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**FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY (FCRTA)
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: Thursday, March 28, 2024
TIME: 5:30pm, **BEFORE** the *Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) Meeting*
PLACE: FCOG / FCRTA Offices
Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721
*(Corner of Tulare and Van Ness Ave. - above Club One
Park in Underground Garage - Entrance off Tulare & Van Ness Ave.
Exit Elevator on Tulare St., Turn Left, Enter Lobby Door,
Up Elevator to Second Floor, Left to Sequoia Conference Room)*

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodation

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

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

THE FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN PERSON AT THE FRESNO COG SEQUOIA ROOM.

1. ROLL CALL

Public Presentations - This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the FCRTA Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this Agenda. NOTE: The public may also comment on any Agenda item, as they are presented, prior to action by the FCRTA Board.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approve Minutes of February 29, 2024 [ATTACHMENT]

B. Consultant Selection for the EV Charging Master Plan and Energy Management System Plan [APPROVE]

Summary: FCRTA was awarded \$199,500 in funding through the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant Program to conduct an electric vehicle charging master plan and energy management system plan. The project includes the development of a comprehensive EV charging

A JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO PROVIDE A COORDINATED TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR RURAL FRESNO COUNTY
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master plan and an energy system management plan. Building on FCRTA's previous efforts, the EV charging plan will evaluate the locations that charging equipment is needed, the types of equipment, cost of the equipment, electrical grid capacity, and integration with future microgrids. FCRTA has a need for an energy management system to monitor the energy needs, consumption, solar generation and storage. FCRTA released an RFP for Consultant services for this project on January 26th and proposals were due February 29th. Staff received one proposal and on March 6th, 2024 a scoring committee representing FCRTA, Fresno COG and Clovis Transit interviewed the consultant and unanimously recommended Walker Consultants for this project. The proposed agreement is available on the FCRTA website www.ruraltransit.org

Action: Staff recommends Board approval of Walker Consultants as the consultant for the FCRTA EV Charging master Plan and Energy Management System Plan Project and authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Walker in an amount not to exceed \$198,381.

C. Biola Rural Microtransit Route Update (INFORMATION)

Summary: FCRTA deployed a microtransit program on October 3rd, 2023 on a demonstration basis in the community of Biola. The microtransit service utilizes Chevy Bolt electric vehicles and is operated by FCRTA's current subcontractor MV Transportation. MV has hired a local driver in the community of Biola for the service. The League of Women Voters has generously donated \$12,000 to be used as a 50% subsidy for fares for passengers. FCRTA has installed a Level 2 charging unit and automated gates at the Biola Community Services District (BCSD) parking lot where the electric vehicle is stored to provide charging and increased security. Ridership for this demonstration program has been extremely low to date and as a result, staff and the BCSD met and decided to make the following changes in order to make this route sustainable; update service hours from 24 hour advance reservation to same day reservation and fares have increased \$10 a trip to \$20 a trip. FCRTA will be able to gain a lot of information and data from this project, since it is the first microtransit service with very unique components; a local community resident hired as a driver, EV vehicle located at the site and infrastructure to support the EV. Staff will determine if it is cost effective and sustainable although we are serving residents in an unincorporated community and the rides are lifeline trips to doctor appointments, school, and shopping. Many passengers are disabled and elderly who have no other means of transportation. FCRTA will continue to monitor this route and determine if it is sustainable past a reasonable demonstration period.

Action: Information only, the Board may provide additional direction at its discretion.

D. PG&E Fleet Ready Program Agreement [APPROVE]

Summary: FCRTA is currently constructing an operations and maintenance facility located in the City of Selma. As a public transit agency, FCRTA qualifies for the Fleet Ready Program and has been working with PG&E to participate in the program and receive power to the site. As part of the Fleet Ready Program, FCRTA is responsible for building and paying for the behind-the-meter portion of the project. PG&E has completed the preliminary design for the site and PG&E's design team estimates that this work will cost approximately \$896,413 based on negotiated contractor rates for utility-grade infrastructure. FCRTA is eligible for rebates towards EV vehicles and charges totaling \$660,000 through the Fleet Ready Program as well. Staff is recommending entering into an agreement with PG&E for the Fleet Ready Program in order for PG&E to move the project into the design phase and begin engineering, design, and construction plans. The PG&E agreement is available on the FCRTA website www.ruraltransit.org

Action: Staff recommends Board approval of the agreement with PG&E and behind-the-meter costs in the approximate amount of \$896,413 which could change based on PG&E's final engineered cost estimate amounts.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. **Items from staff.**

B. **Items from members.**

4. ADJOURNMENT

FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY (FCRTA)

ITEM 2A

Minutes

Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 5:30 P.M FCRTA Meeting
COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Attending:

Councilmember Laura North, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Mayor Scott Roberston, City of Selma
Councilmember Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Pro Tem Elsa Lopez, City of Firebaugh
Mayor Diana Guerra Silva, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor Pro Tem Juan Mejia, City of Fowler
Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor James Horn, City of Coalinga

Moses Stites, General Manager
Janelle Del Campo, Operations Manager
Bryan Rome, County Counsel
Denise Flores, FCOG

Absent:

Supervisor Sal Quintero, Fresno County
Mayor Maria Pacheco, City of Kerman
Mayor Victor Martinez, City of Mendota

1. **ROLL CALL** — Meeting called to order 5:37 p.m.

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

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

2. **CONSENT**

- A. **Approve Minutes of January 25, 2024 [ATTACHMENT]**
- B. **EV Charging Master Plan and Energy Management System Plan [INFORMATION]**
- C. **RFP for Operations and Maintenance (INFORMATION)**
- D. **Construction Management Services Agreement Extension [APPROVE]**

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Mayor Leon (Huron) pulled Item 2B. Moses Stites and Janelle Del Campo provided Information on this item and informed the Board that FCRTA was awarded \$199,500 in funding through the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant Program to conduct an electric vehicle charging master plan and energy management system plan. The project includes the development of a comprehensive EV charging master plan and an energy system management plan. Building on FCRTA's previous efforts, the EV charging plan will evaluate the locations that charging equipment is needed, the types of equipment, cost of the equipment, electrical grid capacity, and integration with future microgrids. FCRTA has a need for an energy management system to monitor the energy needs, consumption, solar generation and storage. FCRTA released an RFP for Consultant services for this project on January 26th and proposals are due February 29th. FCRTA will return to the Board next month with a proposed recommended consultant

A motion was made by Mayor Leon (Huron) and second by Councilmember Fast (Reedley). A vote was called, and motion carried.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

C. Items from staff.

D. Items from members.

4. ADJOURNMENT @ 5:44P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Moses Stites
General Manager