



DATE: November 28, 2016
TO: SolanoExpress Intercity Transit Consortium
FROM: Philip Kamhi, Transit Program Manager
RE: Solano Community College (SCC) Student Transportation Fee

Discussion:

On Thursday, November 22, 2016, the three operators that are involved in the Solano Community College (SCC) Student Transportation Fee services met with the STA to discuss the implementation of the recently approved half-priced student fee. Based on input received from Nathaniel Atherstone of Fairfield and Suisun Transit (City of Fairfield), Michael Abegg of Solano County Transit (SolTrans), and Brian McLean of Vacaville City Coach, the group recommended an arrangement with Solano Community College where SCC keeps the student fee funding collected until students purchase passes. This recommended arrangement would function as follows:

1. Each of the three operators would distribute passes to the SCC bookstore as a sales site. SolTrans already has an agreement for this, and the other operators would obtain similar agreements.
2. SCC collects the Student Transportation Fee.
3. Students purchase transit passes at the SCC bookstore for half price.
4. The SCC bookstore bills the SCC (Transportation Fee Account) for the remaining half of the ticket price.

As a result of this arrangement, an agreement is not necessary between SCC, STA, and the operators and no transfer of money will occur. The elimination of this type of agreement will make the January 2017 start date more feasible based on each, as each operator going through their own legal review process. The accounting of where the funding goes to the operators will be automated, as each pass that sells will go directly to a specific operator, thus no data collection or analysis is necessary. This arrangement limits the operator's risk in having more passengers than fares received. The potential downside to this arrangement is that the operators may not receive the full amount of funding that is collected through the student fee, as the student fee funding will be received on a per use basis. The amount of funding projected to be available based on the number of SCC students is projected at \$200,000. The amount of SCC students purchasing the ½ fare passes is incentive. This may also provide some more administrative work for SCC's book store staff.

As this is recommended as a two-year pilot program, implementing the program based on the operator's recommended arrangement allows for data collection in order to measure success and determine the future of this program.

Revised Recommendation:

Forward a recommendation to the STA TAC and Board to evaluate and report on the SCC Student Transportation Fee program performance after the first year of the program.

