



MEASURE J TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF AGENCY

Board of Directors Special Meeting

Summary of Actions

Friday, February 19, 2021

3:00 PM

DUE TO COVID-19, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-25-20 AND N-29-20, WHICH SUSPEND CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON.

Committee members, staff and the public may participate remotely via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2641785183> or by calling 1 669 900 6833 using

Meeting 264 178 5183.

Public Comment

Public comment may be submitted in advance of the meeting via email to admin@ridetraffic.com. Please indicate in your email the agenda item to which your comment applies. Comments submitted before the meeting will be provided to the Technical Advisory Committee before or during the meeting. Please submit public comments as soon as possible so that they can be provided to the TRAFFIX Board of Directors before, and, as feasible, during the meeting.

Any document provided to a majority of the members of the Measure J Traffic Congestion Relief Agency (TRAFFIX) Technical Advisory Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the meeting. Members of the public may arrange to view documents after the meeting by calling the TRAFFIX Administrative Coordinator at 925-973-2649 during normal business hours.

- I. Call to Order** Chair Andersen called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM
- II. Roll Call** Chair Candace Andersen (Contra Costa County), Director Newell Arnerich (Town of Danville) arrived at 3:09, Director Dave Fong (Town of Danville) arrived at 3:05, Director Rachel Hurd (SRVUSD), Director Laura Bratt (SRVUSD), Director Dave Hudson (City of San Ramon), Director Sabina Zafar (City of San Ramon), Robert Sarmiento (Contra Costa County), Andy

Dillard (Town of Danville), Lisa Bobadilla (City of San Ramon), Danny Hillman (SRVUSD) Henry Cooper (First Student), Pamela Lee (First Student), Michael Conneran (TRAFFIX Attorney), Megan Wilkerson (TRAFFIX Administrative Coordinator), Katie DeFerrari

III. Public Comment-

Katie De Ferrari (Vista Grande parent, present on ZOOM meeting)- comment live and discussed: timing of the bus leaving the school very late and kids sitting on the bus too long. The driver could not leave before scheduled time. Her children were sitting on the bus for 20 minutes and it is too long. Her children want to take the bus; she works from home and could pick them up if they need to wait on the bus for so long. She would like the schedule to be shifted so the students are not waiting on the bus too long.

Chris Kmiec email read aloud- Chris was concerned about his kinder student having a 15 minute gap from when kindergarten was released to when other students were released and permitted on the bus. (Attached and labeled Email #1)

Sarah Pocisk (Sarah Adams) email read aloud- Sarah's concern was about the 15 minute gap between when each of her children get on the bus and her concern for her 6 year-old being unsupervised for 15 minutes. (Attached and labeled Email #2)

Nicole Francis email read aloud- Nicole's raised concern about the different schedules for the different schools. All of her children have different schedules and not all of them ride the bus. Asked for some consistency and consideration to working parents. (Attached and labeled Email #3)

Supervisor Andersen addressed the other public comments to the Board.

IV. Order of the Agenda- No Change

V. Old Business

A. Receive Update on 2020-2021 SRVUSD Distance Learning and Provide Direction as Appropriate

Ms. Wilkerson recapped the Board that Vista Grande and Green Valley routes have begun as of February 17, 2021. There have been 41 passes sold to date. Routes running are Vista Grande 3, Green Valley 5,6, and 9. Everything has run smoothly so far, and gave compliments to First Student for great communication.

The schedule issue regarding different cohort schedules will allow 6th grade students to be on campus. However, no 7th and 8th grade students are not permitted to be on campus until county is in the red tier. When this tier change happens, Los Cerros will have four routes, and Pine Valley will have two.

To address the 6th grade cohort schedule immediately, there are three scenarios presented to cover these routes. These 6 routes designated at this time will be:

- LC1
- LC4
- LC5
- LC8
- PV15
- PV16

First Student will need to furnish 12 buses to provide the pick-up and drop-off service due to the small gap in timing. Utilizing these resources will allow the drivers to drop-off students, disinfect the buses, and pick up the second cohort of students. Ms. Wilkerson explained how these routes could be covered with drivers from high school routes to cover the PM arrival route.

