



# FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY

2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA 93721

Phone: 559-233-6789 Fax: 559-233-9645

Webpage: [www.ruraltransit.org](http://www.ruraltransit.org)

## FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY (FCRTA)

### AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, May 29, 2014

TIME: 5:30pm, **AFTER** the *Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) Meeting*

PLACE: FCOG / FCRTA Offices

Sequoia Conference Room

2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201

Fresno, CA 93726

*(Corner of Tulare and Van Ness Ave. - above Club One*

*Park in Underground Garage - Entrance off Tulare & Van Ness Ave.*

*Exit Elevator on Tulare St., Turn Left, Enter Lobby Door,*

*Up Elevator to Second Floor, Left to Sequoia Conference Room)*

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodation**

The Fresno COG / FCRTA offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Individuals with disabilities may call (559-233-4148) / FCRTA (559-233-6789) at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG / FCRTA are unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

**AB 23 Requirement:** In accordance with the Brown Act and AB23 the amount of stipend paid to members of the Board of Directors for attending this meeting of the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, is \$50.00.

### ROLL CALL

- I. Public Presentations - This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the FCRTA Board on items within its jurisdiction, but not on this Agenda.

NOTE: The public may also comment on any Agenda item, as they are presented, prior to any action by the FCRTA Board.

### ACTION ITEMS

- II. Approve "Executive Minutes of April 24, 2014" (Attachment).

### REVIEW AND COMMENT ITEMS

- III. The Draft Fresno County Rural Transit Agency's 2014-15 Budget, ("FCRTA FY 2014-15 Budget.PDF" is available on the Fresno COG website at:  
<http://agendas.fresnocog.org/agenda/read/206>

A JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO PROVIDE A COORDINATED TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR RURAL FRESNO COUNTY  
THE CITIES OF: COALINGA; FIREBAUGH; FOWLER; HURON; KERMAN; KINGSBURG; MENDOTA; ORANGE COVE; PARLIER; REEDLEY; SANGER; SAN JOAQUIN; SELMA; & FRESNO COUNTY

- IV. Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA)'s Draft Operations Program and Budget, 2014-15 ("FCEOC OPB 2014-15 report.pdf" is available at the Fresno COG website at: <http://agendas.fresnocog.org/agenda/read/206>

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- V. FCRTA's Annual Safety Compliance Report / Terminal Records Update, Conducted by the California Highway Patrol Resulting is a "Satisfactory" Rating (Oral Report),
- VI. FCRTA's Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) Annual Inspection and Audit Report with No Findings (Oral Report).
- VII. Submission of FCRTA Annual Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Operating Assistance Grant Application for 2014-15, to Caltrans (Oral Report).
- VIII. The FCRTA's Inter-City Service Information will Now be Reflected on New Signage at Fresno Area Express's (FAX) Shelter A in Courthouse Park (Attachment).
- IX. Caltrans Comment Letter (May 14, 2014) on the FCOG's Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that Reflects Their Opinion of FCRTA's Services (Attachment, Page 2)

**CLOSED SESSION**

- X. Public Employment and Appointments - Title - General Manager - Government Code Section 54957(b).

**ACTION ITEM**

- XI. Report on Personnel Matter, as warranted.



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### FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY (FCRTA)

#### Executive Minutes

DATE: Thursday, April 24, 2014  
TIME: 5:30pm, **AFTER** the *Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) Meeting*  
PLACE: FCOG / FCRTA Offices  
Sequoia Conference Room

Members Attending:

- Councilmember Ron Lander, City of Coalinga
- Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler, Vice Chairman
- Mayor Sylvia Chavez, City of Huron
- Mayor Gary Yep, City of Kerman
- Mayor Chet Reilly, City of Kingsburg
- Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota
- Mayor Gabriel Jimenez, City of Orange Cove
- Mayor Armando Lopez, City of Parlier
- Mayor Robert Beck, City of Reedley
- Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin, Chairman
- Mayor Joshua Mitchell, City of Sanger
- Councilmember Scott Robertson, City of Selma
- Supervisor Judith Case McNairy, County of Fresno

Jeffrey D. Webster, General Manager  
Moses Stites, Operations Manager  
Janelle Kelley, Legal Counsel

Absent: Councilmember Marcia Sablan, City of Firebaugh

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) Chairman.

