

**SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Executive Minutes**

Date: March 15, 2022
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
Moses Stites, FCRTA
Hector Medina, Fresno County

Darlene Christensen
Matthew Gillian, Inspiration
Transportation

Others Attending – Via Zoom:

Jeff Long, FAX/COG
Stephanie Maxwell, FCOG
Todd Sobrado, FAX/COG
Brenda Veenendaal, FCOG
Jeaneen Cervantes

Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA
Carolina Ilic, FAX
Thomas Dulin
Bethany Berube, Fresno County

City of Clovis
City of Coalinga
City of Firebaugh
City of Fowler
City of Fresno
City of Huron
City of Kerman
City of Kingsburg
City of Mendota
City of Orange Cove
City of Parlier
City of Reedley
City of San Joaquin
City of Sanger
City of Selma
County of Fresno

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

None

II. Minutes from the January 18, 2022 Meeting

A motion was made by Yonas Paulos and seconded by Darlene Christensen. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. **Comments Received during the 2022 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment (Todd Sobrado) [INFORMATION]**

Todd Sobrado reported on this item. During February, Fresno COG completed numerous in-person and virtual events to solicit feedback from transit riders and members of the public. Outreach consisted of an online survey, available in both English and Spanish, six in-person events, and a mail-in comment card.

In-person events consisted of six meetings: three in the City of Fresno, one in the City of Clovis, and two in the rural communities of Fowler and Kerman. Five of the events were held on weekday evenings, while one meeting was held at noon on Saturday, February 26, 2022. This last meeting was held at the office of Fresno COG within the City of Fresno.

Three virtual public outreach events took place on Thursday, February 17, 2022. The first two events took place on ZOOM at 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, respectively, while the day's final event was broadcast on the Fresno COG Facebook page at 5:30 pm. Both in-person and virtual events were marketed using the Fresno COG social media pages, the UTN and Fresno COG mailing lists, and to the general public.

The online survey was the primary way that transit riders and members of the public provided their feedback. As of Monday, March 7, 2022, the survey reported 234 views, 87 responses, from 33 participants, leaving 47 comments. However, after careful analysis of the raw data, it was determined that of the 33 survey participants, only 12 left comments, with several leaving multiple comments.

Eleven comments were included in the list assigned to transit agencies for a response. One comment was excluded from the list with no additional context was provided for the comment to convey any information of value.

The 2022 Unmet Transit Needs Survey can be found at:

<https://publicinput.com/unmettransitneeds/>

A report summarizing the survey results comments received, and transit agency responses were included as attachments.

Tod Sobrado briefed the committee on the Unmet Needs meetings and the comments. Mr. Sobrado also informed the committee that he was in the process of preparing a report summarizing all the activities for this particular cycle and a draft copy will go to the next meeting in April 2022 to be approved. Mr. Sobrado also informed the committee that the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment was still open for receiving public comments on the online survey.

Moses Stites commented that the draft report should be sent to the committee for review before it goes to the COG Board.

Carolina Ilic gave a high-level update on the FAX comments.

Bethany Berube gave a brief update on the early stages of the route redesign for the City of Clovis routes.

Janelle gave an update on the FCRTA's comments from the meetings.

IV. **Access For All Program Update (Suzanne Martinez) [INFORMATION]**

Robert Phipps reported on this item. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or the Commission) created the Transportation Network Company (TNC) Access for All Program to implement Senate Bill (SB) 1376 (Hill: 2018), which directed the Commission to establish a program to address the accessibility of TNC services for people with disabilities, including wheelchair users who need a wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV).

The program was funded by a \$.10 fee collected from every TNC trip and is redistributed to each MPO region to develop programs that incentivize the expansion of on-demand transportation services for people with disabilities including wheelchair accessible vehicles/rides. Fresno COG was estimated to receive \$90,000 annually from this fund. This first cycle had \$222,437 (this was due to accumulation of funding for multiple years).

One of the requirements of the AFA program was to make an effort to reach out to the local disability community to get their input during the planning process. As such, Fresno COG staff had requested inclusion on this SSTAC meeting **to collect feedback and input into the development of the plan, and to generate local contacts of potential Access Providers that would be interested in providing the service.**

Fresno COG must release a Request for Proposals or a Call for Projects in order to solicit eligible Access Provider applicants. Access Providers eligible to receive moneys from the Access Fund included entities that:

- Directly provide, or contract with a separate organization or entity to provide, on-demand WAV transportation to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. ("On-demand WAV transportation" means that the provider can fulfill trip requests within 24 hours through a service that does not follow a fixed route or schedule.)

Funding shall be prioritized to providers that can demonstrate an ability to deliver trips within the shortest response times (time between trip request and passenger

pick-up time). However, if there are no applicants who can provide such on-demand service, the LAFA can accept applications can be accepted from other providers so long as those providers' services do not follow a fixed route or schedule.

Eligible Access Providers include transportation carriers that hold a Commission-issued permit prior to applying to be an Access Provider or a non-permitted transportation carrier if the carrier provided documentation that demonstrates the following:

- Background checks: Carriers must perform background checks that meet or exceed what was required of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) under the TNC Application Form.
- Insurance: Carriers must have levels of insurance equivalent to or higher than what is required of charter-party carriers under General Order 115.
- Controlled substance and alcohol testing program.
- Secretary of State registration: Carriers must have their articles of incorporation filed with the Secretary of State.
 - Motor Carrier Profile with California Highway Patrol (CHP): Carriers must complete the CHP 362 Carrier Profile and obtain a CA Number from the CHP.

For further information on the Access for All program and the Access Provider eligibility requirements, please visit: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/regulatory-services/licensing/transportation-licensing-and-analysis-branch/transportation-network-companies/tnc-accessibility-for-persons-with-disabilities-program/tnc---access-for-all-program-access-provider>.

Robert Phipps informed the committee that he will be covering the Access for All Program in the future, this program is new.

V. **Other Member Items**

Carolina Ilic informed the committee that FAX was celebrating FAX turning 60 and that they will have a pop up at courthouse park on March 30, 2022 in the morning. Also, there will be construction along Shaw and Cedar for the bus stop improvements along with 67 other bus stops. The solar lighting project was also completed at 200 bus stops. Federal mask mandate was extended to April 18, 2022

Janelle Del Compo gave an update on the proposals that FCRTA sent to the Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program and the Air Transport Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Sobrado

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