- Option #1- hold off pass sales until all middle school students are allowed back on campus.
- Option #2- open pass sales to all middle school students; however, all 7th and 8th grade students will remain remote until they're permitted on campus. All 6th grade students will be permitted on the bus. Passes will be sold at the 6th grade rate which is based on a four-day a week schedule, and the 7th and 8th grade families will have to be reimbursed to reflect the actual days they will be on campus.
- Option #3- sell passes to only 6th grade students; however, the passes will be void when all middle school students can return. Passes would be re-sold to all middle school students at a new rate that directly reflects the number of days remaining, including 6th grade students, who would need to re-purchase passes for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Wilkerson asked for direction from the Board on how to proceed for pass sales.

Chair Andersen wrapped the public comment back to this topic for Ms. Wilkerson to address the Board and ask for direction. She summarized the public comments for the Board to discuss. Green Valley has capacity for five kindergarten students to wait for the buses in the office, but this is not the ideal situation long-term.

Chair Andersen commented about the timing issues and how important this is for parents who count on the schedule and it being consistent.

Director Arnerich asked Ms. Wilkerson to confirm whether buses were running and the total number of buses. The four routes require eight buses running to cover the AM and PM routes. Many of the remaining routes can be returned when the county returns into the red tier, which is to be determined. Director Hurd commented that the case count needs to be below seven cases per 100,000 residents. Director Arnerich asked if this was only a short-term solution. Ms. Wilkerson commented that if we go with option #2, the schedule will revert back to the cohort A and cohort B schedule and not remain with the cohort A – AM and PM, and cohort B – AM and PM. Director Zafar asked if the buses are being used, and if not, could they be used. Ms. Wilkerson commented that all 12 buses are available and can be used.

Chair Andersen commented that her thought would be that TRAFFIX should run option #2, but credit the families. Director Hurd commented that Option #1 would present an issue with the high school buses being used if the students return to campus. The option to return service to the 6th grade population, and then not address the 7th and 8th graders until they are permitted on campus. Ms. Wilkerson commented that the 12-bus solution would be temporary and not needed when the students return to campus 7-12th graders. If the students return, there will not be an issue.

Chair Andersen asked about servicing the 6th grade students and honoring passes for 7th and 8th grade students. This would present an issue that only 6th grade students will be on the bus. Ms. Wilkerson suggested selling all middle school routes and allowing 7th and 8th graders to have seats on the bus when students return. She then asked for guidance from the Board.

Director Hudson agreed to go with a variant of Option #2, that passes are sold for the 6th graders and have spots available for 7th and 8th graders. Director Arnerich commented that the difference between the pass fare for a 6th grade student riding immediately and a 7th or 8th grade student riding shortly is insignificant. The flat fee would be easier and a better financial solution in a simplified format. Chair Andersen agreed that this would be a great solution to the situation.

Director Zafar agreed and stated that tiering the pricing would simplify the situation and move forward. This would allow 7th and 8th grade parents can purchase a pass now and the students can return when permitted. Potential closures in the future could be addressed at that time. Director Bratt asked about the capacity on the bus and the estimated number of students we will be expecting when the buses return. Ms. Wilkerson said that over selling the buses will probably not be an issue. The maximum amount of students on the highest

demand route is currently eight students. Chair Andersen commented that we have not reserved seating in the past due to grade level, and it is up to the parents to decide if they need to purchase a pass or not.

Chair Andersen suggested opening passes to all 7th and 8th graders at the same time as the 6th grade students. Director Hurd agreed and said it would be helpful for families with multiple riders from the same household.

Mr. Cooper mentioned he could begin running the six middle school routes, activating the 12 drivers within a week. All drivers are on stand-by.

Board directed staff to sell passes for 6-8th graders at one time, with the same pricing regardless of grade. Service will resume for 6th grade students only on March 2, 2021. When Contra Costa County enters the red tier and 7th and 8th grade students will be permitted on campus, the TRAFFIX program will honor these passes sold.

Addressing the public comment, the Board suggests that the buses will adjust timing per school site on an as-needed basis.

Motion to approve by Director Zafar, second by Director Arnerich. Vote passed 5-0.

VI. New Business

- A. **Review and Approve** 2020-2021 MOU with TRAFFIX and San Ramon Valley Unified School District

Motion to approve by Director Arnerich, second by Director Hurd. Vote passed 5-0

- VII. **Adjournment:** Chair Andersen adjourned the meeting at 3:39 PM.