

Fresno Council of Governments

FY 2020/2021 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment



**Fresno Council
of Governments**

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 25, 2020

TO: Fresno COG Policy Board
The General Public

FROM: Tony Boren, Executive Director

SUBJECT: FY 2020-2021 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATION

On May 19, 2020, the SSTAC reviewed and discussed the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment and made a finding that there are no unmet public transportation needs, which are reasonable to meet within the County of Fresno. The Policy Board is requested to approve the FY2020-2021 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment.

BACKGROUND

The Fresno Council of Governments, in its role as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, administers claims for the Transportation Development Act (TDA). At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Fresno COG must determine the amount of TDA funds available from the TDA Local Transportation Fund (LTF) for allocation to local agencies within Fresno County. Allocations are made in four categories: Bicycle and pedestrian facilities, social service transportation, regional transportation planning, and public transportation. In certain cases, funding from the public transportation category can be applied to local streets and roads in individual jurisdictions if a finding has been made that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet within the jurisdiction; however, public transit must be given priority. As a result, prior to allocating LTF funds for any use other than public transit in the public transportation category, the Fresno COG must identify any unmet public transit needs that may exist in Fresno County that is reasonable to meet.

The Unmet Transit Needs Assessment process is conducted to identify any unmet transit needs and make any related findings.

DISCUSSION

On April 30, 2020, the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Fresno County, held a legally noticed Public Hearing. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public testimony to determine if public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021), prior to approving LTF claims for local streets and roads. The time and place of the Public Hearing was legally noticed as follows:

Date: April 30, 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Fresno Council of Governments, Sequoia Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721-2004

Because of the statewide shelter-in-place order as a result of COVID-19, the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting and Unmet Transit Needs public hearing were held remotely by conference call.

Transportation Development Act – Local Transportation Funds

Transportation Development Act (TDA) - Local Transportation Funds are derived from the state sales tax. One-quarter of a cent of the state sales tax is allocated to the Local Transportation Fund and may be used for transportation projects. In FY 2020-2021, the estimated Local Transportation Funds for Fresno County are \$38,500,000, of which \$155,000 is programmed for administration and audits. The remaining \$38,345,000 is programmed by formula for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, social service transportation planning, regional transportation planning, and public transportation and streets and roads. Table-1 identifies the amount of projected funding by category that each local agency will receive in FY 2020-2021.

Of the Local Transportation Funds available for public transportation and streets and roads, priority must first be given to public transportation. The net difference is then available for street and road projects.

**Table 1
Available TDA-Local Transportation Funds
For Projects by Local Agencies FY 2020-2021**

Agency	Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities	Social Service Transportation	Regional Transportation Planning	Public Transportation	Total
Clovis	\$88,122	\$244,756	\$123,063	\$3,979,024	\$4,414,965
Coalinga	\$13,256		\$18,512	\$598,539	\$630,306
Firebaugh	\$6,125		\$8,553	\$276,552	\$291,230
Fowler	\$4,975		\$6,947	\$224,622	\$236,544
Fresno City	\$404,209		\$564,478	\$18,251,452	\$19,220,139
Huron	\$5,504		\$7,686	\$248,530	\$261,720
Kerman	\$11,670		\$16,297	\$526,952	\$554,920
Kingsburg	\$9,333		\$13,034	\$421,426	\$443,793
Mendota	\$9,275		\$12,953	\$418,807	\$441,035
Orange Cove	\$7,513		\$10,492	\$339,229	\$357,233
Parlier	\$12,164		\$16,987	\$549,261	\$578,413
Reedley	\$20,084		\$28,047	\$906,854	\$954,985
Sanger	\$20,406		\$28,497	\$921,410	\$970,313
San Joaquin	\$3,175		\$4,434	\$143,377	\$150,987
Selma	\$18,863		\$26,342	\$851,727	\$896,932
Fresno County	\$132,226		\$184,653	\$5,970,458	\$6,287,337
FCRTA	\$0	\$550,952	\$0	\$0	\$550,952
FEOC	\$0	\$1,103,197	\$0	\$0	\$1,103,197
Total	\$766,900	\$1,878,905	\$1,070,976	\$34,628,219	\$38,345,000

Pursuant to Section 99401.5 of the California Public Utilities Code (PUC), Fresno COG, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, must make a finding after holding a Public Hearing that there are no

unmet public transportation needs within the jurisdiction of claimants which can be reasonably met before it may approve Local Transportation Fund claims for streets and roads.

DEFINITION OF "UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS," AND "NEEDS THAT ARE REASONABLE TO MEET"

Section 99401.5(c) of the California Public Utilities Code specifies, "The transportation planning agency shall determine its definitions of the terms 'unmet transit needs' and 'reasonable to meet' for the purposes of this section which shall be documented by resolution or within the minutes of the agency."

The Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG) defined these terms by Resolution 1990-15, adopted on June 28, 1990, as follows:

A. Unmet Transit Needs

"Those public transportation or specialized transportation services that are identified in the Regional Transportation Plan and/or documented through COFCG's Annual Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Process that have not been implemented or funded."

B. Reasonable to Meet

"Those public transportation services identified in the Regional Transportation Plan, or proposed amendment thereto, which meet the following criteria:

- (1) Services which, if implemented or funded, would not cause the responsible operator or service claimant to exceed its appropriations limitation as set forth by Proposition 4 (Gann Limit)
- (2) Services which, if implemented or funded, would not cause the responsible operator to incur expenditures in excess of the maximum amount of:
 - (a) Local Transportation Funds and State Transit Assistance Funds which may be available for such operator to claim;
 - (b) Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) funds or other support for public transportation services which are committed by Federal and/or State agencies by formula or tentative approval of specific grant requests; and
 - (c) Farebox and local funding in compliance with PUC Section 99268 et.seq.

The fact that an identified need cannot fully be met based on available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding a transit need is not reasonable to meet.

- (3) Services which, if implemented or funded, would result in the responsible operator or service claimant meeting the farebox recovery and local support requirements as set forth by PUC Section 99268 et. seq. Evaluation of existing operators shall be based on records provided to Council of Fresno County Governments by operators pursuant to the Transit Productivity Evaluation Process (PUC Section 99244)

Evaluation of proposed new service shall be based upon a feasibility analysis, which includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Forecast of anticipated ridership if service is provided;
- (b) Estimate of capital and operating costs for the provision of such services;
- (c) Estimate of fares and local support in relation to estimated operating costs for providing such services; and
- (d) An estimated fare, which the Council of Fresno County Governments Board would determine to be sufficient to meet farebox recovery requirements, but would not be so high it would pose a financial burden on transit dependent patrons.”

Note: Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) was called Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was called the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) at the time Resolution 1990-15 was adopted.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION TO UPDATE THE DEFINITION OF UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS AND REASONABLE TO MEET

During the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Unmet Transit Needs assessment process, Ms. Mariah Thompson, a staff attorney at California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., provided feedback in response to the draft Report for Fresno County. Ms. Thompson’s comment was as follows, and the Fresno COG’s response is provided further below:

Comment:

“The definition of unmet transit needs must be revised in the 2019-2020 UTN process to ensure that it does not systematically deny rural, low-income communities equitable access to services as required by state and federal law. Fresno COG also must change its process for addressing unmet needs in this and future cycles to comply with the law. Fresno COG must commit to amending the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to include transit needs identified during the UTN process to ensure that those projects are included in transit programming and funding. It also must work to apply any remaining transit funds to address those needs rather than shifting them to road projects. Any portion of a project that can be covered should be addressed if the available funding cannot cover the entire cost of a project, with multiple phases developed if necessary.

It is not enough for Fresno COG to simply determine that any project that is not included in the RTP or cannot be funded without making any attempts to address these unmet needs. Failure to change how the UTN process is conducted will continue to exclude the most marginalized groups within Fresno County with the greatest transit needs.”

Response:

“Fresno COG Resolution 90-15 that sets forth the definition for “unmet transit needs” and “reasonable to meet” was authored on June 28, 1990. Staff recognizes that a long time has passed since the definition has been updated, and will request an update and refinement be considered prior to the next Unmet Transit Needs Cycle.”

The following is a summary of the discussion that took place at the Fresno COG meeting to discuss updating the definition for “unmet transit needs”, and “reasonable to meet”.

DISCUSSION

On December 5, 2019, Fresno COG staff, along with representatives from Fresno Area Express (FAX), Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), and Clovis Transit, met at the office of Fresno COG to discuss updating Fresno COG Resolution 90-15. Meeting participants reviewed the following documents:

- [Public Utilities Code Section 99401.5](#)
- TDA legislation
- Resolutions and Unmet Transit Needs definitions from four other California Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Comments received during the FY 2019-2020 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment.

Discussion points from the meeting included:

- PUC Section 995401.5 was enacted in 1971. Written in 1990, Fresno COG Resolution 90-15 satisfies all of the requirements of the Unmet Transit Needs process. Staff will consider changing Resolution 90-15 if/when TDA legislation changes.
- Resolution 90-15 is sufficiently broad to incorporate projects included in the Regional Transportation Plan, and by default, other transit planning documents. Needs brought up during the UTN process that is not within the Regional Transportation Plan or included in any other planning document can be categorized as an ‘unmet transit need.’ The next step would be to determine whether they are reasonable to meet.
- Many comments received during the Unmet Transit Needs process do not necessarily fall within the ‘unmet transit needs’ definition, but rather can be categorized as operational or capital issues. Examples of operational issues include bad customer service, a disrespectful driver, or the frequency of a route.
- The Unmet Transit Needs assessment documents all comments received regardless of whether or not they fall within the ‘unmet transit needs’ definition. Comments not meeting the definition could be designated as “N/A,” or “not applicable” (as opposed to “No”) in the ‘unmet need’ column of the matrix, and could include an explanation in the matrix describing/addressing why that issue does not fall within the unmet need definition.
- Improvements could be made to the Unmet Transit Needs matrix that categorizes and summarizes the transit provider’s response to every issue identified during the assessment process. As shown in Figure 1, the “Unmet Need” column could be refined to include Yes, No, or Not Applicable, and an additional column could be added, clarifying whether it is reasonable to meet (if applicable).

