

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Executive Minutes

Date: April 20, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: COG Conference Room, Second Floor
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Members Present – Via Zoom:

Yonas Paulos, Veterans Advocate
Vidal Medina, RICV
Monty Cox, FEOC/CTSA
Chenier Derrick, FAX
Darlene, Christiansen, FAX
Brian Spaunhurst, Fresno County

Hector Medina, Fresno County
Matthew Gillian, Inspiration
Transportation
Moses Stites, FCRTA
Amy Hance, City of Clovis

Others Attending – Via Zoom:

Jeff Long, FAX/COG
Stephanie Maxwell, FCOG
Todd Sobrado, FAX/COG
Joe Vargas, FAX
Brian Barr, FAX
Peggy Arnest, COG
Shannon Mulhall, City of Fresno
Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA

Carolina Ilic, FAX
Syroun Sanossion, SZS Engineering
Daniel Politte, SZS Engineering
Karla Martinez, Leadership Counsel for
Justice and Accountability
Kris Grey, FAX
Bethany Berube, City of Clovis

Moses Stites called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the SSTAC on the items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. Note: Prior to action by SSTAC on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item

II. Executive Minutes of February 23, 2021 Meeting

No action was taken on the February 23, 2021 minutes. This item will be brought back to the next meeting.

III. Presentation of the FAX ADA Transition Plan (SZS Engineering Access, Inc.) [DISCUSSION]

Syroun Sanossion, SZS Engineering, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the FAX ADA Transition Plan. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), FAX was required to prepare an ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan which describes barriers to access for people with disabilities related to FAX's transit network and identifies remediation of these barriers.

This plan was intended to ensure that FAX remains in compliance with the ADA by scheduling the remediation of the barriers to access until remediation is completed. FAX provided an overview of the plan and is seeking comments and input during April 2021.

There were no comments from SSTAC members or members of the public.

IV. Re-appointments and updates to SSTAC Membership (Todd Sobrado) [APPROVE]

Todd Sobrado reported on this item. Several appointments to the SSTAC have lapsed and need to be re-appointed. The document was attached for seats and reappointments.

Darlene Christiansen was appointed by FAX to take the place of Judith Nishi on the SSTAC who recently retired.

A motion was made by Hector Medina and seconded by Matthew Gillian to recommend that the Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee (TTC), Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), and Policy Board approve the re-appointments of Michael Mendez, Brian Spanhurst, Vidal Medina, Amy Hance, Monty Cox, and Yonas Paulos for another 2-year term, and to accept the appointment of Darlene Christiansen of FAX to take the place of Judith Nishi. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

V. Review of the FY 2021 Section 5310 Grant Awards (Peggy Arnest) [APPROVE]

Peggy Arnest reported on this item. Fresno COG was the Designated Recipient of FTA Section 5310 Program funds for Fresno County, which provide capital and operating assistance grants for projects that meet the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. The funds may be used for projects where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate; that exceed the requirements of the ADA; that improve access to fixed-route service, and that provide alternatives to public transportation.

On February 8, 2021, Fresno COG issued a formal call for projects for \$1,184,976 in Fresno County Large Urban Area FTA Section 5310 funding. Staff received five applications requesting vehicle purchases totaling \$1,709,493. A scoring committee comprising volunteers from the Social Service Technical Advisory Committee (SSTAC) evaluated the applications and issued a motion was made by Yonas Paulos and seconded by Hector Medina for approval to move forward these recommendations to the TTC, PAC, and Policy Board for approval. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

FTA Section 5310 Funding Recommendations for 2021										
Agency	Total Grant Amount	Total 5310 Amount Requested	Amount of Other funding	Vehicles	Related Equipment	TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT	5310 Award Recommendation	QTY w recommended funding	Inflation Funding	
FAX (80% / 20%)	\$638,100	\$510,780	\$127,620	5 - Paratransit Cutaways (replacement) 3 - Paratransit Sedans	5 @ \$83,900 each 3 @ \$31,200 each	CAD/AVL Equipment for Cutaways / \$25,000 each	\$537,600	\$430,080	4 cutaways w/ equipment & 3 sedans	\$1,200/vehicle
FECD	\$533,239	\$533,239	\$0	6 - Paratransit Cutaways	6 @ \$88,873 each		\$270,219	3		\$1,200/vehicle
United Cerebral Palsy	\$187,950	\$187,950	\$0	2 - Paratransit Cutaways	2 @ \$93,975 each		\$187,950	2		They already added in
WestCare	\$108,682	\$108,682	\$0	2 - ADA accessible vans	2 @ \$54,341 each		\$111,082	2		\$1,200/vehicle
Inspiration Transportation	\$368,842	\$368,842	\$0	2 - Electric ADA accessible vans	2 @ \$184,421		\$185,645	1		Gave the last of the allocation - \$1,224
TOTAL ASK		\$1,709,493							FUNDING REMAINING	
Total Grant Funding Available		\$1,184,976					\$1,184,976	\$0		

VI. Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFA) For the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) (Moses Stites) [DISCUSSION]

Moses Stites reported on this item. The City of Fresno made available up to \$1,230,666 and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) up to \$413,000 in State Transportation funds to fund eligible services and activities that support social service transportation within Fresno County. FAX and the FCRTA invited proposals from service providers, especially social service transportation providers, for these services. Proposals were due by Thursday, April 15, 2021.

This was an Information item.

VII. FY 2021 – 2022 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A. Leadership Counsel for Justice Accountability (Moses Stites) [DISCUSSION]

Moses Stites reported on this item. Leadership Counsel for Justice Accountability submitted comments to Fresno COG and transit agencies in the form of a letter. Fresno COG and the transit agencies prepared a response letter included in the agenda packet to the comments received.

Moses reported that over 70 comments were submitted and that there were two unmet needs that were found reasonable to meet – one in the urban area

and one in the rural area. Many other comments were categorized as unmet needs but were found not reasonable to meet or Not Applicable / Not Available.

Karla Martinez thanked FCRTA for the responses and the electric rideshare program in Cantua.

This was an Discussion item.

B. Unmet Transit Needs Report (Todd Sobrado) [APPROVE]

Todd Sobrado reported on this item. Fresno COG conducted the Annual Unmet Transit Needs Assessment process. Public outreach and participation were an essential part of this process. As a result of COVID-19, Fresno COG conducted the outreach process online.

Instead of meetings scheduled throughout urban and rural Fresno County as in years past, outreach consisted of a public survey and 6 virtual events: five on ZOOM, one on Facebook.

Fresno COG sent public outreach flyers to the UTN mailing list and ran a digital marketing campaign between February 9 and March 2, 2021, targeted at Facebook users within Fresno County. The comments received are included in the draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment.

A summary of the comments received included:

- Several requests for transit service to Clovis Community College.
- Feedback about recent route changes to the FAX fixed-route network.
- Comments about service between outlying rural communities and the Fresno metropolitan area.

The Draft FY 2021-2022 Unmet Transit Needs Report was included in the agenda packet. Todd Sobrado reported a correction in Table 1 on page 16, stating that Items 4 and 5 were categorized as “N/A” rather than “No” in the Reasonable to Meet column. This change will be reflected in the report presented to TTC/PAC and the Policy Board.

There were no comments from the public.

A motion was made by Amy Hance and seconded by Monty Cox to approve and forward the draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for FY 2021-22 to the Fresno COG TTC, PAC, and Policy Board. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VIII. Other Member Items

Yonas Paulos thanked Moses Stites for the bus passes in rural areas that he uses to do his work.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Sobrado
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