

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Executive Minutes

Date: June 25, 2019
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: COG Conference Room, Second Floor
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Members Present:

Judy Nishi, FAX
Yonas Paulos, Veterans Advocate
Hector Medina, Fresno County
Monty Cox, Fresno/CTSA
Sarin Wakimian, Public

Vidal Medina, RICV
Moses Stites, FCRTA
Amy Hance, City of Clovis
Robert Mesel, Fresno City

Others Attending:

Jeff Long, FAX/COG
Stephanie Maxwell, FCOG
Todd Sobrado, FAX/COG
Bethany Beruba, City of Clovis

Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA
Carolina Ilic, FAX
Matthew Gillian, Inspiration
Transportation

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

Judy Nishi 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.

Moses Stites introduced Matthew Gillian of Inspiration Transportation to the committee. Mr. Stites explained how he met Matthew and what his involvement with transportation is. Mr. Stites also thought he would be a good candidate for membership to the SSTAC in the future. Matthew thanked Moses Stites for inviting him to the SSTAC meeting and gave a little summary of himself and the work he does.

II. Executive Minutes of June 4, 2019

A motion was made by Moses Stites and seconded by Monty Cox to approve the June 4, 2019 Executive Minutes with corrections. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. Transit Documents

a. Urban Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) Operating and Programming Budget (OPB) [APPROVE]

Todd Sobrado gave an update on the Unmet Transit Needs process and explained why today's special meeting was convened outside of the regularly scheduled SSTAC meetings. He stated that as part of the Unmet Transit Needs process, the SSTAC is responsible for reviewing the FEOC Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) Operations Program and Budget (OPB) and reminded the SSTAC that at its last meeting, the City of Fresno had requested that action be delayed on the Urban portion of the CTSA OPB.

Carolina Ilic followed up on the deferment for the Urban portion of the CTSA OPB between FEOC and FAX. Ms. Ilic stated that FAX had originally expressed concern with carry over funds over multiple fiscal years, and with inconsistencies between the narrative and the funding tables in the OPB. She explained that FAX had been working with FEOC over the previous three weeks to obtain additional information to better understand how the funds were being used, and that FEOC had provided the necessary information and made the requested corrections.

The Urban portion of the CTSA was created by MOU between FEOC, FCOG and FAX. Since a signed copy of the MOU is not available, Ms. Ilic said that the lost MOU will need to be revisited and updated since the agreement with FEOC was first put in place in the 1980s.

Moses Stites suggested that the Rural MOU should be updated as well to maintain consistency between the Rural and Urban context of the MOU.

A motion was made by Moses Stites and seconded by Robert Mesel to approve the Urban Consolidated Transportation Service Agency Operations Program and Budget, with the stipulation of revisiting the MOU. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

b. Rural Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) Operating and Programming Budget (OPB) [APPROVE]

A motion was made by Amy Hance and seconded by Robert Mesel to approve the Rural Consolidated Transportation Service Agency Operations Program and

Budget with an update to the MOU within the next year. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

IV. Projects Recommended for Funding using FTA Section 5310 funds

Peggy Arnest, Senior Regional Planner at Fresno COG reported on this item. Fresno COG, as the Designated Recipient of FTA Section 5310 funding, had issued a formal call-for-projects on April 11, 2019 for the Fresno Large Urban Area FTA Section 5310 funding. The available funding this cycle for the Fresno Large Urban Area is \$828,509. Four applications were received requesting \$1,220,665. Fresno COG is responsible for mobilizing a committee of members of the SSTAC to review applications and select projects through a competitive process. Members Bill Hyatt and Amy Hance formed the committee.

Their recommendations for projects and amounts were as follows:

APPLICANT	RECOMMENDATION
Fresno Area Express	\$257,030
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission	\$257,030
United Cerebral Palsy of Central California	\$257,030
WestCare California	\$57,419
	TOTAL \$828,509

Peggy Arnest distributed a handout of the FTA Section Applications Received for 2019 and Award Recommendation. Meeting attendees had much to say about this item as a lengthy discussion ensued.

Ms. Ilic asked about the evaluation criteria to determine the allocation of funding and how applications are processed.

Ms. Arnest said that a description of the evaluation criteria is at the end of every application received. They include who needed funding, what each applicant agency is tasked with doing, ridership and what had been done in the past...etc.

Ms. Ilic expressed concern over the equal amounts of funding recommended for FAX, FEOC, and United Cerebral Palsy of Central California based on population served and other key metrics, and requested, if possible, for Ms. Arnest to bring the 5310 scoring criteria to the SSTAC before the next Call for Projects. Ms. Arnest accepted the request, adding she would bring the item to SSTAC in early 2021 before the next Call for Projects.

Vidal Medina asked if the funds being used by the agencies are bus operation cost or programs. Ms. Arnest said that it was all capital.

A motion was made by Moses Stites and seconded by Robert Mesel to approve Projects Recommended for Funding using FTA Section 5310 funds based on the committee's recommendation . A vote was called for and the motion carried.

V. SSTAC Feedback on Future Electric Buses and Cutaways

Todd Sobrado reported that like every other transit agency in California, FAX is in the process of converting 100% of the FAX fleet to zero emission vehicles. This is a mandate coming from the California Air Recourses Board.

FAX has its first two electric buses on order, which should be received soon. FAX is working with the City of Fresno's Disability Advisory Commission Transportation Subcommittee to get feedback in terms of how the design of future buses could meet the needs of their community. This offer was extended to the members of the SSTAC.

Carolina Ilic informed the SSTAC that FAX will bring a bus to the site of the next Disability Advisory Commission meeting, encouraging members to board the bus for a walk-through. FAX staff will be present to document feedback and address questions that arise. Ms. Ilic encouraged SSTAC members to participate, and said that FAX staff would send an e-mail with the date and time to see the buses.

VI. Other Member Items

Vidal Mendez from RICV said that his agency does not have any more transportation training or funding for providing travel training. Mr. Vidal was told to ask if there were any other transit agencies that would provide one-on-one or a crew training for individuals who are not disabled. The travel training was held using funding that they received from the Federal Government. Looking at the rest of the community and if the transit agencies can provide travel training or think about funding in the future for people that are not disabled, it would be good.

Moses Stites also thought this was a good idea and asked if Mr. Mendez could put together a scope and a cost of what it would be. Mr. Stites said that they can take a look at it to see if they would consider hiring Mr. Mendez's agency to come out and do two parts of training: one for the disabled community and another for the general public.

Amy Hance asked if they would be hiring the agency. Mr. Mendez said that it was a fee-for-service per individual course. Mr. Stites also said that the only reason they had history with them is because they had an FTA grant to do it, along with FAX several years ago.

Robert Mesel wanted to make sure that there was a follow up on the 5310. Peggy Arnest said that it will be next year, or the year after, because it is a two year cycle and will follow up with it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Sobrado
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