**Figure 1
Proposed Revised Matrix of Comments/Responses**

NO.	JURISDICTION	PUBLIC COMMENT	OPERATOR RESPONSE	UNMET NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET? (Yes, No, N/A)

- The Unmet Transit Needs definition should be focused on transit “service” from one specific geographic area to another. This could be clarified in the public outreach materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SSTAC

- Resolution 90-15 should not be modified at this time, as it provides an inclusive definition of unmet needs and fulfills all regulatory requirements; the Fresno COG Resolution could be revisited if/when TDA legislation is amended.
- The column for “Unmet Need” should be modified to allow for three options: “Yes,” “No,” and “N/A.” “N/A” is short for ‘non-applicable’ and should be used when public comment is received that is determined to be unrelated to a provision of transit service.
- The matrix in the UTN report should be refined, adding a column entitled, “Reasonable to Meet?” This will help the reader distinguish between unmet needs and unmet needs that are reasonable to meet.
- The Unmet Transit Needs process is a valuable mechanism to obtain public feedback. While many issues are ultimately not deemed as unmet needs that are reasonable to meet, the direct feedback from the public should be considered as an important input for local transit providers in the planning process.

On January 22, 2020, the SSTAC discussed and approved these recommendations. The matrix of comments/responses in this FY 2020-2021 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment includes this revised approach.

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC)

The Fresno COG Policy Board established its Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) on May 26, 1988, to aid in its review of transit issues with an emphasis on the annual identification of transit needs within Fresno County. These needs include the needs of transit-dependent and transit disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means. The Fresno COG's establishment of this Advisory Council is consistent with State Law (SB 498, Chapter 673, 1987), which mandates both the purpose and minimum membership of this body. A list of SSTAC members is included with this report (Exhibit A).

The purpose of the SSTAC is to:

- (1) Annually participate in identification of transit needs (Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Process)
- (2) Review and recommend appropriate action by the Fresno COG for a jurisdiction which finds by resolution, that:
 - (a) There are no unmet transit needs;
 - (b) There are no unmet transit needs, which are reasonable to meet;
 - (c) There are unmet transit needs, which are reasonable to meet.
- (3) Advise the Fresno COG on any other major transit issues, including the coordination and consolidation of specialized transportation services.

FY 2020-2021 SSTAC UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PROCESS

The SSTAC has developed an annual process for soliciting unmet transit need comments from the public. The timeline for the public notification process is contained within Exhibit B while the actual flyers themselves in English and Spanish are found as Exhibits B-1 and B-2, respectively.

Flyers with attached comment forms in both English and Spanish were sent to 357 agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Fresno County. A discussion and summary of those who were sent the flyers is included in Exhibit B-3.

The electronic copy of the flyer and comment form was sent to 2,130 people that are signed up to receive the electronic newsletter, 'Coming Up at Fresno COG'. Respondents were requested to include the following information to assist staff in an initial evaluation of proposed services:

- Where new service is needed, and where the potential trips would start and end;
- When, and how often trips would need to be scheduled; and
- A description of the individuals needing the service including age group, financial constraints, and whether they have disabilities requiring special services.

Members of the community and stakeholders were also able to submit public comments and their transit needs electronically and through the US Mail. An email address was set up at comments@fresnocog.org to receive comments electronically, and the mailing address was posted as follows:

Bill Hyatt, SSTAC Chairman
Central Valley Regional Center, Inc.,
4615 North Marty, Fresno, CA 93722

As part of the information gathering process, SSTAC held six public outreach meetings (Attendance lists are within Exhibit C) throughout Fresno County and one informal meeting with a community group at their request. The FCRTA provided transportation from surrounding communities to the public outreach meetings scheduled for the rural areas at the Kerman Community Center and Fowler City Hall. Meeting attendees were required to schedule their ride three days in advance of the meeting and could do so by calling (855) 612-5184.

The first outreach meeting was held in the City of Fresno on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. at California State University Fresno, located at 5241 N. Maple Ave, Fresno, CA 93740 in the Vintage Room. This event immediately followed a workshop run by FAX. The other Unmet Transit Needs outreach meetings held in the City of Fresno also followed a FAX workshop.

The location was selected to facilitate comments from students attending California State University, Fresno, and the residents of the Northeast side of the City of Fresno as well as the City of Clovis. It was held right after a FAX public workshop to solicit public feedback for upcoming route changes to the FAX fixed-route system. As a result, several of the meeting attendees from the FAX workshop also participated in the Unmet Transit Needs meeting.

There were 12 meeting attendees, 6 of whom were members of the public while the remaining 6 were

Fresno COG or transit agency staff. Conversations pertaining to the Unmet Transit Needs process took place one-on-one and within a group setting. Meeting participants in this first meeting were primarily FAX and Clovis Transit users.

When asked about transit service in Fresno County, two meeting participants stated that overall, they were happy with service. They stated that they both had just recently started using the bus regularly. While most FAX transit riders are transit-dependent, one rider self-identified as a ‘choice’ rider.

Within the group discussion, the following items came up from meeting participants:

- Light rail between Fresno and Visalia, with service to Bakersfield in the future.
- Integration of service with other transit agencies
- Increase Handy Ride Transfer points
- Add transit service in those parts of Clovis where new development is taking place
- For Clovis, add a stop at Shields and Ashlan where drivers already stop to use the facilities
- Available ADA service between Fresno and smaller cities
- Potholes throughout the City of Fresno were becoming a problem

The second outreach meeting was held in the City of Clovis on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 Fourth Street, Clovis, CA 93612. The meeting location was selected to facilitate comments from residents in the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan area, primarily the City of Clovis. Aside from staff, one person showed up to this Unmet Transit Needs meeting, an employee of Fresno County. Staff talked to her about the purpose and history of the UTN process, providing her with the opportunity throughout the meeting to ask questions. She did not have any comments or feedback.

The third meeting was held in the City of Fresno on Saturday, February 29, 2020, at 11:30 a.m., at the Central Learning Adult/Alternative School Site (C.L.A.S.S), located at 2698 N. Brawley Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722. As with the first Unmet Transit Meeting held at California State University, Fresno, this meeting immediately followed a FAX Public Outreach meeting.

The location was selected to facilitate comments from students of C.L.A.S.S since many of them are high-frequency transit users, and from the Westside of the City of Fresno. While there were several attendees at the FAX workshop, only one transit rider remained for the UTN meeting to provide their feedback.

The single attendee was provided an explanation of the purpose of the UTN meeting and asked to provide feedback as to the status of transit service in Fresno County. Key points she brought up included:

- More bus service is needed west of SR99.
- Bus service is needed to Amazon / Ulta warehouses for employees.
- Clovis Transit needs additional service hours, especially weekends.
- Service is needed to El Paseo along Herndon. This only applies to regular bus service and Handy Ride service as well.
- Does Orange Cove have a pharmacy? Is there medical transportation?
- Transit service is needed between the City of Fresno and Madera, including Madera Ranchos.

The fourth outreach meeting was also held in the City of Fresno on Monday, March 2, 2020, at the Maxie L. Parks Community Center at 6:30 p.m., located at 1802 E. California Ave., Fresno, CA 93706. The meeting location was set to facilitate comments from residents of the Fresno Metropolitan Area. This was the final Unmet Transit Needs meeting that followed the FAX Public Outreach meetings held within the City of Fresno.

By the time that the FAX Workshop had concluded, there was one person remaining to participate in the Unmet Transit Needs meeting. No one else attended the UTN meeting.

The comment that FAX received from the single attendee to this meeting was in reference to a single bus stop within the FAX network. Her comment along with the transit agency's response can be found in the comments received section.

The fifth outreach meeting moved the Unmet Transit Needs Process to rural Fresno County. It was held in the City of Kerman on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at the Kerman Community Center at 5:30 p.m., at 850 S. Madera Ave., Kerman, CA 93630. This was the first of two Unmet Transit Needs meetings where FCRTA provided transportation for transit riders from surrounding communities if they made their reservation in advance. The meeting location was selected to facilitate comments from residents of the West Side of Fresno County including, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Huron, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin, and surrounding unincorporated communities. Despite extensive advertising and notification in the rural areas, not a single person attended the meeting. As a result, no comments were received.

The sixth and final outreach meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. at Fowler City Hall, located at 128 S. 5th Street, Fowler, CA 93625. The meeting location was selected to facilitate comments from the Eastside of Fresno County including, Fowler, Selma, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and the surrounding unincorporated communities. This was the second meeting where FCRTA offered transportation to residents who made their reservation three days in advance of the meeting. Since there were no meeting attendees, additional comments were not received.

The formal Public Hearing took place as part of the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting. Public notification took place, as required with documentation as such provided in exhibits E-1 and E-2 of this report. Because of coronavirus shelter-in-place orders, the Public Hearing and Policy Board meeting were held online, virtually. Members of the public were given the opportunity to speak during the Hearing. No feedback was received.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK RECEIVED FOR THE FY 2020-2021 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PROCESS

The SSTAC received a matrix of comments collected at the workshops. No additional comments were received by mail, electronically, or at the Public Hearing.

The comment number, jurisdiction, public comment, operator response and, whether the comment meets the definition of an unmet need are contained below:

Figure 2
Matrix of Public Comments Received, Operator Responses, and Determinations

	JURISDICTION	PUBLIC COMMENT	OPERATOR RESPONSE	UNMET NEED? (Yes, No, N/A)	REASONABLE TO MEET? (Yes, No, N/A)
1.	Regional	Why not do a light rail line between Fresno and Visalia with service added to Bakersfield in the future?	<p>Visalia Transit operates transit service between Visalia and Fresno six times per day, seven days a week starting at 4 a.m.</p> <p>FCRTA prepared a planning grant application in 2019 for a light rail / BRT project; however, it was not submitted. When considering new transit services, multiple modes must be considered and analyzed through a series of feasibility analyses examining metrics including anticipated ridership, capital and operating costs, funding sources, fare estimates, farebox recovery ratios, and other performance metrics.</p>	No	N/A