#### ROLL CALL

**QUORUM:** At the start of the meeting there were thirteen (13) members' present, representing eighteen (18) votes. There was a quorum and business was in order.

- I. Public Presentations - This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the FCRTA Board on items within its jurisdiction, but not on this Agenda.

There were no public presentations.

#### ACTION ITEMS

- II. Approve "Executive Minutes of March 20, 2014"

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Chavez (Huron) and seconded by Mayor Yep (Kerman) to approve the March 20, 2014 Executive Minutes as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

## REVIEW AND COMMENT ITEMS

### III. FCOG's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) Annual Unmet Transit Needs Process Update - On-Going Rural Correspondence:

- Request from the City of Sanger for consideration of additional transit services to permit residents to attend a new training program at Reedley College that is to support the needs of approximately ten (10) local manufactures in Sanger, who are in need of trained and skilled workers to support their respective operations.

Mr. Webster reported on the requested expansion service. Further coordination between the City of Sanger Staff and Reedley College needs to occur to develop a responsive transit demonstration service, which could be implemented when the actual program is scheduled to start.

- Follow-up on March 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Sanger Veterans regarding available transit services to the Veteran's Hospital in Fresno.

Mr. Stites reported on his meeting with a veterans group in Sanger. They were interested in going to the Veteran's Hospital in Fresno. Mr. Stites explained the existing Orange Cove Transit Service that goes through Sanger twice each weekday to Fresno, and the transfers to the Fresno Area Express service to the Veteran's Hospital. It was noted that the VA Hospital has its own transit van that could perhaps be used to transport veterans for scheduled medical appointments.

- Follow-up on March 28<sup>th</sup> West Hills College Roundtable Meeting with College Representatives and the Staff of the Fresno County Social Services Department to Discuss Available Transit Services in the South-Western Area of Fresno County.

Mr. Webster and Mr. Stites commented on their meeting with representatives of the College and the Fresno County Department of Social Services. They appreciated in learning more about our existing services. It was mentioned that the College continues to operate their own vans between their three (3) campuses. The Social Service Staff mentioned that often they are unable to complete their client interviews with Huron residents, before the Huron Transit Inter-City vehicle returns for its afternoon round trip at 3:00pm. They asked if the services could be extended two (2) additional hours in the afternoon, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. There was mention that their Staff could also consider holding client meetings in Huron, periodically, to further reduce the need for travel to the Offices in Coalinga.

A follow-up has occurred with the College, they have requested transit service from their Firebaugh Campus to the Coalinga Campus, so that students and their parents could attend a Graduation Program. Arrangements are being worked out at this time with the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC) as the Rural Consolidated Transportation Agency (Rural CTSA).

- Request from a Reedley Senior Center Intern who mentioned that seniors are in need of direct transit services for medical appointments in Fresno, from time to time.

Mr. Webster indicated that the basis for direct services for such purposes, in the past, have not proven to attract sufficient ridership to meet minimum performance standards. It should be pointed out that the inter-City services of Orange Cove Transit makes two (2)

round trips to Fresno each weekday, with three (3) stops in Reedley. Staff understands that transfers to the services of FAX can be confusing and very time consuming.

- The Fresno County Social Services Departments has, in the past, requested consideration for direct services for rural residents arriving on the FCRTA's four (4) intercity service from the rural communities to employment, education, and training opportunities in the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. Such a service could also include medical appointments. That is precisely the reason why the FCRTA's submitted an Application to purchase four (4) additional vehicles under the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5316, Job Access / Reverse Commute (JARC) program that have been recently delivered. The FCRTA's draft 2014-15 Budget includes funding for service implementation of our new "Shuttle Transit" demonstration program, after July 1, 2014.

Such a service may also appeal to the Reedley residents needing transit services for medical appointments in the FCMA.

