

**To:** Dougherty Valley Oversight Committee

**Date:** 11/14/2024

**From:** Andrew M. Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing

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**SUBJECT: Dougherty Valley Bus Service – Route 35**

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**Background:**

County Connection operates Route 35 on weekdays. The route runs along Bollinger Canyon Road from the San Ramon Transit Center to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station (see attached Route 35 Map and Schedule). This service implements the transit-related policies of the *Dougherty Valley Specific Plan* and its certified *Supplemental Environmental Impact Report*, and the findings of the *Dougherty Valley Transit Feasibility Study*. County Connection operated the service as a five-year demonstration project, which began on December 18, 2008 and ended on December 19, 2011. Since the demonstration project ended, County Connection has operated the service in accordance with its own performance measurement system.

Funding for the service comes from several sources: developer impact fees, Measure J sales tax funding allocated by the Southwest Area Transportation Committee (SWAT), bus fares paid by passengers, and County Connection general funds. Under terms of a service agreement between County Connection and Contra Costa County, funds from the impact fee program are to be paid to County Connection on a quarterly basis, per quarterly invoices sent to the County.

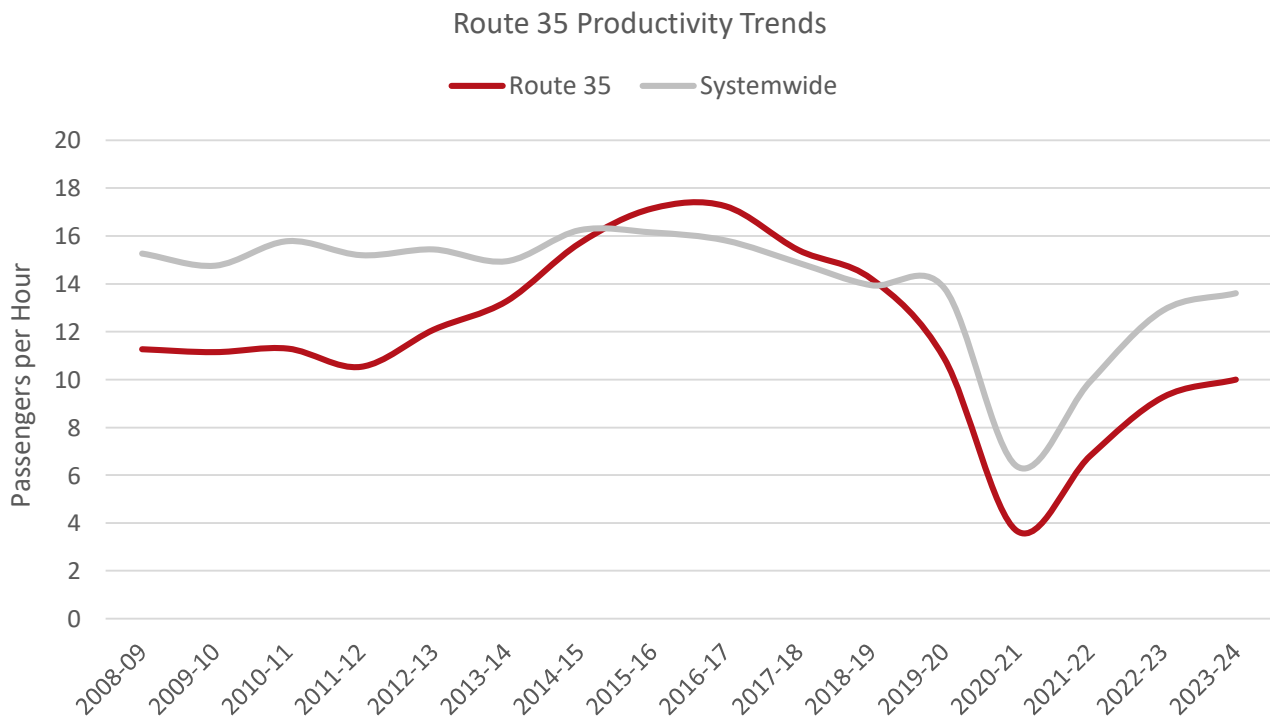
**Status of Service:**

Due to COVID-19, County Connection reduced service throughout its service area, including reduced frequency on Route 35. The route currently operates from approximately 6am to 8pm on 30-minute frequency in the peak and 60 minutes in the off-peak.