2.	Regional	Need to increase integration of service with other transit agencies in the region.	All transit agencies in Fresno County currently work together, including FAX, FCRTA, Clovis Transit, and Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC). In addition, FCRTA currently has agreements with KARTS in Kings County and the City of Dinuba in Tulare County for service into Fresno County, and FAX and Clovis Transit have agreements for service between the two jurisdictions.	N/A	N/A
3.	FAX	Need to increase the number of Handy Ride transfer points.	There are three transfer points between Handy Ride and Clovis Transit Roundup paratransit service. The three current transfer points are at Willow and Herndon, Willow and Shaw, and Clovis and Ashlan. A fourth transfer point is anticipated for Peach and Dakota in the near future.	N/A	N/A
4.	Clovis	Need to add service in those parts of Clovis where new	The City of Clovis will undertake a transit study in the near future to continue to refine	No	N/A

		development is taking place.	transit service.		
5.	Clovis	Within the City of Clovis, add a stop at the Taco Bell at Ashlan and Peach since drivers already stop there to use the facilities.	Clovis Transit Route 50 includes a stop on the north side of Ashlan and then the route heads north on Peach, so without changing the direction of Route 50, it is not possible to add a stop at the Taco Bell for the bus drivers.	No	N/A
6.	Regional	What ADA services are available between Fresno and the smaller cities?	All transit vehicles in the region are ADA-equipped for both fixed-route and demand-response routes countywide.	No	N/A
7.	FAX	What is FAX doing about potholes?	Potholes fall under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department. The City encourages residents to use the “FresGo” app to report potholes. When potholes impact FAX service, FAX communicates the potholes to the Public Works Department.	N/A	N/A
8	FAX	More bus service is needed west of SR99.	The area west of Highway 99 is identified in the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Areas (FCMA) Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) as an area of growth and future public transit need. FAX has recently proposed changes to the fixed-route transit	No	N/A

			system that would affect this area. These proposed changes include extending service westbound along Route 45 on Ashlan Avenue to Central High School, and connecting Routes 12 and 35 along Marks. Because FAX is actively working on adding service to this area, this is not considered an Unmet Need.		
9.	FAX	Bus service is needed to Amazon / Ulta for employees.	FAX is evaluating service to the North Pointe Industrial Park area to determine feasibility of service, anticipated ridership, and funding to pay for service. Because FAX is actively working on evaluating service in this area, this is not considered an Unmet Need.	No	N/A
10.	Clovis Transit	Clovis Transit needs additional service hours, especially weekends.	The City of Clovis will undertake a transit study in the near future to continue to refine transit service. Days and hours of service will be included in that study.	No	N/A
11.	FAX	Service is needed to El Paseo along Herndon. This applies not only to regular bus service but Handy Ride	FAX has proposed service expansion along Herndon Avenue that would run from the El Paseo shopping center at Herndon and	No	N/A

		service as well.	SR 99 to Willow Avenue. If implemented, Handy Ride boundaries would be expanded to provide comparable service coverage. FAX is seeking grant funding to implement this service. Because FAX is actively working on adding service to this area, this is not considered an Unmet Need.		
12.	FCRTA	Does Orange Cove have a pharmacy? Is there medical transportation?	There is no pharmacy in Orange Cove, but there is one in Reedley. FCRTA does not provide medical transportation.	N/A	N/A
13.	FAX and Fresno COG	Transit service is needed between the City of Fresno and Madera to places such as Madera Ranchos.	FAX operates service to Valley Children's Hospital (VCH) in Madera. Residents of Madera can ride Madera County Connection to VCH and transfer to FAX. The Unmet Transit Needs process only applies within the Fresno County limit.	No	N/A
14.	FAX	The bus stop at Jensen and Clara is dangerous for students. Teacher advises students to avoid it and instead walk farther to a safer stop down the road.	The bus stop on the north side of Jensen at Clara does not have a sidewalk, as the parcel of land is not developed. FAX is the public transit operator for the City of Fresno. Curbs, gutters and sidewalks fall under	N/A	N/A

			the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department. If/when the parcel is developed, a sidewalk would be added, and the stop would become safer.		
15.	FAX	Continue with implementing cross-town service across the City of Fresno.	FAX has evaluated and proposed cross-town service on Herndon, Ashlan, McKinley, and Dakota, and is seeking grant funds to implement service. Because FAX is actively working on adding service to these areas, this is not considered an Unmet Need.	No	N/A

DISCUSSION FROM SSTAC RELATING TO THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE FY 2020-2021 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 1 is the list of comments received during the FY 2020-2021 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment. Also included with each public comment is a comment number, the relevant jurisdiction(s), the operator response, whether the comment is an unmet need, and whether the need is reasonable to meet. The definition of unmet needs and reasonable to meet are contained in Fresno COG Resolution 90-15 on pages 4 and 5 above.

Section 99401.5(c) of the California Public Utilities Codes specifies, “The transportation planning agency shall determine its definitions of the terms ‘unmet transit needs’ and ‘reasonable to meet’ for the purposes of this section which shall be documented by resolution or within the minutes of the agency.” The Fresno COG Policy Board does this with Resolution 90-15.

Several comments received during the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment are being addressed directly by the operator. In those cases, the matrix classifies those comments as not meeting the definition of unmet needs, as the transit operators are working proactively to implement service improvements.

Discussion by the SSTAC on the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment has been incorporated into the reports scheduled to be presented to the June 2020 cycle of TTC/PAC and Policy Board meetings.

INSTRUCTIONS AND NEXT STEPS FOR SSTAC PERTAINING TO THE FY 2020-2021 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The publicly noticed hearing to receive comments regarding potential unmet transit needs in Fresno County was held Thursday, April 30, 2020, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting. The hearing was held virtually as a result of the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders. No comments were received.

At its May 19, 2020, meeting, SSTAC, using Fresno COG Resolution 90-15 was asked to make a recommendation regarding whether any of the public comments in Figure 1 constitute:

- An Unmet Transit Need
- An Unmet Transit Need that is reasonable to meet
- An Unmet Transit Need that is unreasonable to meet

More specifically, the SSTAC was asked to make a finding that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet within the following jurisdictions:

1. City of Clovis
2. City of Coalinga
3. City of Firebaugh
4. City of Fowler
5. City of Fresno
6. City of Huron
9. City of Mendota
10. City of Orange Cove
11. City of Parlier
12. City of Reedley
13. City of Sanger
14. City of San Joaquin

7. City of Kerman
8. City of Kingsburg

15. City of Selma
16. Fresno County

In addition, the SSTAC made a recommendation to forward to the Fresno COG Advisory Committees (TTC/PAC) and ultimately to the Fresno COG Policy Board the following documents, in relation to the Unmet Transit Needs Report, specifically:

- The Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's (CTSA) Operations Program and Budget (OPB) 2020-2021 for the City of Clovis
- The Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's (CTSA) Operations Program and Budget (OPB) 2020-2021 for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission

MOTION:

A motion was made by SSTAC Hector Medina and seconded by SSTAC Monty Cox to make the following recommendation:

The SSTAC, through its recent efforts to solicit comments, recommends that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet within the following jurisdictions:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. City of Clovis | 9. City of Mendota |
| 2. City of Coalinga | 10. City of Orange Cove |
| 3. City of Firebaugh | 11. City of Parlier |
| 4. City of Fowler | 12. City of Reedley |
| 5. City of Fresno | 13. City of Sanger |
| 6. City of Huron | 14. City of San Joaquin |
| 7. City of Kerman | 15. City of Selma |
| 8. City of Kingsburg | 16. Fresno County |

A unanimous voice vote was taken with instruction to forward this report in addition to the CTSA OPB for FY 2020-21 for the City of Clovis and the CTSA OPB for FY 2020-21 for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission to the Fresno COG Advisory Committee (TTC/PAC) and to the Fresno COG Policy Board.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY JURISDICTION

A. Overview

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for public transportation services contains a Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) component, a Fresno County rural component, and a social service transportation component.

The Metropolitan Area component is implemented through the "Short Range Transit Plan" (SRTP) for the FCMA. The 2020-2024 FCMA SRTP was adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board on June 27, 2019. It analyzed the metropolitan transit service needs and provided a detailed service plan for implementation over five years. The Rural Area component is implemented through the Rural SRTP for the Fresno County Rural Area, which provides a detailed service plan for the implementation of rural transit services over the same five-year period. Short Range Transit Plans are updated every other year and reviewed within the same timeframe as the Unmet Transit Needs.

In addition to these Short Range Transit Plans, the Fresno COG annually adopts an Operations Program and Budget for the coordination and consolidation of transportation for specialized social service programs within Fresno County. The 2020-2021 Operations Program and Budget for the City of Clovis and the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission are scheduled for adoption on June 25, 2020.

B. Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA)

The Regional Transportation Plan calls for fixed-route service within the Metropolitan Area to be provided by FAX, with financial participation from the City of Clovis and Fresno County for service to non-Fresno City residents within FAX's service area. Demand responsive Handy Ride service is provided through FAX under contract with Keolis Transit America. The Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) for the FCMA sets forth the specific service implementation plan for the five-year fiscal period from 2020-2024. It is this SRTP that implements the near-term service goals and objectives of the Regional Transportation Plan.

The Regional Transportation Plan and the FCMA Short Range Transit Plan also continue to emphasize specialized service for disabled and elderly residents. The latter, who are unable to utilize the fixed-route buses.

Service will be funded with \$22.2 million in State Transportation Development Act - Local Transportation Funds. FAX is also anticipating \$11.8 million in Measure C funds and \$10 million funded by the Federal Transit Administration. The remaining funds are derived from farebox revenues and special services provided under contracts with outside agencies such as the City of Clovis and Valley Children's Hospital. Although the City of Fresno does not propose to expend any of its Local Transportation Funds on streets and roads in FY 2020-2021, a "transit needs finding" is necessary to be consistent with SB-498. SB-498 states the lack of available resources shall *not* be the sole reason for finding a transit need is *not* reasonable to meet.

The City of Clovis operates two types of public transit services. Clovis Stageline provides

general public fixed-route service within the City Limits. Clovis Roundup operates specialized demand-responsive service for the elderly and disabled residents. The City of Clovis has designated Roundup services as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for the Clovis Transit Service Area. The estimated cost for the operation of Clovis Transit in FY 2020-2021 is \$3,979,000. Although the City of Clovis does not propose to expend any Local Transportation Funds on streets and roads in FY 2020-2021, a “transit needs finding”, is necessary to be consistent with SB-498. SB-498 states the lack of available resources shall *not* be the sole reason for finding a transit need is *not* reasonable to meet.

C. Rural Areas

The Regional Transportation Plan calls for service to rural portions of Fresno County, including intra-city service in and around thirteen rural incorporated cities, two dozen unincorporated communities, and inter-city service linking those cities to the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area on the following corridors:

- (1) Firebaugh - Mendota - San Joaquin - Kerman Corridor to Fresno
- (2) Kingsburg - Selma - Fowler Corridor to Fresno
- (3) Orange Cove - Reedley - Parlier - Sanger Corridor to Fresno
- (4) Coalinga - Huron – Five Star - Five Points - Lanare - Riverdale - Caruthers - Raisin City - Easton Corridor to the Fresno

During the latter part of FY1978-1979 and the beginning of FY1979-1980, in cooperation with rural incorporated cities in Fresno County, Fresno COG prepared and adopted specific short-range transit development programs to define the implementation of rural public transportation service in conformance with the Regional Transportation Plan. In September 1979, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) was formed and assigned responsibility for implementing the service requirements of the Regional Transportation Plan as set forth by the Transit Development Programs. Services set forth by the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transit Development Programs were fully implemented by mid-February 1980.