- Staff also reported that previous Applications to purchase four (4) additional vehicles under the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5317, New Freedom (NF) program have also been recently delivered. The vehicles are intended to address, and exceed, the typical limitations of vehicle capacity and accessibility beyond American with Disabilities (ADA) service standards. Two (2) vehicles address the weight limit standards for morbidly obese passengers in power wheelchairs, whose combined weight exceeds 650 pounds. The FCRTA's new vehicles do not depend on wheelchair lifts to board frail elderly and disabled passengers. The new low-floor vehicles have kneeling suspension systems and front door ramps rated at 1,000 pounds for level access from a curb or sidewalk, or a slight incline from a roadway. Two (2) other vehicles are designed to accommodate up to six (6) wheelchairs, that are randomly accessible, to permit each location to come and go without disrupting any other passengers (thus eliminating the usual practice of loading each individual passenger so the first on is the last off, and no one in the middle can quickly exit the vehicle). The FCRTA's draft 2014-15 Budget includes funding for service implementation of our new "New Freedom Transit" demonstration program, after July 1, 2014.

The final Unmet Transit Needs Report, with additional details will be presented in June for approval on June 26, 2014.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- IV. Excerpt from March 26<sup>th</sup> Caltrans Letter Commenting on Fresno COG's Draft Overall Work Program for Fiscal Year 2014-15 Referencing "Mass Transit Comments:" regarding the FCRTA.

Mr. Webster noted the favorable comments received from Mass Transit regarding FCRTA and its exceptional service in the rural areas.

Elsewhere in the Caltrans comment letter, Supervisor Case McNairy asked FCOG Staff for an update on the "Active Transportation Plan (ATP)" recommendations that were also referenced in the same letter.

V. FCRTA's Status Report of Bus Stop Shelter Installations.

Moses Stites, Operations Manager gave a brief update on the current Bus Stop Shelter installations and locations. Several additional Cities have requested consideration for their City's needs.

**CLOSED SESSION**

VI. Public Employment and Appointments - Title - General Manager - Government Code Section 54957(b).

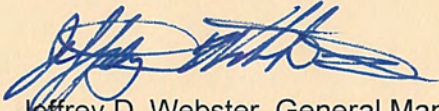
**ACTION ITEM**

VII. Report on Personnel Matter, as warranted.

Janelle Kelley, Legal Counsel reported that Moses Stites, Operations Manager will be offered the General Manager position effective July 1, 2014 subject to the acceptance of a Contract. A subcommittee will be convened to review the Contract and the Contract will be presented for approval in June.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey D. Webster, General Manager

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**The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency's**

# **2014-15 BUDGET**

**Initial 45 Day Review Draft: May 8, 2014**

**Proposed Adoption: June 26, 2014**

**22**

**Southeast Fresno - Tulare**

**26**

**Airport - Butler / Peach**

**28**

**Sunnyside - Ventura / Kings Canyon**

**FCRTA**

Fresno County  
Rural Transit Agency  
1.800.325.7433

**Southeast Transit - Fowler / Selma / Kingsburg**



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****DISTRICT 6**

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PHONE (559) 488-7307  
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*Serious drought.  
Help save water!*

May 14, 2014

Mr. Tony Boren  
Executive Director  
Fresno Council of Governments  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, California 93721

*(See Page 2)*

Dear Mr. Boren:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Caltrans, at District 6 and various divisions within the Department, has reviewed the Draft RTP and collectively offers the following comments:

**DISTRICT 6:****Transportation Planning**

FCOG is commended for their RTP and developing a guide of current and future investments in their regional transportation system to reduce congestion, build infrastructure, bicycle facilities, and improve access to transit within the 2040 horizon year.

FCOG highly encourages public participation and involvement from their citizens, public agencies and local partners to address transportation goals and strategies. FCOG is commended for utilizing several public forums to reach out to their residents.

FCOG supports all the areas of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) fundamentals as identified in the Government Code Section 650809(b) (2) (B) and 65584.04(i) (1). Caltrans, along with other agencies, partnered with FCOG in the development of their SCS and were present at many meetings that were offered for this proposed project. FCOG is commended for their timely outreach and preparation efforts to seek comments from their local partners and constituents. This project is a long term plan and focuses on future and existing motor vehicle traffic, transit, rail, goods movement, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, aviation systems and have been incorporated and evaluated according to SB 375 to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG).