The table below shows a summary of ridership and service statistics from FY 2019 through FY 2024. Prior to the pandemic, Route 35 averaged around 550 passengers per day and 14 passengers per hour, which is a key statistic County Connection uses to analyze the productivity of a bus route. Ridership dropped over 70% during the pandemic but has been recovering slowly since. In FY 2024, the route carried an average of 347 daily passengers, about two-thirds of pre-pandemic levels, with a productivity of roughly 10 passengers per hour.

The following chart shows additional historic trends in productivity since the service began in 2008 with a comparison to the County Connection system overall. While productivity on Route 35 started out lower than the rest of the system, the route surpassed the systemwide average starting in FY 2016 until FY 2019, when service levels were increased in response to growing ridership demand. As noted, service levels were reduced during the pandemic to match observed ridership volumes.

Fiscal Year	Annual Passengers	Annual Service Hours	Average Daily Passengers	Productivity (Passengers/Hour)
2018-19	139,260	9,944	548	14.2
2019-20	131,114	11,413	513	10.9
2020-21	36,847	10,041	144	3.7
2021-22	65,261	9,580	256	6.8
2022-23	89,599	9,670	351	9.3
2023-24	88,092	8,841	347	10



**Status of Funding:**

Contra Costa County’s Dougherty Valley Transit Feasibility Fee on residential construction was expected to provide \$2,367,109, or approximately 65 percent of operating costs, over the five-year demonstration period.

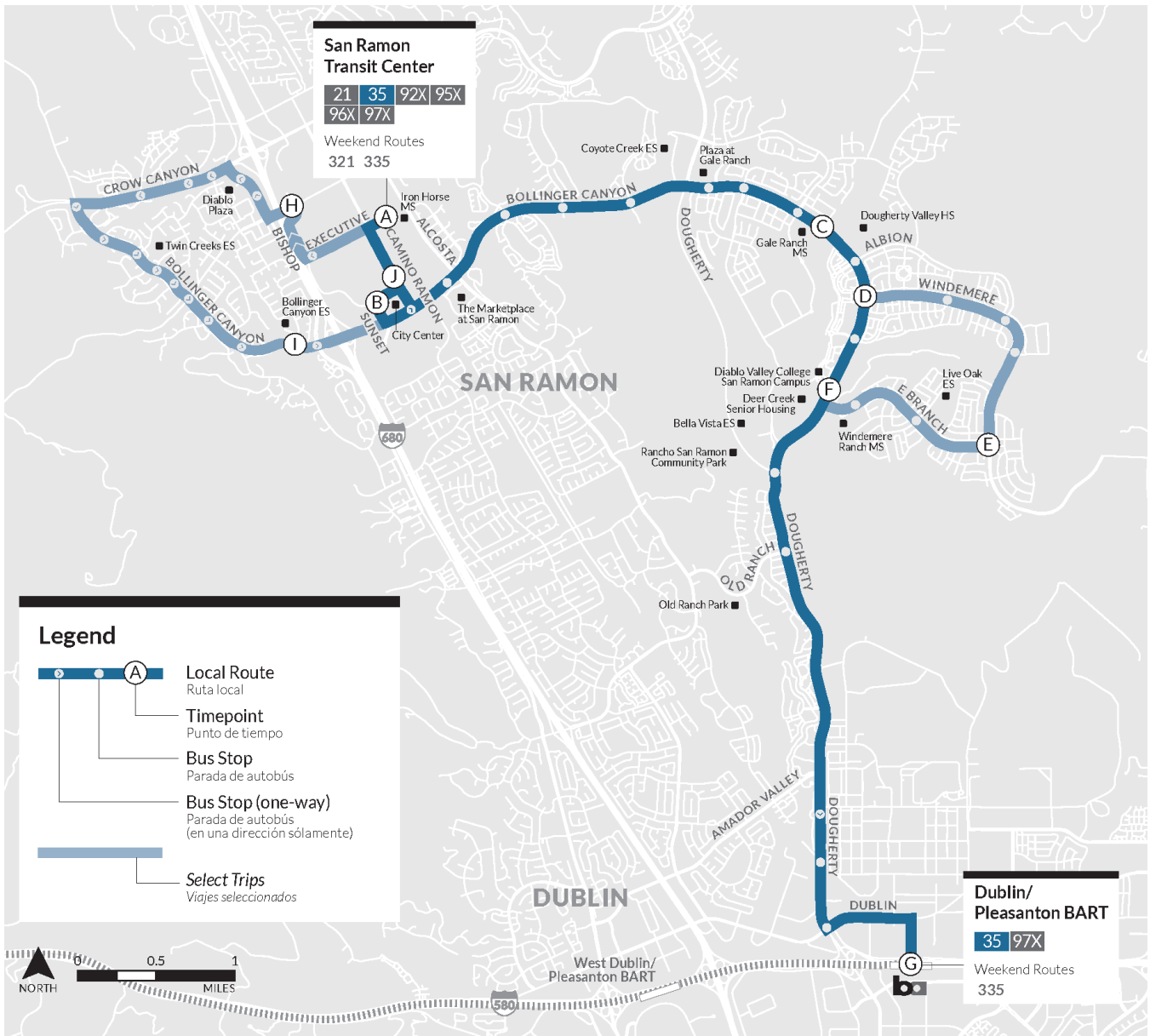
Because developer fee revenue accumulated much more slowly than projected in 2006, a new agreement with the County was reached whereby fees will continue to support the route until completion of “buildout”. In September 2022, Contra Costa County staff confirmed that there were no further residential permits pending for Dougherty Valley, and the entire approved development had been built out. In September 2023, the remaining funds were exhausted.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Route 35 Map