A comprehensive Short-Range Transit Plan (Rural SRTP) for the Rural Fresno County Area, which updated the individual Transit Development Programs, was first adopted on November 17, 1983. The five-year Rural SRTP is updated biennially. The latest update of the "Short-Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area 2020-2024" was adopted on June 27, 2019. The estimated cost for the operation of the FCRTA in FY 2019-2020 is \$9,161,553. The Services will be funded with \$1,215,352 of State Transportation Development Act - (TDA) Local Transportation Funds (LTF). The FCRTA will utilize \$924,766 from its Measure – C funds to support the operations. An additional \$1,580,000 will be funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Farebox receipts are projected to be \$725,638 and Interest is estimated at \$107,250.

D. Social Service Transportation

The updated Social Service Transportation Action Plan and Inventory were adopted on January 29, 1998, and continues to co-designate the City of Fresno and the Fresno Economic

Opportunities Commission (FEOC) as the Fresno Urban Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA). The Action Plan further designates the City of Clovis, as the Clovis CTSA, and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) and the FEOC as the Fresno Rural Area CTSA. The Fresno COG has set aside each year, since FY1982-1983, five percent (5%) of Local Transportation Funds (Table 1) for social service transportation. An Operations Program and Budget (OPB) have been prepared for the Fresno Urban CTSA, Clovis CTSA, and the Fresno Rural CTSA. The FY 2020-2021 OPBs are scheduled for adoption on June 25, 2020, which documents commitments for matching funds from participating social service agencies and defines the types of coordinated/consolidated services to be provided so funds may be released.

Fresno County's CTSA process has been very successful in coordinating metropolitan and rural social service transportation needs. The Fresno COG's latest annual "Transit Productivity Evaluation for FY 2020 indicates the CTSA's continue to provide a significant number of trips throughout Fresno County. An inventory of social service agencies was updated, as part of the development of the Fresno COG's Human Service Coordination Plan, as adopted January 29, 2015. It has assisted in determining if additional social service agencies may be interested in participating in the CTSA process.

Analysis of Proposed Public Transportation Services and Recommended Findings for -Local Agencies FY 2020-2021

A. City of Clovis

The City of Clovis contributes funds to the operation of three (3) transit services within its jurisdiction. First, it operates the Clovis CTSA Roundup service on a demand-responsive basis to its elderly and disabled social service clients. Second, it operates Clovis Stageline to serve general public patrons with four (4) coordinated fixed-routes; and third, it provides funding to Fresno Area Express (FAX), which operates fixed-route service on Route 9 into Clovis.

Inter-city service to Fresno is available on Clovis CTSA's Roundup and Fresno Area Express / Handy Ride.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Clovis will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained within the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

B. City of Coalinga

The City of Coalinga, under an inter-agency agreement with the FCRTA, provides intra-city and inter-city service using vehicles owned by the FCRTA. All FCRTA vehicles are lift-equipped for elderly and disabled accessibility.

The Coalinga Transit intra-city demand responsive service operates with one (1) vehicle during an approximate eight (8) hour service period Monday through Friday.

Coalinga Transit also provides inter-city fixed-route service, with route deviation to pick-up disabled passengers, between Coalinga and Fresno. The vehicle provides one (1) round trip through Pleasant Valley Prison, Huron, Five Points, Lanare, Riverdale, Caruthers, Raisin City, and Easton, during an approximate nine and $\frac{3}{4}$ (9.75) hour period, Monday through Saturday.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Coalinga, Sphere of Influence, and surrounding Area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

C. City of Firebaugh

The City of Firebaugh, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides demand-responsive service within Firebaugh's Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area is available by an FCRTA's lift-equipped vehicle, Monday through Friday for approximately nine and $\frac{3}{4}$ (9.75) hours per day. A second vehicle is available for inter-city trips between Firebaugh and Mendota during an approximate nine (9) hour period, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Westside Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and surrounding communities, Kerman, and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Firebaugh, its Sphere of Influence, and surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

D. City of Fowler

The City of Fowler, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides transportation services within its Sphere of Influence and surrounding area. A lift-equipped FCRTA vehicle is in the service of the community approximately eight (8) hours per day, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Southeast Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, for approximately eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Kingsburg, Selma, and Fowler and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Fowler, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

E. City of Fresno

Fresno Area Express (FAX) provides fixed-route service seven (7) days-a-week throughout the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. The City of Clovis and Fresno County financially participate for service to non-Fresno City residents within FAX's service area. FAX contracts with Keolis Transit America for weekday and weekend demand-responsive service on Handy Ride. This paratransit service is oriented toward those who are unable to use the fixed-route service.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Fresno will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained within the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

F. City of Huron

The City of Huron, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides general public transportation service within the Sphere of Influence, and surrounding area utilizing two (2) FCRTA wheelchair accessible modified vehicles. The intra-city services are available during an approximate eight (8) hour period, Monday through Friday.

The City of Huron continues to provide funding for an inter-city "life-line" service to Coalinga. Three (3) round trips are provided during an eight (8) hour period, Monday through Friday.

Coalinga Transit also provides inter-city fixed-route service, with route deviation to pick-up disabled passengers, between Coalinga and Fresno. The vehicle provides one (1) round trip through Pleasant Valley Prison, Huron, Five Points, Lanare, Riverdale, Caruthers, Raisin City, and Easton, during an approximate nine and $\frac{3}{4}$ (9.75) hour period, Monday through Saturday.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Huron, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

G. City of Kerman

The City of Kerman, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides demand-responsive public transportation service with an FCRTA vehicle within its Sphere of Influence and surrounding area using a lift-equipped FCRTA vehicle, for approximately eight (8) hours a day, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Westside Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, for approximately eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using lift-equipped vehicles, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and surrounding unincorporated communities, and Kerman and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Kerman, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

H. City of Kingsburg

Two (2) FCRTA wheelchair lift-equipped vehicles are available for providing public transportation services to Kingsburg Area residents. These transit services are provided to the City of Kingsburg under an inter-agency services agreement with FCRTA. Service within the Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area, are available on a demand- responsive basis during an approximately eight (8) hour service period, Monday through Friday, and approximately eight (8) hours on Saturday utilizing just one (1) vehicle.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Southeast Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximately eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Kingsburg, Selma, and Fowler and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Kingsburg, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

I. City of Mendota

The City of Mendota, under an inter-agency agreement with the FCRTA, provides demand-responsive service within its Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area using a FCRTA lift-equipped vehicle. This service is provided Monday through Friday for approximately eight (8) hours per day.

Firebaugh Transit has a second vehicle, which is available for inter-city trips between Firebaugh and Mendota during an approximate nine (9) hour period, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Westside Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximately eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and surrounding unincorporated communities, and Kerman and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Mendota, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

J. City of Orange Cove

The City of Orange Cove, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides transportation services within its Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area using an FCRTA lift-equipped vehicle. Orange Cove Transit operates on a demand responsive basis area for approximately nine (9) hours per day, Monday through Friday.

Orange Cove Transit also provides a lift-equipped vehicle for inter-city fixed-route service. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, Sanger, and "to" and "from" Fresno. Multiple round trips are available each service day. The inter-city service is provided, during an approximately ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Orange Cove, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

K. City of Parlier

The City of Parlier, under an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, currently operates a lift-equipped demand responsive service within its Sphere of Influence, and surrounding area using a wheelchair lift-equipped FCRTA vehicle. Service is currently provided, during an approximate eight (8) hour period, Monday through Friday.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Orange Cove Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximately ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, and Sanger and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Parlier, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

L. City of Reedley

The City of Reedley, through an inter-agency services agreement with the FCRTA, provides demand-responsive public transportation within its Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area, using four (4) vehicles on an eight (8) hour staggered basis during an approximate eight (8) hour service period, Monday through Friday, and one (1) vehicle on Saturdays during an approximate eight (8) hour period.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Orange Cove Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximately ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Orange Cove,

Reedley, Parlier, and Sanger and "to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Reedley, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

M. City of Sanger

To provide public transportation service within the Sanger Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area, the FCRTA, under an inter-agency services agreement, with the City of Sanger operates two (2) wheelchair accessible FCRTA vehicles that offer service in Sanger. The vehicles provide staggered service during an approximate eight (8) hour period and, one (1) vehicle provides service during an eleven and a half (11.5) hour period, Monday through Friday, and one (1) vehicle during an eight (8) hour period on Saturday.

FCRTA also contracts to operate Orange Cove Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximate ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped bus, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, and Sanger and "to" and "from" Fresno.

An additional vehicle began providing service between Sanger and Reedley College in September of 2014 to support a new training program to address a critical concern by manufacturers in Sanger who have been unsuccessful at finding skilled workers to employ and residents in Sanger who are underemployed or unemployed. One (1) vehicle provides route service during a ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Sanger, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

N. City of San Joaquin

The City of San Joaquin, under an inter-agency agreement with the FCRTA, provides for demand-responsive Intra-City service within their Sphere of Influence and surrounding area. Inter-community service is also provided between the unincorporated communities of Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Halfway, Three Rocks, and Tranquility. Inter-City service to Kerman is also available. These services are provided, during a ten (10) hour period, Monday through Friday using FCRTA lift equipped vans.

The FCRTA contracts to operate Westside Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximate eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday, using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and surrounding unincorporated communities, and Kerman and

"to" and "from" Fresno.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of San Joaquin, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding area with its identified unincorporated communities will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

O. City of Selma

The City of Selma, under an inter-agency agreement with the FCRTA, provides for demand-responsive and fixed-route Intra-City service within their Sphere of Influence and the surrounding area.

This service utilizes four (4) FCRTA wheelchair accessible vehicles. It operates four (4) vehicles on a demand-responsive basis for eight (8) hours each on a staggered basis, and one (1) for four (4) hours for lunchtime driver relief, Monday through Friday, during an approximate eight (8) hours service day. Saturday demand-responsive services are provided with a single (1) vehicle during an approximate eight (8) hour service period.

The FCRTA also contracts to operate Southeast Transit as a multiple round trip general public commuter service, during an approximate eight and a half (8-1/2) hour period, Monday through Friday using a lift-equipped vehicle, which may deviate from its route to pick-up disabled passengers. The service is provided on a scheduled fixed-route to serve patrons "between" Kingsburg, Selma, and Fowler and "to" and "from" the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA).

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the City of Selma, its Sphere of Influence, and the surrounding Area will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

P. Fresno County

Fresno County financially participates through the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency for provision of service to unincorporated area residents within the Spheres of Influence and the surrounding areas of the thirteen (13) rural cities and two dozen unincorporated communities situated on established fixed-routes.

Fresno County also provides the funding for six (6) other unincorporated area transit services.

Auberry Transit is provided, through an inter-agency service agreement with FCRTA. The service area includes the communities of Alder Springs, Auberry, New Auberry, the Big Sandy Indian Rancheria, Burrough Valley, Cold Springs Indian Rancheria, Jose Basin, Marshall Station, Meadow Lakes, Mile High, Prather, Sycamore, and Tollhouse. A lift-equipped vehicle provides approximately seven (7) hours of service per day, Monday through Friday. A second Auberry Transit vehicle is to provide "life-line" inter-city service from the foothill communities and through Friant and the Table Mountain Indian Rancheria to the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area, one (1) day a week during an eight (8) hour service period.

Del Rey Transit operates as a general public demand-responsive service. The FCRTA continues to fund the service four (4) hours per service day and Fresno County TDA monies fund the remaining four (4) hours. The service is under contract for driver services through the FCRTA and continues to be available during an approximate eight (8) hour period Monday through Friday. The operation will continue to maintain priority service to seniors attending the mid-day Hot Meal Nutrition Program. The service transports passengers within the community on a shared ride basis; arranges passenger grouping for trips to Sanger; and transfers passengers in Sanger to access Orange Cove Transit for service to Fresno, Parlier, Reedley, and Orange Cove. As of April 1, 2019 the, service was modified to 7 hours per weekday and 5 hours on Saturday on a 3-month demonstration period to accommodate requests for Saturday service from Del Rey residents.

Dinuba Connection is in its tenth (10th) year of service. In cooperation with the FCRTA, the City of Dinuba (in Tulare County) provides an inter-County service, referred to as the Dinuba Connection, between Dinuba and Reedley (in Fresno County). It allows Dinuba residents to travel from their City and its Vocational Training Center to the Adventist Medical Center (for on-the-job training) and to attend Reedley College. Eastern Fresno County residents travel to regional retail and entertainment centers in Dinuba. The service has proven to be very successful. The operations encourage transfers between Reedley Transit's Intra-City services and Orange Cove Transit's Inter-City services, to facilitate connectivity between Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, Sanger, and Fresno. Both entities will continue to utilize a portion of their locally approved half-cent sales tax (Measure R in Tulare County and Measure C in Fresno County) to continue to split the costs of this transit expansion program.

Laton Transit continues to be provided by the FCRTA through an ongoing inter-agency services agreement with Kings Area Rural Transit (KART). Round trip, inter-community service between the unincorporated Community of Laton and the City of Hanford, in Kings County, is available Monday through Friday. An existing inter-County service by KART from Hanford through Laton and then Selma (Kaiser Clinic) and Hospitals in Fresno and the Central Valley Children's Hospital in Madera County is provided Monday through Friday.

Rural Transit between remote areas of Fresno County has been mentioned in the Regional Transportation Plan and Rural Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) for many years. The Measure-C Expenditure Plan referenced the concept for funding and implementation. Service beyond the current transit service areas associated with incorporated cities has been difficult to justify. Four (4) vehicles were purchased to facilitate the operation of three (3) in regular services, Monday through Friday, with the fourth (4th) reserved as a back-up vehicle. The adopted Rural SRTP reflects the demand-responsive operation to be available on a twenty-four (24) hour prior reservation basis. Transfers to existing operations have eliminated service duplications.

Shuttle Transit is to address another transit need. For many years, it has become evident that when riders from rural Cities arrive in Fresno, they have problems utilizing the fixed-route services of Fresno Area Express (FAX) to get to their destinations, conduct their business and return back downtown to catch their return bus back to their respective rural City. Frail elderly and disabled have significant problems attempting to qualify as a user of the Handy Ride services. Those wanting to get to an employment opportunity, educational institution, training program, medical appointment or other facility learn that it is nearly impossible to rely on public transportation.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recognized the problem nationwide, and sought to address the matter. They created another Program that is called Job Access / Reverse Commute (JARC). Initially, it sought competitive applications and selected a few for partial funding for a one (1) year demonstration period. The applicant was responsible for the funding in subsequent years. It was not attractive to small rural operators with very limited funding in the first place.

With the passage of Measure-C, the FCRTA has an opportunity to implement a supportive program. The FCRTA has four (4) inter-City subsystems that provide service to the Fresno Metropolitan Area. They include Coalinga Transit (from Coalinga, Huron, Five Points, Lanare, Riverdale, Caruthers, Raisin City, and Easton); Orange Cove Transit (from Orange Cove, Reedley, Parlier, and Sanger); Southeast Transit (from Kingsburg, Selma, and Fowler); and Westside Transit (from Firebaugh, Mendota, Kerman, with connections from San Joaquin).

The Shuttle services are intended to meet the inter-City buses as they arrive in Fresno. The fares would be the same as FAX, \$1.25 per one-way trip. The riders could call the current Centralized Dispatch phone number 1-800-325-7433 to arrange service. The FCRTA has four (4) vehicles, three (3) primary vehicles and, one (1) back up. The service began in July of 2015.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Fresno COG Policy Board find that public transportation needs within the unincorporated portions of the County of Fresno will be reasonably met. Service requirements contained in the Regional Transportation Plan will be satisfied.

Additional Information

It should be noted additional transit needs are being met through three (3) other programs, which have been implemented with Measure – C funds. The Fresno COG administers the programs:

- Carpooling - A subsidized carpooling program is available for individuals willing to share rides with others. A computerized program may assist individuals in making successful contacts to form successful arrangements to share rides conveniently.
- Commuter Vanpooling – A subsidized vanpooling program is available for a group of individuals who may have common interests in commuting for employment or schooling at City Colleges and Universities. Several commercial entities have complete programs to provide vans ranging from seven (7) to fifteen (15) passenger capacities. A lead and back-up driver volunteer to make arrangements to transport the group as needed. The vehicle, fuel, maintenance, and insurance are covered. Participants share in a portion of the costs. Several hundred vehicles are currently in operation, and more are being formed on a regular basis.
- Farm Labor Vanpooling – A subsidized farm labor vanpooling program facilitates group transportation to field and packing facilities. The program is flexible to meet the seasonal needs of the workers, originating in Fresno County. Fifteen (15) passenger vans accommodate seven (7) to fifteen (15) individuals. A lead and back-up driver volunteer to make arrangements to transport the group as needed. The vehicle, fuel, maintenance, and insurance are covered.

Participants share in a portion of the costs. Several hundred vehicles are currently in operation, and more are being formed on a regular basis.

Individuals and groups desiring to know more about these programs should call 559-441-RIDE (7433) or contact www.valleyrides.com for more information.

Appendix A - Demographic Information

Transit Dependent Groups

Per the Transportation Development Act, Unmet Transit Needs findings must include an annual assessment of the size and location of identifiable groups likely to be transit-dependent, including but not limited to, the elderly, the disabled, including individuals eligible for paratransit and other special transportation services pursuant to Section 12143 of Title 42 of the United States Code, and persons of limited means, including, but not limited to, recipients under the CalWORKs program.

For the purposes of this document:

- The elderly are considered to be individuals age 65 years old and older.
- The term "disability" refer to persons who because, of physical or mental impairment, are unable to drive automobiles or use public transit, which is not specifically tailored to meet their needs.
- Persons of limited means are considered as having incomes below the poverty threshold as defined by the federal government.

Demographic Data - Charts and Highlights

The determination of the size and location of identifiable groups likely to be “transit-dependent” is based on the American Community Survey, 2010 Census, and other pertinent data. The demographic data relevant to determining unmet transit needs in Fresno County is presented in the form of tables and maps.

The American Community Survey (ACS) replaced the decennial census long form in 2010. The ACS now collects detailed questions about socioeconomic and housing characteristics on an annual basis. The function of the decennial census will be to provide counts of people for the purpose of congressional apportionment and legislative redistricting. The primary purpose of the ACS is to measure the changing social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population. The use of the ACS data will provide “snapshots” of our region’s socioeconomic characteristics. The decision to select one-year, three-year, or five-year ACS “snapshots” is dependent on whether the intent is to reflect the most current data (e.g., one-year ACS) or a statistically more accurate “snapshot” (e.g., lower margin of error) over a larger period of time.

In this section, Table 2 presents an overview of the population in Fresno County. Figure 1 illustrates graphically how the population is dispersed throughout the incorporated and unincorporated areas in Fresno County.

The most rapid population increase between 2010 and 2018 occurred in the City of Coalinga, with growth of over 23%. Other Fresno County cities with large increases were Fowler (14%), Clovis (11%), and Firebaugh (9%). The population for Fresno County as a whole declined over 1% between 2010 and 2018.

The City of Clovis now has a population in excess of 100,000 people. Pursuant to Senate Bill 716 (enacted 2009), cities with a population of 100,000 or more within a county that has a population of 500,000 or more will be required to expend 100% of the Local Transportation Funds (LTF) apportionment for public transit purposes. The City of Clovis has already been complying with this requirement.

Population forecasts suggest that none of the other incorporated cities in Fresno County will exceed 100,000 in the next 20 years and therefore, will be exempt from the provisions of Senate Bill 716. The California Department of Finance annual city and county population estimates will be used to identify when the population threshold has been met. SB 716 represents a fundamental change in the manner in which public transit will be financed in the future.

Table 2
Total Population and Percent Change, Year 2018

Planning Area	Population			% Change 2010 - 2018
	2000	2010	2018 (ACS)	
City of Clovis	66,468	95,631	106,666	11.54%
City of Coalinga	11,668	13,380	16,538	23.60%
City of Firebaugh	5,743	7,549	8,295	9.88%
City of Fowler	3,979	5,570	6,364	14.25%
City of Fresno	427,652	494,665	522,277	5.58%
City of Huron	6,306	6,754	7,019	3.92%
City of Kerman	8,551	13,544	14,649	8.16%
City of Kingsburg	9,199	11,382	11,839	4.02%
City of Mendota	7,890	11,014	11,393	3.44%
City of Orange Cove	7,722	9,078	9,564	5.35%
City of Parlier	11,145	14,494	15,120	4.32%
City of Reedley	20,756	24,194	25,493	5.37%
City of San Joaquin	3,270	4,001	4,021	0.50%
City of Sanger	18,931	24,270	24,978	2.92%
City of Selma	19,444	23,219	24,598	5.94%
County of Fresno	170,683	171,705	169,316	-1.39%
Total	799,407	930,450	978,130	5.12%

Table 3 presents the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS 5-year) data on population by age and income characteristics. This data is important to this analysis because studies have shown that age and income have a high correlation with automobile usage and transit dependency. Persons age 65 and over are separated as a subset of the total population figures. In some jurisdictions, these individuals become eligible for transit services solely based on their age. In others, they qualify for reduced fares because of their age. In either case, they are recognized as a select group of people who may have special transportation needs met through public transportation.