FCOG's 2014 RTP has identified a plan that addresses a transportation network that is working and is serving the County of Fresno. FCOG has included the following components in their RTP: Sustainable Communities Strategy, federal funding, air quality planning, complete modeling, multi-county coordination, and environmental impact report which provides a great foundation to plan for the future transit needs of Fresno. The following comments are offered for review:

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system  
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

- FCOG encourages the collaboration of working with member agencies and continues the development of a comprehensive multi-modal regional transportation network to complement that of Caltrans.
- FCOG supports the maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing state highway, local streets and roads network which is part of their Short-Term Improvement Plan (2014-2018) and Long-Term Improvement Program (2019-2040).
- FCOG promotes the State's efforts to continue to develop and implement Strategic Highway Safety Plans.
- FCOG's Mass Transportation system consists of both public transit and Amtrak rail passenger service. Further focus has been formed to concentrate on the existing system, needs assessment, unfunded needs, accomplishments and proposed actions.
- FCOG is commended for their notable transit collaboration among Fresno Area Express (FAX), Clovis Transit and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA). Each entity provides exceptional transit service to its customers in the County of Fresno and its surrounding rural cities. These transit agencies are working diligently to enhance coordination between agencies towards a unified transit system by purchasing the same electronic fare box equipment. This would promote simpler transfers and tracking between the transits systems.
- FCOG through the FCRTA is commended for their exceptional delivery of rural transit services. FCRTA has provided efficient public participation methods to respond to the unmet needs process. FCRTA has also purchased additional bus stop shelters with solar lighting, benches and waste receptacles. These new bus stop shelters present a pleasant space that creates a walkable environment and further promotes a productive and efficient transit system. FCRTA further promotes programs for the elderly, disabled and low income youth populations which include Measure C funds, Senior Fare Subsidy Earmark programs, and Taxi Scrip which helps senior citizens over the age of seventy to access paratransit services.
- FCOG is commended for their efforts to enhance bikeways in the County of Fresno; however limited funding continues to have an impact on the creation of future bike lanes.
- FCOG is commended for establishing an assessment of maximum connectivity, ridership and revenue potential in order for the high speed rail (HSR) to reach its highest capability. With the established San Joaquin Valley Rail, Fresno Works Committees, and the High-Speed Rail Authority guiding the development of the HSR maintenance station, it is essential that all modes of the transit connectivity to all potential local transit providers be fully examined to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution and maintenance costs for Fresno and its adjoining counties.

- Caltrans commends FCOG for including Chapter 3 Environmental Justice Report: Ensuring Meaningful Involvement for All People as part of the RTP. It can be referred to as a model for the development of other RTP's for other counties within the San Joaquin Valley.
- Chapter 5-7: Caltrans recommends a section within this chapter to address the development of an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for strategies to secure Active Transportation Program funding. The ATP Design Plan could provide an assessment of previously funded Caltrans Environmental Justice and Community Based Transportation Planning Grant projects. There could also be a strong connection between an Active Transportation Plan and Chapter 3 on Environmental Justice.

### Office of Traffic Operations

The RTP document addresses all modes of transportation: motor vehicles, transit, rail, goods movement, bicycle and pedestrian, aviation, transportation systems management programs and projects for the horizon year 2040.

The Transportation and Traffic portion of the RTP, among other State Regulations, identifies Senate Bill (SB) 743 which creates a process to change analysis of transportation impacts under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under this bill, the focus of traffic analysis will shift from driver delay to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, creation of multi-modal networks and promotion of a mix of land uses. Specifically, SB 743 requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to amend CEQA guidelines and provide an alternative to Level-of-Service (LOS) for evaluating transportation impacts. Measurements of transportation impacts may include: vehicle miles traveled, vehicle miles traveled per capita, automobile trip generation rates or automobile trips generated. It is stated in the RTP document that SB 743 is not expected to take effect until 2015 and it is not directly applicable to this EIR.

Under the Highways, Streets and Roads section of the EIR, State Route (SR) 269 should also be added to the list of State Routes that provide north-south access.

The EIR portion of this document has incorporated different Environmental Impacts, their Mitigation Measures and the Significance After Mitigation. In general a project contained within the RTP would result in a significant transportation impact if it:

- Causes an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity.
- Exceeds a standard LOS established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways.
- Results in a change in traffic patterns.
- Substantially increases hazards due to a design feature.

