

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

April 2022

### **Ridership**

Through the first two weeks of April, ridership has continued in a positive direction. Spring Break at area schools impacted ridership the first 10 days of the month. Once school resumed, weekday ridership averaged 3,460. Ridership on Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> topped 3,700 for the first time since the pandemic began. By comparison, average weekday ridership in January 2022 was approximately 3,200 per day on days when schools were in session. Our current figures are still about half of our last month of pre-COVID impacted ridership in February 2020.

### **Update on Paratransit Request for Proposals**

The joint paratransit RFP with County Connection was released on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Proposals were due on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and two proposals were received. The proposals have been reviewed by LAVTA and CCCTA staff, along with staff from some of our partner agencies, in order to have a recommendation ready for Board approval at the May meeting.

### **Rutan Facility Landscaping**

The Board approved the contract award for the overhaul of the landscaping at the Rutan Facility at the April Board meeting. Work on this project will begin on April 25<sup>th</sup> with removal of most of the current landscaping. All trees will remain, as will some of the shrubs that currently skirt the employee outdoor break area. The second phase will involve replacing the current irrigations system with one that will use considerably less water.

### **Masks Now Optional for Passengers**

As a result of the TSA announcement on Monday April 18<sup>th</sup>, our passengers now have the choice whether or not to wear a face covering while riding Wheels buses. Notices were placed on the fareboxes of all buses and a news alert has been posted to our website. Drivers will continue to carry a supply of masks for passengers wishing to wear one.

### **Governor Proposes Three Months' Free Transit to Combat High Gas Prices**

Earlier this month the state Department of Finance released legislative language to implement the Newsom Administration's fare-free transit proposal, which would authorize \$750 million in new state funding to incentivize transit agencies to implement fare free transit service for three months next fiscal year. Based on the DOF formula, LAVTA estimates the agency could receive approximately \$300,000 in state funding to implement a program. Staff is analyzing the potential ridership and revenue impacts for both the fixed-route and paratransit systems should the agency elect to participate in the program. LAVTA previously offered fare-free service from March to September 2020 at the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency.

### **Dublin Parking Garage Update**

Alameda County's Board of Supervisors approved the parking garage construction contract last month, and County expects construction activities to begin in August. Behind the scenes, LAVTA staff is working with the state to reprogram cost savings achieved following completion of the Tri-Valley Hub Study to the parking garage construction budget and extend the time period for the construction phase to encompass the schedule County established in the contract with the design-builder.