Poverty statistics in ACS products adhere to the standards specified by the Office of Management and Budget in Statistical Policy Directive 14. The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. Further, poverty thresholds for people living alone or with nonrelatives (unrelated individuals) vary by age (under 65 years or 65 years and older). The poverty thresholds for two-person families also vary by the age of the householder. If a family's total income is less than the dollar value of the appropriate threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. Similarly, if an unrelated individual's total income is less than the appropriate threshold, then that individual is considered to be in poverty.

Table 3
Age and Income, Year 2018

Jurisdiction	Population 2018	Persons: Age 65+	% Total Pop.	Persons: Low Income	% Total Pop.	Persons: Age 65+ & Low Income	% Total Pop.
City of Clovis	106,666	13,373	12.5%	13,151	12.3%	837	0.8%
City of Coalinga	16,538	1,141	6.9%	2,800	16.9%	139	0.8%
City of Firebaugh	8,295	775	9.3%	2,295	27.7%	243	2.9%
City of Fowler	6,364	743	11.7%	1,233	19.4%	57	0.9%
City of Fresno	522,277	56,785	10.9%	138,029	26.4%	7,454	1.4%
City of Huron	7,019	554	7.9%	3,210	45.7%	244	3.5%
City of Kerman	14,649	1,638	11.2%	2,882	19.7%	242	1.7%
City of Kingsburg	11,839	1,569	13.3%	1,896	16.0%	195	1.6%
City of Mendota	11,393	647	5.7%	5,337	46.8%	170	1.5%
City of Orange Cove	9,564	831	8.7%	4,554	47.6%	312	3.3%
City of Parlier	15,120	1,279	8.5%	5,448	36.0%	461	3.0%
City of Reedley	25,493	3,092	12.1%	5,791	22.7%	251	1.0%
City of San Joaquin	4,021	207	5.1%	1,455	36.2%	71	1.8%
City of Sanger	24,978	2,692	10.8%	7,633	30.6%	655	2.6%
City of Selma	24,598	2,481	10.1%	6,207	25.2%	328	1.3%
County of Fresno	169,316	26,631	15.7%	32,529	19.2%	2,573	1.5%
Total	978,130	114,438	11.7%	234,450	24.0%	14,232	1.5%

Table 4 provides data on individuals with disabilities by gender and age. This information is from the 2014-2018 ACS data and includes non-institutionalized persons age five and older who have a "disability." Individuals were asked if they, or others in the household, had a health condition that has lasted for six or more months, making it difficult to go outside of the home alone. Persons that have such difficulty as a result of a health condition are said to have a mobility limitation. Increased public transportation would be an asset to those who have mobility limitations.

Table 4
Gender by Age and Disability, Year 2018

Fresno County	Estimate	% Over Total	Fresno County	Estimate	% Over Total
Total Population	966,908	100.0%	Total Population	966,908	100.0%
Male	479,147	49.6%	Female	487,761	50.4%
Under Age 5	40,149	4.2%	Under Age 5	38,481	4.0%
With a Disability	353	0.0%	With a Disability	282	0.0%
No Disability	39,796	4.1%	No Disability	38,199	4.0%
Age 5 to 17	102,423	10.6%	Age 5 to 17	98,588	10.2%
With a Disability	6,418	0.7%	With a Disability	4,368	0.5%
No Disability	96,005	9.9%	No Disability	94,220	9.7%
Age 18 to 64	286,408	29.6%	Age 18 to 64	288,897	29.9%
With a Disability	33,277	3.4%	With a Disability	34,148	3.5%
No Disability	253,131	26.2%	No Disability	254,749	26.3%
Age 65+	50,167	5.2%	Age 65+	61,795	6.4%
With a Disability	21,041	2.2%	With a Disability	26,252	2.7%
No Disability	29,126	3.0%	No Disability	35,543	3.7%
Total Male with Disability	61,089	6.3%	Total Female with Disability	65,050	6.7%
Total Population with Disability				126,139	13.0%

Note the discrepancy for the total population between Table 3 and Table 4 above. Table 3 reports a total of 978,130, while Table 4 shows 966,908, a difference of 11,222 persons. Table 4 shows the total population of people whose disability status is known. As a result, there are 11,222 people whose disability status was not known at the time these numbers were compiled that are not included in Table 4.

Table 5 expands on the number of individuals in Fresno County between the ages of 19 and 64 by their disability and employment status. The 2014-2018 ACS data identifies that 582,206 residents are between the ages of 19 and 64 and that approximately 68,058 (7.0 percent) have a disability. Of those with a disability, 34.1 percent are employed, 5.9 percent are unemployed, and 60.1 percent are not in the workforce. Those residents without a disability make up 88.3 percent of those between the ages of 18 and 64. Of this group, 72.0 percent are employed, 5.8 percent are unemployed, and 22.2 percent are not in the workforce.

Table 5
Employment Status by Disability, 2018

Population 19 to 64	Number	% of Pop
Total	582,206	59.5%
With a Disability	68,058	7.0%
Employed	23,183	34.1%
Unemployed	4,003	5.9%
Not in Labor Force	40,872	60.1%
No Disability	514,148	88.3%
Employed	370,438	72.0%
Unemployed	29,813	5.8%
Not in Labor Force	113,897	22.2%

Fresno COG's definition of transit-dependent focuses on individuals who, by virtue of their age, income, or disability, are not adequately served by the automobile. Information from the last available version of a summary from Caltrans entitled "Travel and Related Factors in California" was used as a foundation for identifying the incidence of individuals that are transportation-dependent.

According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in 2018, there were 596,540 driver licenses issued in Fresno County. This number represents approximately 81.0 percent of the population age 16 years and older. This means that roughly 19 percent of eligible drivers in Fresno County did not have a driver's license.

In 2015, there were 561,764 licensed drivers. In 2016, the number of licensed drivers in Fresno County increased 2.4 percent to 575,729. In 2017 and 2018, the number of drivers increased by 2.2 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

Table 6
Population of Driving Age in Fresno County, Year 2018

Age	Population 2018	% of Total Population
0-15	242,041	24.7%
16-18	37,938	3.9%
18+	698,151	71.4%
All	978,130	100.0%

Table 7 below shows the number of vehicles and licensed drivers per household. It shows that there is an average of 3.15 occupants per household with 1.90 licensed drivers and 1.79 vehicles.

Table 7
 Occupied Household / Vehicles in Fresno County, Year 2018

Total Housing Units	333,809
Total Occupied Housing Units	309,519
Average # of Occupants	3.15
No. of HH Vehicles in Fresno County*	553,264
Average # of Vehicles per Household	1.79
Average # of Drivers per Household	1.90

Exhibit A

**Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
Membership List
Updated January 2020**

Potential Transit User 60 Years of Age or Older (minimum of 1)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Michael Mendez, Jr.	Sanger/Fresno County	1-2021	Hispanic

Representatives of the Local Social Service Providers for Seniors (minimum of 2)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Sonia Del La Rosa, Fresno County	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2021	Hispanic
Brian Spaunhurst, Fresno County Public Works	Fresno/Fresno County	1-2021	Caucasian

Potential Transit User Who Is Disabled (minimum of 1)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Sarin Wakimian	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2021	Caucasian

Representative of the Local Social Service Provider for Disabled (minimum of 2)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Vidal Medina, RICV	Fresno/Fresno County	5-2020	Hispanic
Bill Hyatt, CVRC	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2021	Caucasian

Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means (minimum of 1)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Hector Medina, Fresno County	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2021	Hispanic

Representatives from the Local Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (minimum of 2)			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Amy Hance, Clovis Transit	Clovis/Fresno County	6-2020	Caucasian
Monty Cox, FEOC/CTSA	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2020	Caucasian
Moses Stites, FCRTA	Fresno/Fresno County	3-2021	Hispanic
Judith Nishi, FAX	Sanger/Fresno County	6-2021	Asian American

Representatives of General Public, who used Public Transit			
Appointment	Resident of/Geographic Representation	Term Expires	Ethnic Background
Yonas Paulos	Fresno/Fresno County	6-2020	Caucasian
Matthew Gilliam	Fresno/Fresno County	10-2021	African American

Exhibit A-1

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Agency Name
UTN	Unmet Transit Needs
SSTAC	Social Services Transit Advisory Committee
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
TDA	Transit Development Act
LTF	Local Transportation Fund
RTPA	Regional Transportation Planning Agency
FEOC	Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
CTSA	Consolidated Transportation Service Agency
FCRTA	Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
FAX	Fresno Area Express
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
FCHSS	Fresno County Health and Social Services
ADA	American Disabilities Act
CCNF	Central California Nikkei Foundation
FCMA	Fresno County Metropolitan Area
S RTP	Short Range Transit Plan
VCH	Valley Children's Hospital
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
KART	Kings Area Rural Transit
OPB	Operations Program and Budget
ACS	American Community Survey
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
COFCG	Council of Fresno County Governments (old name of Fresno COG)
COG	Council of Governments
UMTA	Urban Mass Transit Agency
SB	Senate Bill

Exhibit B

2019 Unmet Transit Needs Process Outreach – Fresno COG

What	Whom	Number	Date
Newsletter	FAX newsletter	625	1/15/2020
Included in “Coming Up at Fresno COG” e-newsletter	COG database - Includes all Constant Contact email contacts, elected officials, committees, community agencies, consultants. For the February issue, 3,901 emails were sent with 6 people opening the item about the UTN process. For the March issue, 3,475 emails were sent with 9 people accessing the UTN information and flyer.	3,475	2/6/2020 and 3/9/2020
English/Spanish flyer mail out	Unmet Needs Mailing List	380	2/12/2020
Public Hearing Notice - English	Fresno Bee	590,000	3/13/2020
Public Hearing Notice - Spanish	Vida En El Valle	170,000	3/18/2020
Fresno COG website	Posted to COG website under Get Involved and Public Transit Planning. Calendar items as well.	Not known	2/20/2020
Posted on “Coming Up at Fresno COG” on COG Facebook page announcing public hearing - English		Not known	2/20/2020

Exhibit B-1

Unmet Transit Needs Request Flyer and Comments Form



In partnership with the following public transit agencies:

Clovis Transit
Fresno Area Express
Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission

Do you or someone you know have a public transit need that is not being met?

2020 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT—PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

The Fresno Council of Government's (FCOG) Social Services Transportation Advisory Council would like to hear from you!

If you would like to provide comments on public transit needs in Fresno County, please attend one of the six public meetings, or submit written comments.

MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 - 1:00 pm
City of Fresno Northeast Side
Fresno State University—Vintage Room
5241 N. Maple Ave., Fresno, CA 93740

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - 5:30 pm
City of Clovis-Metropolitan Area
Clovis Senior Center
850 Fourth Street, Clovis, CA 93612

Saturday, February 29, 2020 - 11:30 am
City of Fresno-Northwest Side
Central Learning Adult School
2698 N. Brawley Ave., Fresno, CA 93722

Monday, March 2, 2020 - 6:30 pm
City of Fresno-South Side
Maxie L. Parks Community Center
1802 E. California Ave., Fresno, CA 93706

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 - 5:30 pm *
Fresno County West Side
Kerman Community Center
850 S. Madera Ave., Kerman, CA 93630

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 - 5:30 pm *
Fresno County East Side
Fowler City Hall
128 S. 5th St., Fowler, CA 93625

* Transportation is being provided to and from the meetings scheduled for the West Side and East Side of Fresno County. These are the meetings scheduled for Kerman Community Center and Fowler City Hall. Rides to these meetings must be scheduled in advance by calling (855) 612-5184.

Comments can also be submitted via email or mail. Please see the section titled "How To Participate" on the back of this flyer.

All meeting rooms and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG at 559-233-4148, at least 3 days in advance of a meeting to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is the purpose of the unmet transit needs meetings?

The meetings provide an opportunity for the public to identify all Fresno County “unmet transit needs” that are “reasonable to meet” within Fresno County (PUC 99401.5 (d)).

What is an “unmet transit need”?

An “unmet transit need” is an inadequacy in existing public transit service from one location to another for persons recognized as transit dependent in Fresno County.

Who is “transit dependent”?

The “transit dependent” are those individuals who rely on public transit because they do not operate a vehicle because of youth, advanced age, mental or physical impairment or low income.

What is the purpose of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)?

The purpose of SSTAC is to receive public comment regarding transit service needs for the transit-dependent in Fresno County.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Attend a public outreach meeting and/or public hearing and speak with transit agency representatives.
2. Submit a comment card at the meeting, providing as much detail as possible to describe the need you would like to have met.
3. If you are unable to attend a meeting, but would like to provide your comments, please mail or email your comments to:

Bill Hyatt, SSTAC Chairman
Central Valley Regional Center, Inc.
4615 North Marty, Fresno, CA 93722
Email: comments@fresnocog.org

All comments must be received by Friday, April 3, 2020 at 5:00pm

4. To receive more information about available transit and the Unmet Transit Needs process, visit us on the web at this link:

<https://www.fresnocog.org/project/public-transit-planning/>

**2020 Unmet Transit Needs
Comment Form**

Name*:

Email:

City*: Ph. Number:

Zip*:

During the past week (7 days), on how many days have you ridden the bus?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

1. Which transit system(s) are you requesting improvements to?*

Fresno Area Express

FAX Handy Ride

Clovis Stageline

Fresno County Rural Transit

Clovis Round-Up

Fresno Economic

Opportunities Commission

Other:

2. Describe the transit improvement(s) you are requesting. To effectively evaluate your comment, please provide the nearest cross street (or area of town where you live), your destination, day of week, and approximate time of day that you are interested in making your trip.*

3. Describe the individuals who would need the service. Include age group, financial constraints, and whether they have disabilities that would require special services. *

Your comments will be compiled in a report on Unmet Transit Needs. If you provide your contact information, you will receive a notice once the report is available for review. Please return form to:

Bill Hyatt, SSTAC Chairman
Central Valley Regional Center, Inc.
4615 North Marty
Fresno, CA 93722 Fax no: (559) 276-4360
comment@fresnocog.org

Exhibit B-2

Unmet Transit Needs Flyer and Comments Form in Spanish



En asociación con las siguientes agencias de transporte público:

Clovis Transit
Fresno Area Express
Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission

¿Usted o alguien que conoce tiene una necesidad de transporte público que no se está cumpliendo?

2020 NECESIDADES DE TRÁNSITO NO CUMPLIDAS - -PROCESO DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS

¡El Consejo Consultivo de Transporte de Servicios Sociales del Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno (FCOG) desea escucharlo a usted!

Si desea proporcionar comentarios sobre las necesidades de transporte público en el condado de Fresno, por favor asista a una de las ocho reuniones públicas comentarios, o presente por escrito

FECHAS Y LUGARES DE LAS REUNIONES:

Martes, 25 de Febrero, 2020 1:00 pm
Ciudad de Fresno-Noreste
Fresno State University—Vintage Room
5241 N. Maple Ave., Fresno, CA 93740

Miércoles, 26 de Febrero, 2020 5:30pm
Área Metropolitana de Clovis
Clovis Senior Center
850 Fourth Street, Clovis, CA 93612

Sábado, 29 de Febrero, 2020 10:30 am
Ciudad de Fresno-Noroeste
Central Learning Adult School
2698 N. Brawley Ave, Fresno, CA 93722

Lunes, 2 de Marzo, 2020 6:30pm
Ciudad de Fresno-Sur
Maxie L. Parks Community Center
1802 E. California Ave., Fresno CA 93706

Martes, 3 de Marzo 2020, 5:30 pm *
Condado de Fresno-Sur
Kerman Community Center
15101 W. Kearney Blvd., Kerman, CA 93630

Miércoles, 4 de Marzo, 2020 5:30 pm *
Condado de Fresno-Este
Fowler City Hall
128 S. 5th St., Fowler, CA 93625

Se proporciona transporte hacia y desde las reuniones programadas para el West Side y el East Side del condado de Fresno. Estas son las reuniones programadas para Kerman Community Center y Fowler City Hall. Los viajes a estas reuniones deben programarse con anticipación llamando al (855) 612-5184.

Los comentarios también se pueden enviar por correo electrónico o correo postal. Consulte la sección titulada "Cómo participar" en la parte posterior de este folleto.

Todas las salas de reuniones y los baños tienen acceso ADA. Los representantes o individuos con discapacidades deben comunicarse con Fresno COG al 559-233-4148, al menos 3 días antes de una reunión para solicitar ayudas auxiliares y / o servicios de traducción para participar en la reunión pública.

INFORMACIÓN DE ANTECEDENTES

¿Cuál es el propósito de las reuniones de necesidades de tránsito no cumplidas?

Las juntas brindan oportunidad para que el público identifique todas las "necesidades de tránsito no cumplidas" del Condado de Fresno que sean "razonables de cumplir" en el Condado de Fresno (PUC 99401.5 (d)).

¿Qué es una "necesidad de tránsito no cumplida"?

Una "necesidad de tránsito no cumplida" es una insuficiencia en el servicio de transporte público existente para personas reconocidas como dependientes del tránsito en el condado de Fresno.

¿Quiénes son los "dependientes del tránsito"?

Los "dependientes del tránsito" son aquellas personas que dependen del transporte público porque no operan un vehículo debido a su juventud, edad avanzada, impedimento mental o físico o bajos ingresos.

¿Cuál es el propósito del Consejo Consultivo de Transporte de Servicios Sociales (SSTAC)?

El propósito de SSTAC es recibir comentarios públicos sobre las necesidades del servicio de tránsito para el dependiente del tránsito en el condado de Fresno.

COMO PARTICIPAR

1. **Asista a una reunión de alcance público y / o audiencia pública y hable con los representantes de la agencia de tránsito.**
2. **Presente una tarjeta de comentarios en la reunión, proporcionando tantos detalles como sea posible para describir la necesidad que le gustaría que se cumpla.**
3. **Si no puede asistir a una reunión, pero desea enviarnos sus comentarios, envíe sus comentarios por correo o por correo electrónico a:**

Bill Hyatt, SSTAC Chairman
Central Valley Regional Center, Inc.
4615 North Marty, Fresno, CA 93722
Email: comments@fresnocog.org

Todos los comentarios deben recibirse antes del Viernes 3 d Abril de 2020 a las 5:00pm

4. **Para recibir más información sobre el tránsito disponible y el proceso de necesidades de tránsito no cumplidas, visítenos en el internet en este enlace:**

<https://www.fresnocog.org/project/public-transit-planning/>

2020 Necesidades de Tránsito No
Cumplidas Formulario de Comentario

Nombre*:

Email:

Ciudad*: Número de Tel.:

Zip*:

Durante la semana pasada (7 días), ¿cuántos días ha subido al autobús?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

1. ¿A qué sistema (s) de tránsito solicita que se hagan mejoras? *

Fresno Area Express

FAX Handy Ride

Clovis Stageline

Fresno County Rural Transit

Clovis Round-Up

Fresno Economic

Opportunities Commission

Otro:

2. Describa las mejoras de tránsito que está solicitando. Para evaluar su comentario de manera efectiva, proporcione el cruce de calles más cercano (o el área de la ciudad donde vive), su destino, el día de la semana y la hora aproximada del día en la que está interesado en hacer su viaje. *

3. Describa las personas que necesitarían el servicio. Incluya grupos de edad, restricciones financieras y si tienen discapacidades que requieran servicios especiales.*

Sus comentarios se compilarán en un informe sobre necesidades de tránsito no atendidas. Si proporciona su información de contacto, recibirá un aviso una vez que el informe esté disponible para su revisión. Por favor devuelva el formulario a:

Bill Hyatt, SSTAC Chairman
Central Valley Regional Center, Inc.
4615 North Marty
Fresno, CA 93722 Fax no: (559) 276-4360
comment@fresnocog.org

Exhibit B-3

In addition to the FAX newsletter, Fresno COG maintains a list of stakeholders interested in the Unmet Transit Needs process. These stakeholders include private citizens, local tribal governments, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and elected officials.

Notification of the Unmet Transit Needs process is made via US mail in mid-to-late January and consists of the flyers in exhibits B1 and B2 above. Prior to sending the flyers, FRESNO COG staff and members of SSTAC review the list with names, agencies, and contact information, edited, added, and deleted from the list, keeping the list current.

Every few years, Fresno COG staff will contact the names and agencies on this list to keep the list fresh. In the interest of space and protecting the privacy of the individuals involved in the Unmet Transit Needs process, the mailing list is not included here.

The full Unmet Transit Needs mailing list for fiscal year 2020 is available upon request via email to Harold.sobrado@fresno.gov or by phone to (559) 621-1532.

In the current cycle of the Unmet Transit Needs process, there were 356 names, tribes, organizations, and agencies on the list that received notification. The smallest groups were local tribal governments with all six tribes receiving notification, followed by private citizens. This latter group numbered less than ten.

The remaining stakeholders consisted of elected officials, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Some of the elected officials on this list include:

- The six members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors
- The mayors of the sixteen incorporated cities in Fresno County
- Council members of each of the sixteen incorporated cities in Fresno County
- The US Senator and Federal and State House and Senate Representatives

The non-profit organizations on the list includes social service providers, and legal advocates, including:

- National Action Network
- Central California Legal Services, Inc.
- Clinica Sierra Vista
- California Rural Legal Assistance

Last but not least are government agencies. Some of the agencies on the list include:

- Fresno County Department of Social Services
- California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Many departments within Fresno County, The City of Fresno, and other cities within Fresno County.

