



**ITEM ID:** 2024-144-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** March 22, 2024

**MEETING DATE:** March 29, 2024

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Arnold Hackett, Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT:** FY24 Financial Results for the Seven Months Ended January 31, 2024 - Ridership, Revenue, and Operating Results

### **Issue**

In response to the changed workplace environment and need for timely review of the Agency's financial position, staff has committed to a monthly update of ridership and revenue. In recognition of the impact of changes to farebox revenue on Member Agencies' Support, staff also committed to monthly reporting on Operational Performance. This report covers these two topics.

### **Recommendation**

Receive and file.

### **Strategic Commitment**

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitments of:

- **Modernizing Business Practices:** We will improve our operational efficiency through transparency, objective metrics and streamlined governance, reducing over-reliance on Member support while bringing our system into a state of good repair and investing in the development of our employees. Providing current and accurate information to our Board enhances their oversight, and ability to provide direction based on factual data.
- **Customers Are Our Business:** We respect and value our customers, putting them at the heart of all we do, and work hard to attract and retain new customers by understanding their needs and finding new and innovative ways to bring them on board. Our close monitoring of our ridership is a reflection of our unflagging concern for

ridership trends, and to ensure our actions are serving their needs.

## **Background**

### Ridership and Revenue

This item will report on the ridership and revenue recovery as measured against FY2018-19 Revenue, which was the last full year of operations pre-pandemic. Comparisons and variance are shown between the forecast and actual recovery.

For the FY24, Staff continued its engagement with Sperry Capital/KPMG to lend assistance and additional expertise to our ridership forecasting. Sperry Capital/KPMG provided an analysis depicting best-case, mid-case, and worse-case scenarios. The analysis was presented to the Board on February 24, 2023, with a conservative staff recommendation that the worse-case scenario be used in the creation of the FY24 Budget. The Farebox Revenue in the FY24 Budget is based on the worst-case scenario as described above.

### Operating Statement

On June 23, 2023, the SCRRA Board of Directors adopted the FY24 Operating Budget. The FY24 Operating Budget reflected revenue of \$52.8M, expense of \$303.4M, and Member Agency support of \$250.7M.

On September 22, 2023, the SCRRA Board of Directors amended the FY24 Operating Budget to include additional service on the Antelope Valley Line (AVL). The amended FY24 Operating Budget reflects revenue of \$54.0M, expense of \$305.9M, and Member Agency support of \$251.9M.

## **Discussion**

### Revenue

Through the seven months ended January 2024, the Authority's farebox revenue actuals were greater than the revenue as budgeted for FY24. Fiscal Year-to-Date through January, farebox revenue is budgeted at \$20M or 45% recovery, while the actual farebox revenue is \$21.8M, a 48% recovery, exceeding the budget by \$1.8M. Year-to-Date amounts driven by the Student Adventure Pass program from inception on October 9, 2023, through the current reporting period. The total amount of revenue from the Student Adventure Pass program through January 2024 is approximately \$2.9M.

### Ridership

Fiscal Year-to-Date through January, ridership recovery was forecast at 44% or 3.1M boardings, while the actual recovery fiscal Year-to-Date is 49% or 3.4M boardings, exceeding the forecast by 0.4M boardings. Total ridership generated by the Student Adventure Pass through January is 0.4M.

### Operating Results

The Metrolink Operating Statement for the seven months ended January 31, 2024 is based on accruals not actuals:

Operating revenue is \$36.2M, over budget by \$5.3M.

Expenses are \$160.3M, under budget by \$16.9M (based on Accruals).

Support required is \$124.1M, under budget by \$22.2M.

We have revised the Operating Statement to display the special trains we are running which are not included in the Operating Budget. The information includes both revenue and expense, the net of which indicates the effective change to net support required to cover the effect of the running of these special trains.

### Outstanding Receivables

As of January 31, 2024, Metrolink had \$23.1M of past due receivables outstanding. In January, cash available is \$52.0M, \$2.0M over the threshold established by the Board.

### **Arrow Service**

#### Revenue

Through the seven months ended January 2024, Arrow Service had farebox revenue of \$135K. Ridership through January 2024 is 59K.

The Student Adventure Pass contributed \$18K of the Year-to-Date Revenue, and 14K of the Year-to-Date Ridership

#### Operating Results

The Arrow Service Operating Statement through January 2024 is based on accruals not actuals.

Total Operating Revenue is \$141K.

Expenses are \$6.9M, under budget by \$3.3M.

Support required is under budget by \$3.9M.

Amounts for Arrow Service are compared to the Continuing Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors in lieu of a FY24 Budget. On December 6, 2023, The San Bernardino Transportation Authority (SBCTA) Board approved another Continuing Resolution. This additional resolution will increase funding for Arrow Service to a total of \$15M for FY24. This change is reflected in the reporting for Year-to-Date January 2024.

SBCTA has made the decision that they will have the \$15.0M, approved by their board as the amount available for FY24 expenses for Arrow be utilized in lieu of a formal budget. The total amount which SBCTA has approved has been distributed over the various categories and over the remainder of the year as indicated by current expense trends. Our comparisons of actuals are made to those approved amounts.

### **Next Steps**

Staff will continue to report ridership, revenue, and financial results monthly.

The FY25 Budget Development is in progress. Meetings to review the Proposed FY25 Budget have been conducted with all Member Agency CFOs. Staff is currently engaged in responding to questions from each of the Member Agencies. Answers to each question will be distributed to all Member Agencies.

Prepared by: Christine Wilson, Senior Finance Manager

Approved by: Arnold Hackett, Chief Financial Officer

**Attachment(s)**

[Presentation - January 2024 Financial Results for AFCOM](#)