

Means-Based Fare Pilot Proposal

**ATSP Task Force Meeting
December 15, 2022**



CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Means-Based Fare Subsidy Strategy

- A “Means Based Fare Subsidy” strategy was included in the ATSP and then as a priority activity for Measure X
- The planning team reviewed model programs and best practices around the Bay Area and presented in April 2022
- The team attempted to identify geographic areas with noted gaps in service, as Central and South County were already involved in the One Seat Ride pilot, West and East County were considered for the next pilot
- Originally West County was proposed for a subsidized TNC pilot, however in June 2022 the TF identified several questions preventing timely implementation
- The planning team met with Tri Delta Transit to determine the feasibility to begin the pilot in East County, it emerged that an ADA-mandated paratransit fare subsidy program would be more feasible and desirable

Means-Based Fare Subsidy Pilot Proposal

- Eligibility – People with disabilities currently registered with Tri Delta Transit Paratransit that meet Extremely Low-Income criteria. Extremely Low-Income criteria are recommended now, but may allow capacity for less-restrictive income requirements later.
- Benefit – Eligible riders will receive \$22 (8 one-way trips) of tickets per month to use for local Tri Delta Transit Paratransit trips.
- Pilot Program Service Area and Times – Same as Tri Delta Transit Paratransit. This program does not apply to One Seat Ride.
- Pilot Duration – Six months with a review at three-months to consider subsidy and/or eligibility adjustments.

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- Communication – CCTA and County staff will develop outreach materials
- Outreach – TDT will distribute flyer/postcard to Paratransit riders and display on vehicles.
- Customer Service – all inquiries will be directed to an administrator, Contra Costa Crisis Center (CCCC)
 - Verify ADA certification with Tri Delta Transit
 - Verify low-income eligibility
 - Provide tickets to participants
 - Answer questions
 - Track inquiries

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- Determining low-income eligibility
 - Participation in one of these programs indicates eligibility: WIC, Medicaid, SNAP, child in the National School Lunch program, SSI/SSDI/SSA, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), CalWorks, General Assistance (GA) – YES
 - If individuals are unable to verify using any of the above options, they may need to submit financial documentation
- Monitoring – NN will collect data on usage, demand, costs

Staff Recommendations

- Proceed with the East County Means-Based Fare Pilot
 - Total budget: \$100,000
 - Measure X funds
 - Six-Month Pilot
- Execute Agreement No. 626 with Contra Costa Crisis Center to provide administrative services
 - Amount not-to-exceed \$20,000

One Seat Ride Update

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CONTRA COSTA
transportation
authority



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N NELSON
NYGAARD

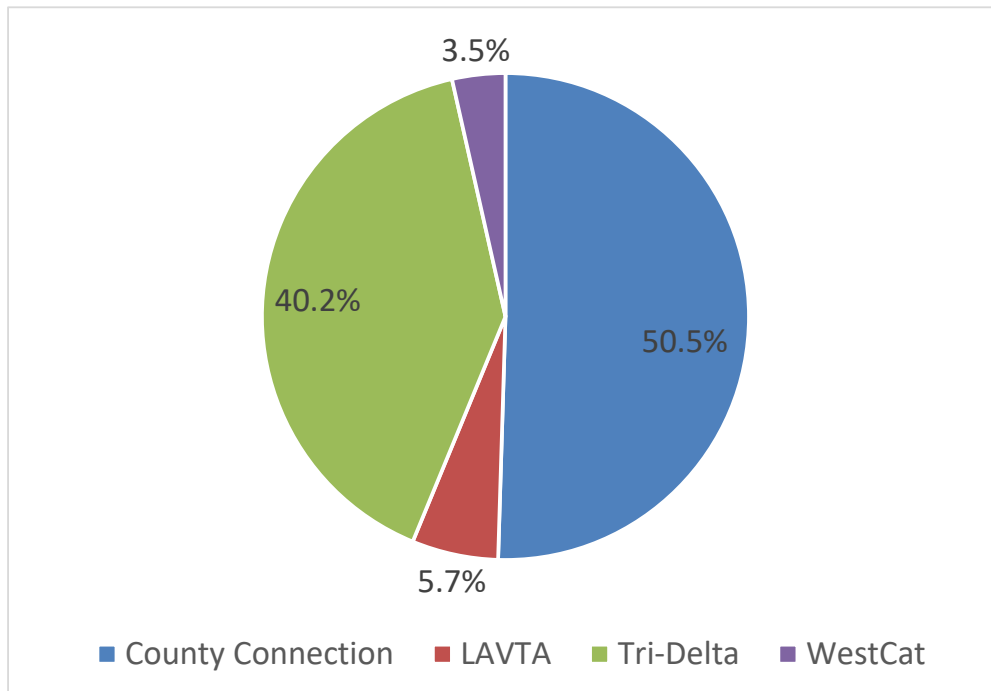
Update On One Seat Ride Expansion

Existing Program

- Participating Transit Agencies
 - County Connection / CCCTA
 - Tri-Delta Transit / ECCTA
 - WestCat / WCCTA
 - Wheels / LAVTA
- Operated by County Connection through contractor TransDev and subcontractor BigStar
- A One-seat ride is a direct trip to a rider's final destination with no transfer required. Other passengers may be served along with way
- Customer pays one fare, based on transit operator service area of boarding
- One phone number for all reservations: 925-680-2134
- Cost-sharing based on mileage in each operator's service area

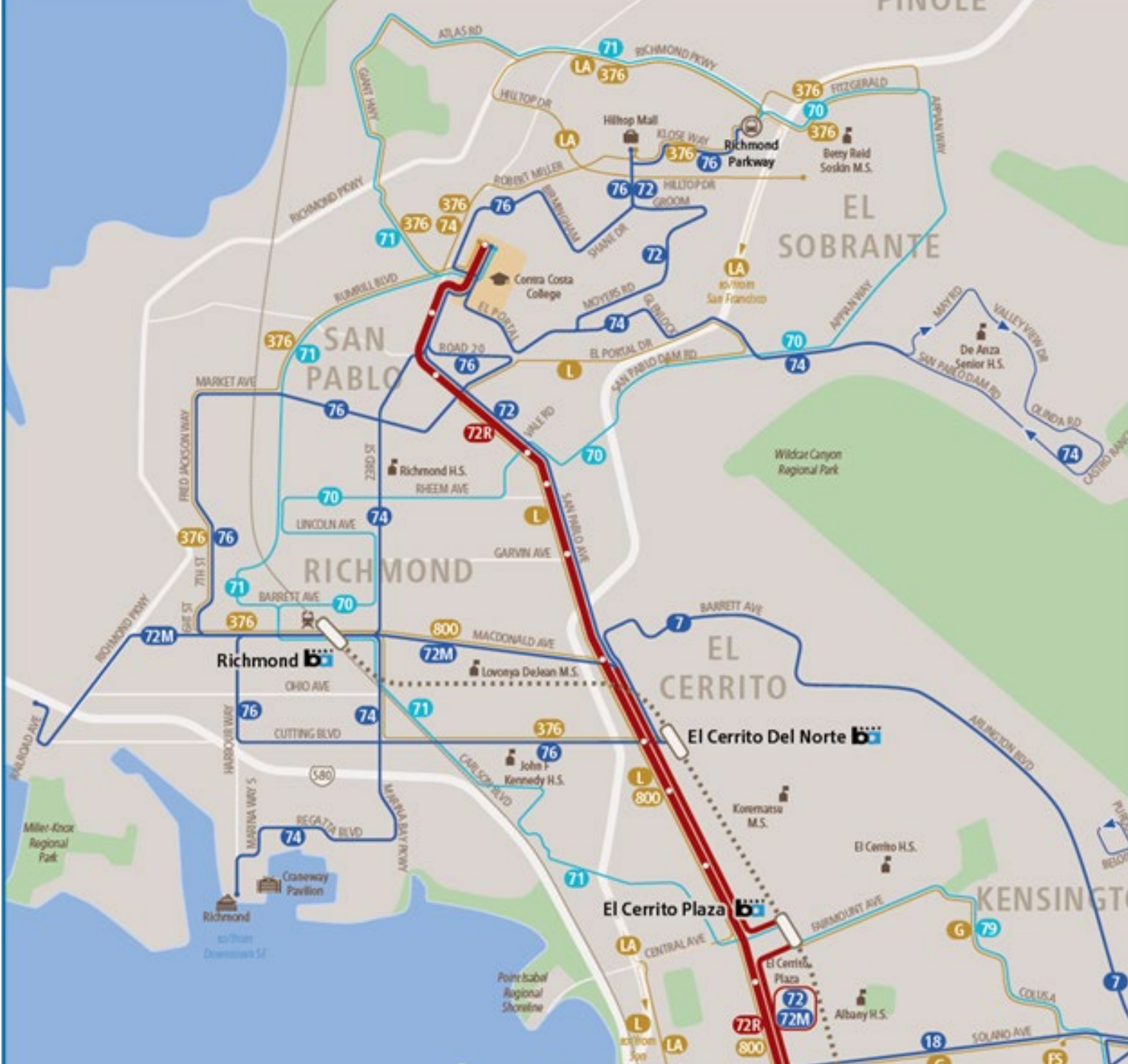
Existing Program

- Total one-way trips June 2021-May 2022: 8,524
- Service is operated by County Connection's contractor Transdev, and their subcontractor Big Star Transit
- Share of cost:



Participating Agencies:





Proposed OSR Expansion Area

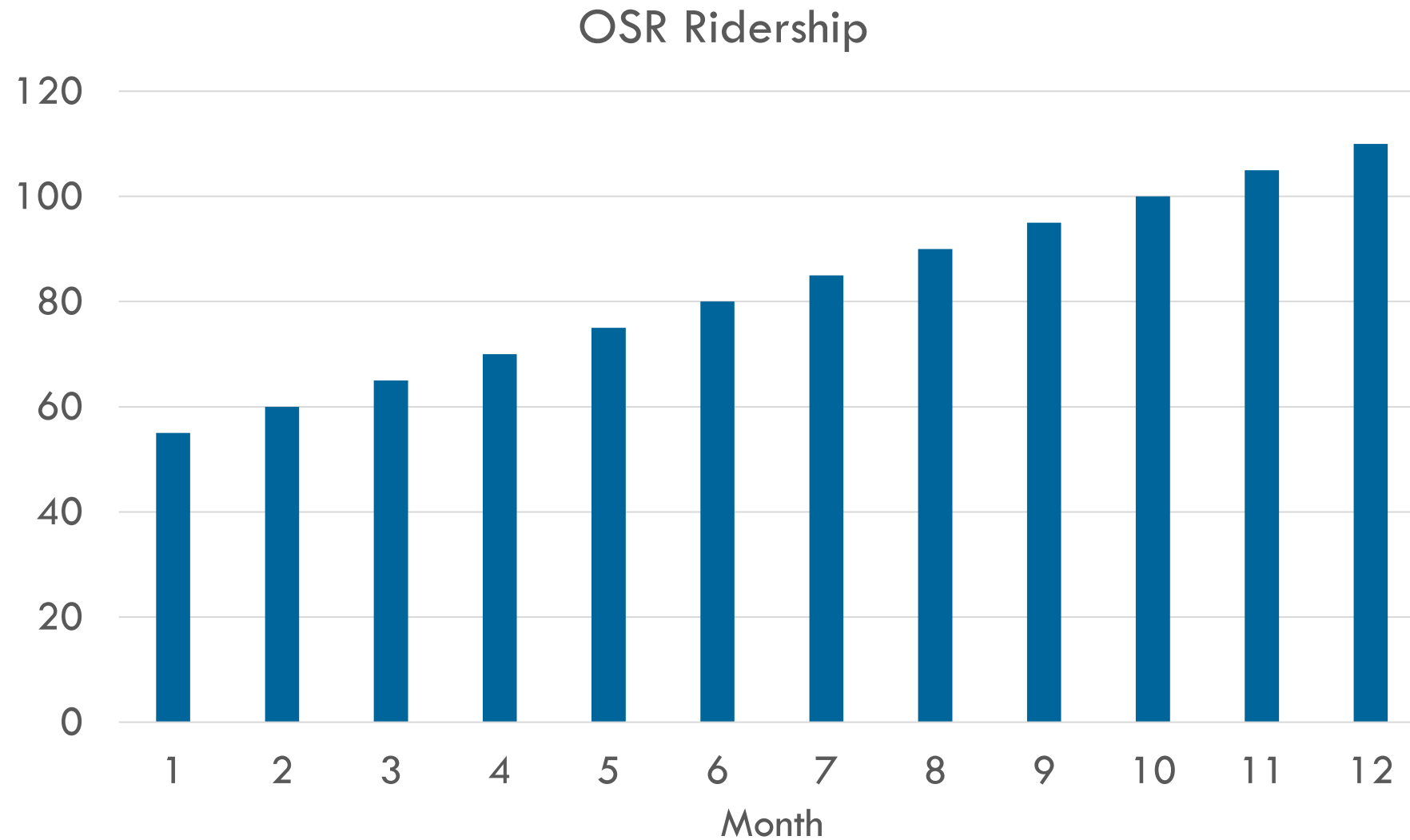
Why This Area?