- Results in inadequate emergency access.
- Conflicts with adopted policies, or programs supporting alternative modes of transportation.

#### **HEADQUARTERS:**

#### **Division of Transportation Planning: Office of Regional & Interagency Planning (ORIP)**

The Office of Regional and Interagency Planning, Regional Planning Branch has completed its review of FCOG's Draft 2014 RTP. We thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the RTP. We offer comments, suggestions, and questions on the following sections:

- The RTP Checklist should reference RTP content locations in the body of the RTP and give the appropriate page number locations, not just Chapter or Appendix references.
- Clarify where in the RTP FCOG involved federal land management agencies during the preparation of the RTP.
- Pages 1-3 and 1-11 mention climate change issues. FCOG should consider Climate Change or Adaptation related projects. Flooding or extreme heat events could both have negative impacts on the State Highway System, as well as local county and city streets and roads.
- Page 1-19: The last six information bullets shown under the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) heading would be more appropriate under the heading of Long Range Transportation (Plan).
- Chapter 4: The Sustainable Communities Strategy is mentioned and located throughout the RTP; however, it is highlighted in Chapter 4 and describes how FCOG intends to meet their targets using Scenario B.
- Page 4-2: It would be beneficial to expand the discussion and clarify in a specific location in the RTP the broader role of vehicle miles traveled from public transit buses, heavy duty trucks, and school buses.
- Pages 7-3 and 7-14: The Measure C ½ cent sales tax that expires 2027 is assumed to be renewed and/or augmented, and it is assumed that the tax payers will vote to extend the Measure through the life of this RTP. What are these assumptions based upon to ensure a financially constrained RTP document for the 2027 to the 2040 time period?

#### **Division of Aeronautics**

The Division of Aeronautics once again wishes to compliment FCOG on the exceptional job of integrating aviation interests into various sections of the Draft RTP. There is sufficient detail to realize that FCOG recognizes aviation as an important component of the regions health and prosperity. Further,

Mr. Tony Boren  
May 14, 2014  
Page 5

the pro-active approach to integrating aviation into a multi-modal transportation planning program continues as a noteworthy approach for others outside the region to incorporate aviation into the region's multi-modal transportation system to serve the community for years to come. We appreciate the inclusion of the Ground Access Improvement Program as required for Primary Commercial Service Airports like Fresno Yosemite International Airport. In addition, the RTP sufficiently addresses surface transportation routes and transit service accessibility.

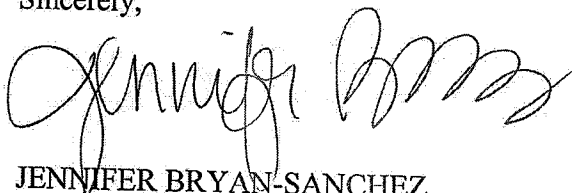
*Section 5.6 Aviation Overview:*

Also, it is apparent that FCOG understands that there is a particular role of the Airport Land Use Commission to protect the investment in aviation facilities by managing compatible land use development, while improving airport connectivity between the various transportation modes. We recommend that since airport improvement funding is of a higher priority, the Airport sponsors should be sure to update the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to ensure eligibility for California Aid to Airports Program (CAAP) funds. The federal Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) process is simultaneous with the State CIP update, and we have no reason to believe that federal AIP funds are lacking. State AIP Matching Grants will only be eligible for funding if the respective airport has updated the State CIP with the current project, and that it is included in the most recent CIP approved by the California Transportation Commission.

More information regarding the CIP and CAAP can be found on our website:  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/documents/casp/acip.htm>. The Division of Aeronautics funding is expected to be higher for FY 2014-15 and beyond due to a \$4.00 transfer of funds from the Airport Loan Program, which will partially be available for Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans.

If you have any questions concerning the comments provided, please call me at (559) 488-7307.

Sincerely,



JENNIFER BRYAN-SANCHEZ  
Transportation Planning North Branch  
District 6

C: Gail Miller, Michael Navarro, Jacqueline Hodaly, Marta Frausto, Lorena Mendibles, and Albert Lee of Caltrans  
Ray Sukys, Eric Eidlin of FTA  
Jack Lord, Scott Carson of FHWA