SAV MTC request. Executive Director Michael Tree explained that staff is spending a considerable amount of time on the Dublin Parking Garage Project. Staff is assisting with selecting a design-build contractor for the parking garage and it will go to the County Commission for approval. Executive Director Michael Tree announced the Pleasanton BRT Corridor Enhancement Project is wrapping up this month and a ribbon cutting event will be held with Board Members. Executive Director Michael Tree noted that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Valley Link is almost concluded and is a huge milestone for the project. Executive Director Michael Tree informed that at the next Board of Directors meeting there will be significant discussions regarding the Valley Link project on administration and how to retain key Program and Project Managers that are currently seconded from BART.

This was informational only.

12. Matters Initiated by the Board of Directors

Chair Bob Woerner requested a meeting with Gillig to discuss hydrogen powered buses and to invite the City Mayors from the Tri-Valley and Supervisor David Haubert to attend. Chair Bob Woerner would like Executive Director Michael Tree to assist with coordinating the meeting. Director Jean Josey inquired if having a meeting with four Board Members would present a problem, since that is a quorum. Legal Counsel Michael Conneran informed that if you attend a public meeting and you only participate in the meeting and do not discuss amongst yourselves that is okay. Legal Counsel explained that if this meeting was open to the public the meeting could take place. Director Jean Josey suggested inviting Gillig to a LAVTA Board of Director meeting. Legal Counsel Michael Conneran noted that during COVID-19 if there is a tour it would be noticed as a Board meeting. Chair Bob Woerner expressed he is not inclined to make the meeting a big deal and they need to figure out the best way to do it.

13. Next Meeting Date is Scheduled for: March 1, 2021

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm.