

**SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Executive Minutes**

**Date:** May 2, 2023  
**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	Matthew Gillian, Fresno County - Via Phone-In
Moses Stites, FCRTA	Chenier Derrick, Fresno County – Via Phone-In
Amy Hance, Clovis Transit	
Tomas Dulin, Fresno County	
Darleen Christensen, City of Fresno – Via Phone-in	

**Others Attending – Via Zoom:**

Stephanie Maxwell, FCOG	Jeff Long, FAX/COG
Todd Sobrado, FAX/COG	Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA
Brenda Veenendaal, FCOG	

Amy Hance called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

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

**I. Public Presentations**

This portion of the meeting was 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. Minutes from the March 21, 2023 Meeting**

A motion was made by Moses Stites and seconded by Matthew Gillian to approve the March 21, 2023, meeting minutes. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

### **III. Review and Approval of the FY 2023-2024 Draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Report (Todd Sobrado)[ACTION]**

Todd Sobrado reported on this item. Fresno COG had made progress towards completing the current cycle of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment process. The main product of this important process was the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Report that was attached herein for your review and approval.

An essential element of the Unmet Transit Needs process was public outreach. This year, Fresno COG had six in-person meetings and two virtual meetings, each of which were broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

Of the six in-person meetings, three were in the rural communities of Mendota, Huron, and Sanger, while the remaining meetings were in the Fresno Metropolitan area, specifically, one in Clovis and two in the City of Fresno. One of the urban meetings was held in downtown Fresno, on a Saturday morning to accommodate the schedules of those stakeholders and transit riders who were not able to participate in events held on weekdays. Five of the six "in-person" meetings took place in disadvantaged communities.

While "in-person" meetings were a fantastic way to meet transit riders and stakeholders, an overwhelming majority of the comments and feedback received came from the online survey asking transit riders and stakeholders. Available online in early February through late March, the survey was publicized in email newsletter articles, social media, websites, and Fresno COG and UTN email lists. While most comments were received from the survey, comments were also received through email, telephone, and social media. Survey respondents were also able to translate the survey into several different languages, if needed.

110 comments have been received to date. The comments received, transit operator response, whether the comment is an unmet need, reasonable to meet, and if it was a previously recorded start on page 14 of the attached draft UTN Report. 22 of the 110 comments received satisfied the definition of an unmet transit need, with none determined to be "not reasonable to meet."

A summary of the comments received included:

- Several comments about service between outlying rural communities and the Fresno metropolitan area.
- Feedback about FAX, Clovis, and FCRTA routes and service.
- Questions for FAX, Clovis, and FCRTA about routes and service,
- Comments about transportation-related issues

The Draft FY 2023-2024 Unmet Transit Needs Report was released with the agenda to the May 2, 2023, SSTAC meeting.

A motion was made by Yonas Paulo and seconded by Moses Stites to approve and open for the 30-day public review and comment and forward the draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Report for FY 2023-24 to the Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee, Policy Advisory Committee, and Policy Board. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

IV. **Review and Approval of the Response to the Leadership Counsel Letter Received (Todd Sobrado)[ACTION]**

**Summary:** On March 24, 2023, Fresno COG received a letter from Leadership Counsel commenting on the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Report. FCOG staff and participating transit agencies have prepared a response for the Committee's review and approval. The letter from Leadership Counsel is included as an attachment to this agenda item and FCOG's response is forthcoming, pending final approval. Once approved, the letter and FCOG's response will be added to the draft UTN Report before the Committee.

**Action:** Staff recommends that SSTAC approve the response letter for Leadership Counsel and that it be added to the FY2023-2024 draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment report going to the Fresno COG Transportation Technical Committee, Policy Advisory Committee and Policy Board.

This Item was pulled from the agenda.

V. **FY 2022-23 Draft FTA 5310 Program Application and Scoring Criteria (Robert Phipps) [ACTION]**

Robert Phipps reported on this item. Fresno COG served as the designated recipient of the large, urban fund in the Fresno region for FTA Section 5310 grant funding. Staff had prepared to release the 2022-23 FTA Section 5310 grant application and scoring criteria for the Fresno/Clovis urbanized area. A draft version was attached to this report. Under the proposed timeline, applications were due by July 21, 2023. Staff were seeking any comments or recommendations to the scoring criteria/application and approval for release.

A motion was made by Moses Stites and seconded by Yonas Paulo to approve the draft 2022-23 FTA Section 5310 scoring criteria/application and authorize its general release. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VI. **Other Member Items**

Matthew Gillian informed the Committee about a 1.5 million Grant.

VII. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:56

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Sobrado

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