- The only piece of urban Contra Costa County not part of OSR
- Likely need for residents to travel to County-funded services outside the EBP service area
- Likely to benefit existing EBP riders

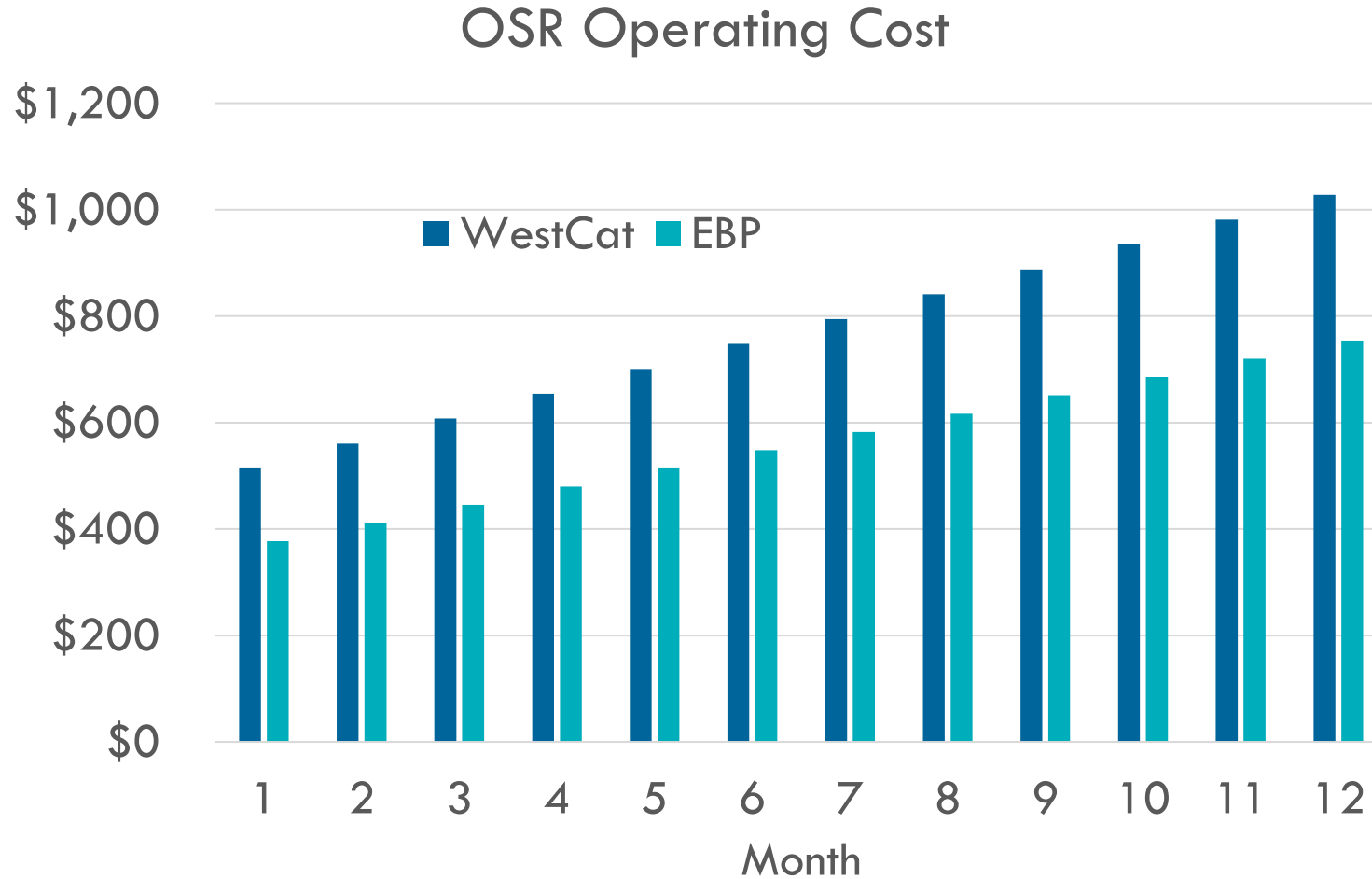
Proposed Expansion

- Will be in West County between the East Bay Paratransit and WestCAT areas
- Average existing transfer trips
 - WestCAT to EBP – 40 per month
 - EBP to WestCAT – 37 per month
- Service would still be operated by County Connection's contractor Transdev, and their subcontractor Big Star Transit
- 50% allowance for post-pandemic ridership growth since 2021-22
- 100% OSR ridership growth over a 12-month pilot (vs. existing)
- \$514 WestCAT initial cost per month and \$377 EBP initial cost per month

OSR Ridership (12-month Pilot)



OSR Operating Cost (12-Month Pilot)



Total:

WestCAT: \$9,252

EBP: \$6,786

Next Steps

- Refine demand and cost estimates
- Confirm eligibility for Measure X and availability of sufficient funds
- Identify source(s) of matching funds
- Internal approval by AC Transit / BART
- Negotiation and execution of MOU
- Detailed implementation: client data, mapping, public information,