Attachment 2 – Route 35 Schedule (effective November 12, 2023)

# Attachment 1 – Route 35 Map



Attachment 2 – Route 35 Schedule (effective June 9, 2024)

Route 35													Monday - Friday lunes a viernes	
Crow Canyon Loop				to Dublin/Pleasanton BART					to San Ramon Transit Center					
San Ramon Transit Center	Annabel Ln	Bollinger Canyon/Talavera	Arrive San Ramon Transit Center	Depart San Ramon Transit Center	Bollinger Canyon/Main Branch Rd	E Branch Pkwy/Windemere Pkwy	Bollinger Canyon/Watermill Rd	Dublin/Pleasanton BART	Dublin/Pleasanton BART	Bollinger Canyon/E Branch Pkwy	Windemere Pkwy/E Branch Pkwy	Bollinger Canyon/Windemere Pkwy	Bollinger Canyon/Bluehart Way	San Ramon Transit Center
(A)	(G)	(H)	—	(A)	(B)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(F)	(E)	(D)	(C)	(B)	(A)
-	-	-	-	6:01	6:14	-	6:17	6:31	6:38	6:49	-	6:51	6:53	7:07
-	-	-	-	6:21	6:34	-	6:37	6:51	6:58	7:09	-	7:11	7:13	7:27
-	-	-	-	7:01	7:14	-	7:17	7:31	7:38	-	7:51	7:57	8:01	8:15
-	-	-	-	7:21	7:34	-	7:37	7:51	7:58	8:09	-	8:11	8:13	8:27
7:35	7:38	7:48	7:56	8:01	8:14	-	8:17	8:31	8:38	8:49	-	8:51	8:53	9:07
-	-	-	-	8:21	8:34	-	8:37	8:51	8:58	9:09	-	9:11	9:13	9:27
-	-	-	-	9:01	9:14	-	9:17	9:31	9:38	9:49	-	9:51	9:53	10:07
-	-	-	-	9:21	9:34	-	9:37	9:51	9:58	10:09	-	10:11	10:13	10:27
-	-	-	-	10:01	10:14	-	10:17	10:31	10:38	10:49	-	10:51	10:53	11:07
-	-	-	-	10:33	10:46	10:56	-	11:11	11:38	11:49	-	11:51	11:53	12:07
-	-	-	-	11:33	11:46	11:56	-	12:11	12:38	-	12:51	12:57	1:01	1:15
-	-	-	-	12:33	12:46	12:56	-	1:11	1:38	-	1:51	1:57	2:01	2:15
-	-	-	-	1:33	1:46	1:56	-	2:11	2:38	-	2:54	3:01	3:04	3:26
-	-	-	-	2:33	2:46	2:56	-	3:11	3:18	-	3:31	3:37	3:41	3:55
-	-	-	-	3:01	3:14	-	3:17	3:31	3:38	3:49	-	3:51	3:53	4:07
-	-	-	-	3:33	3:46	3:56	-	4:11	4:18	4:29	-	4:31	4:33	4:47
-	-	-	-	4:01	4:14	-	4:17	4:31	4:38	4:49	-	4:51	4:53	5:07
-	-	-	-	4:33	4:46	4:56	-	5:11	5:18	-	5:31	5:37	5:41	5:55
-	-	-	-	5:01	5:14	-	5:17	5:31	5:38	5:49	-	5:51	5:53	6:07
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