Exhibit C

Information Gathering Meeting Attendance Lists

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS INFORMATION GATHERING MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 CITY OF FRESNO – NORTHEAST SIDE: CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO SIGN-IN SHEET		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Jeff Long	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1436
Todd Sobrado	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1532
Carolina Ilic	FAX	(559) 621-1499
Amy Hance	Clovis Transit	
Dolores D. Rodriguez	4512 E. Madison, Fresno, CA 93702	(559) 251-1557
Stacy M. Murray	3055 N. Bliss Ave., Fresno, CA 93727	(760) 285-7251
Rachel Joy Bowman	3318 N. Purdue, Fresno, CA 93727	(559) 349-6338
Shelly D.	3318 N. Purdue, Fresno, CA 93727	
Kristen Reed-Buffington	3318 N. Purdue, Fresno, CA 93727	(559) 903-1233
Yonas Paulos		

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS INFORMATION GATHERING MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020 CITY OF CLOVIS – METROPOLITAN AREA: CLOVIS SENIOR CENTER SIGN-IN SHEET		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Gloria Hensley		(559) 360-3204
Amy Hance	Clovis Transit	(559) 324-2769
Todd Sobrado	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1532
Moses Stites	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789
Jeff Long	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1436

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS INFORMATION GATHERING MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020 FRESNO METROPOLITAN AREA – NORTHWEST SIDE: CENTRAL LEARNING ADULT/ALERNATIVE SCHOOL SITE (C.L.A.S.S) SIGN-IN SHEET		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Todd Sobrado	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1532
Jeff Long	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1436
Carolina Ilic	FAX	(559) 621-1499
Sarah Harris	Resources for Independence Central Valley	

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS INFORMATION GATHERING MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020 FRESNO METROPOLITAN AREA – SOUTHSIDE: MAXIE L. PARKS COMMUNITY CENTER SIGN-IN SHEET		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Emilia Walker	2144 S. Clara, Fresno, CA 93706	(559) 293-5500
Todd Sobrado	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1532
Jeff Long	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1436

Carolina Ilic	FAX	(559) 621-1499
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UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS INFORMATION GATHERING MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 FRESNO COUNTY – WESTSIDE: KERMAN COMMUNITY CENTER SIGN-IN SHEET		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Moses Stites	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789
Todd Sobrado	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1532

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS INFORMATION GATHERING MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 FRESNO COUNTY – EASTSIDE: FOWLER CITY HALL SIGN-IN SHEET		
NAME	ADDRESS OR AGENCY	PHONE
Moses Stites	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789
Todd Sobrado	Fresno COG	(559) 621-1532
Janelle	FCRTA	(559) 233-6789

Exhibit D-1

Public Noticing of the FY 2020-2021 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Public Hearing Fresno Bee

The Fresno Council of Governments (COG) will hold a public hearing from for the annual Unmet Transit Needs Process beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at the Fresno Council of Governments, Sequoia room, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, California.

The Fresno COG Policy Board will take comments at the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing on public transportation needs within the Fresno County region that are reasonable to meet during the 2020-21 fiscal year. In addition to this public hearing, COG conducted outreach meetings throughout the County. Transit agencies involved in this process include Fresno Area Express, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, Clovis Transit, and the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission. For Additional information, please visit www.fresnocog.org or contact Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Express at (559) 621-1532.

Individuals with disability may call Fresno COG (with 3-working-day advance notice) to request auxiliary aids necessary to participate in the public hearing. Translation services are available (with 3-working-day advance notice) to participants speaking any language with available translation services.

/s/ TONY BOREN, Executive Director Fresno Council of Governments

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Identification	PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
332627	0004597588	#4597588 PUBLIC NOTICE WITH CORRECTED		\$467.40	2	2.93 In

Attention: Brenda Veenendaal

FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
2035 TULARE ST, STE 201
FRESNO, CA 937212004

PUBLIC NOTICE

#4597588

PUBLIC NOTICE WITH CORRECTED DATE

The Fresno Council of Governments (COG) will hold a public hearing for the annual Unmet Transit Needs Process beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at the Fresno Council of Governments, Sequoia room, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, California.

The Fresno COG Policy Board will take comments at the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing on public transportation needs within the Fresno County region that are reasonable to meet during the 2020-21 fiscal year. In addition to this public hearing, COG conducted outreach meetings throughout the County. Transit agencies involved in this process include Fresno Area Express, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, Clovis Transit, and the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. For Additional information, please visit www.fresnocog.org or contact Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Express at (559) 621-1532.

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/s/ TONY BOREN, Executive Director Fresno Council of Governments

**COUNTY OF DALLAS
STATE OF TEXAS**

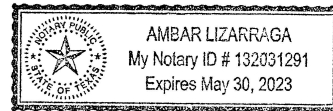
The undersigned states:

McClatchy Newspapers in and on all dates herein stated was a corporation, and the owner and publisher of The Fresno Bee.

The Fresno Bee is a daily newspaper of general circulation now published, and on all-the-dates herein stated was published in the City of Fresno, County of Fresno, and has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Fresno, State of California, under the date of November 28, 1994, Action No. 520058-9.

The undersigned is and on all dates herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, and is the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of said newspaper; and that the notice, a copy of which is hereto annexed, marked Exhibit A, hereby made a part hereof, was published in The Fresno Bee in each issue thereof (in type not smaller than nonpareil), on the following dates.

March 13, 2020



I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated March 13, 2020

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2020

By: FRESNO COG

Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
Legal document please do not destroy!

Exhibit D-2

Public Noticing of the FY 2020-2021 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Public Hearing Vida En La Valle

NOTICIA PÚBLICA

El Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno llevará a cabo una audiencia pública para el Proceso Anual de Necesidades de Tránsito No Cumplidas que comenzará a las 5:30 p.m. el 30 de Abril del 2020 en el **Salón Sequoia room del Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno, 2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, California.**

La Junta de Políticas de Fresno COG tomará comentarios en esta audiencia pública en la región del Condado de Fresno que sean razonables para cumplir durante el año fiscal 2020-21. Además de esta audiencia pública, Fresno COG a llevado a cabo reuniones de alcance en todo el condado. Las agencias de tránsito involucradas en este proceso incluyen Fresno Area Express, la Agencia de Tránsito Rural de Fresno, Tránsito de Clovis, y la Comisión de Oportunidades Económicas de Fresno. Para obtener información adicional, visite www.fresnocog.org o comuníquese con Todd Sobrado, Fresno Area Express al número (559) 621-1532.

Las personas con discapacidades pueden llamar a Fresno COG (con un preaviso de 3 días laborables) para solicitar las ayudas auxiliares necesarias para participar en la audiencia pública. Los servicios de traducción están disponibles (con un preaviso de 3 días laborables) a los participantes que hablan cualquier idioma con los servicios de traducción profesional y disponible.
/s/ TONY BOREN, Director Ejecutivo Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno

The Fresno Bee
fresnobee.com

Central Valley
The Valley's Lifestyle Magazine
SIERRA STAR
Serving Eastern Madera Since 1957

Vida
en el valle

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Identification	PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
332627	0004580932			\$595.00	2	5.00 In

Attention: Brendal Veenendaal
FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
2035 TULARE ST, STE 201
FRESNO, CA 937212004

**COUNTY OF DALLAS
STATE OF TEXAS**

The undersigned states:

McClatchy Newspapers in and on all dates herein stated was a corporation, and the owner and publisher of The Fresno Bee.

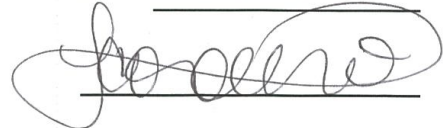
The Fresno Bee is a daily newspaper of general circulation now published, and on all-the-dates herein stated was published in the City of Fresno, County of Fresno, and has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Fresno, State of California, under the date of November 28, 1994, Action No. 520058-9.

The undersigned is and on all dates herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, and is the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of said newspaper; and that the notice, a copy of which is hereto annexed, marked Exhibit A, hereby made a part hereof, was published in The Fresno Bee in each issue thereof (in type not smaller than nonpareil), on the following dates.

March 04, 2020

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

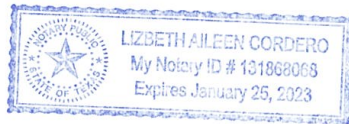
Dated March 04, 2020



RECEIVED

MAR 09 2020

By: FRESNO COG



Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
Legal document please do not destroy!

Noticia Pública

El Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno (Fresno COG) en el 3 de marzo, 2020 publicará el plan preliminar 2020 de Fresno COG del Plan de Participación Pública (PPP) para una revisión pública de 45 días y comentarios. El período de comentarios públicos se cierra a las 5:00 pm el 17 de abril 2020. El PPP es un plan con la intención de brindar orientación a la Junta de Políticas de Fresno COG y a su personal para proporcionar participación pública y consultas entre agencias de manera temprana y frecuente durante el proceso de planificación regional. Contiene políticas, pautas, procesos y procedimientos que Fresno COG se compromete a implementar mientras busca y fomenta la participación pública abierta durante el proceso de tomar decisiones, sobre todos los asuntos con discreción. El PPP también identifica oportunidades para participar en el proceso de planificación del transporte metropolitano.

El 26 de marzo de 2020, la Junta de Políticas de Fresno COG llevará a cabo una audiencia pública durante su reunión mensual normal que comienza a las 5:30 pm en la Sala de Conferencias Sequoia en el 2035 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721 en el centro de Fresno. La reunión es accesible para discapacitados. Las personas con discapacidades pueden llamar a Fresno COG (con aviso previo de 3 días hábiles) para solicitar las ayudas auxiliares necesarias para participar en la audiencia pública. Los servicios de traducción están disponibles (con aviso previo de 3 días) para los participantes que hablen cualquier idioma con los servicios de traducción profesionales disponibles. Los comentarios públicos son bienvenidos en la audiencia pública o pueden enviarse por escrito por correo o correo electrónico a lo siguiente:

Brenda Veenendaal
Gerente de Servicios Administrativos de Fresno COG
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Después de abordar todos los comentarios presentados, el Plan de Participación Pública 2020 se considerará para su aprobación, por resolución, el 26 de mayo de 2020, por la Junta de Política de Fresno COG en su reunión regularmente programada. Todos los documentos están disponibles para su revisión o descarga en el sitio web de Fresno COG en www.fresnocog.org o en copia en papel en las oficinas de Fresno COG. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el plan, comuníquese con Brenda Veenendaal por correo electrónico a brendav@fresnocog.org o llamando al 559-233-4148 ext. 219.

/s / TONY BOREN, Director Ejecutivo
Consejo de Gobiernos de Fresno