

FEBRUARY 15, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

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- NCTD+ Microtransit Service Update:** The North County Transit District (NCTD) Board of Directors (Board) received an update on the NCTD+ Microtransit Pilot Program. Microtransit provides critical first/last mile connections and is intended to complement fixed route service. Microtransit vehicles are smaller and do not have the capacity to move as many passengers as a fixed-route bus or train. Microtransit can also be utilized to provide service in hard-to-reach areas. NCTD analyzed 14 potential zones for microtransit, which were rated based on equity considerations, efficiency of operations, points of interest, and the presence of existing transit services. The four zones that ranked highest were located in San Marcos, Vista, Fallbrook, and Oceanside. NCTD will continue public outreach to ensure the pilots best serve each community. NCTD will launch its first 12-month NCTD+ pilot in San Marcos in June 2024. It will launch subsequent pilots in April 2025, October 2025, and April 2026, respectively. If additional funding sources become available, cities can engage NCTD to potentially launch zones earlier. The NCTD+ Microtransit Pilot Program does not meet the threshold set by the Board for a major service change, and therefore, it does not require Board approval for implementation. The Board will review the proposed budget for the service as part of the FY2025 operating budget development process, which will be presented to the Board in June 2024.
- Sustainability and Climate Action Plan Update:** The Board received an update on NCTD's recently completed Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP), which provides a strategic framework to reduce operational and regional greenhouse gas emissions. NCTD's SCAP sets the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. The SCAP articulates eight goals and provides for 41 strategies to achieve this objective.. In addition, NCTD is in the process of transitioning its 152-bus fleet to zero emission operations, and is completing a study to guide the transition of its rail fleet. NCTD elected to participate in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) voluntary Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge and will file the SCAP with the FTA.
- Public Hearing Set for Proposed Sorrento Valley COASTER Connection Service:** The Board voted to set a public hearing on April 18, 2024, and authorized staff to begin public outreach to consider assuming operation of the Sorrento Valley COASTER Connection Service (SVCC) routes. On October 19, 2023, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) provided NCTD official notice of termination of the SVCC service. The Sorrento Valley COASTER station is NCTD's third highest ridership station, in part because of the connections the SVCC service provides. NCTD began public outreach following MTS's notice to inform the proposed service plan, which will be shared with the public throughout the public hearing process. NCTD staff plans to hold several outreach events at various locations within the SVCC service area and is engaging with employers in the area.