

AGENDA ITEM 3 C  
Information Item

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 26, 2022

**TO:** El Dorado County Transit Authority  
Transit Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Matthew Mauk, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Strategic Planning Discussion

**REQUESTED ACTION:**  
**BY MOTION,**

**No action. Information item.**

**BACKGROUND**

Ridership on the El Dorado County Transit Authority's (El Dorado Transit) local routes had been trending slightly downward prior to the pandemic, but since lockdowns and program closures began in the Spring of 2020, the service has experienced a historic loss of ridership. While not uncommon among transit providers nationwide, the raw numbers are shocking. As detailed in the recent annual Administrative Operations Report, systemwide ridership decreased by 186,352 one-way passenger trips or 62.6% and passenger trips per revenue hour decreased from 6.4 to 3.4 or 46.9% from Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 to FY 2021. Included in these statistics is an overall decline in demand response (Dial-A-Ride, Sac Med, ADA paratransit, and contracted services) ridership of 21,768 one-way passenger trips or 67.5%, and a decrease in local fixed route ridership of 62,434 one-way passenger trips or 41.1% during the period.

The County's Senior Day program remains closed and the Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises (M.O.R.E.) program is continuing to significantly limit in-person attendance. Schedule and routing adjustments were made to the local fixed route service in August of 2021 to help address the effects of the pandemic, but ridership has continued to decline due in part to residual public health concerns, changes in school and employment related travel patterns, and the increased accessibility of home delivery and telehealth services. In addition, trends in labor availability and pressures on operating costs continue to impact El Dorado Transit's capability to restore services.

**DISCUSSION**

Travel demands have clearly changed, external pressures continue to grow, and staff recognizes the need for changes and innovation as the agency restores and expands services to best meet the

future transportation needs of the community. Staff is working closely with our partners at the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) and LSC Transportation Consultants to reexamine our 2019 Short- and Long-Range Transit Plan recommendations and to develop an updated, strategic approach to reconnecting the community in a post-pandemic setting.

Gordon Shaw, Principal with LSC Transportation Consultants, facilitated a roundtable discussion with the Board of Directors and staff at the regular December 2021 meeting to consider the potential objectives, scope, and direction of a planning effort to guide the agency's recovery from the pandemic. That discussion will be reviewed during the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting.