

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Executive Minutes

Date: February 23, 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

Mathew Gillian
Judy Nishi, FAX
Moses Stites, FCRTA
Amy Hance, City of Clovis

Others Attending – Via Zoom:

Jeff Long, FAX/COG
Stephanie Maxwell, FCOG
Todd Sobrado, FAX/COG
Gregory Barfield
Joe Vargas

Sarah Harriss
Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA
Brenda Veenendaal FCOG
Carolina Ilic, FAX

Judy Nishi called the meeting to order at 1:38 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

Brenda Veenendaal gave a presentation on the RTP update and survey.

II. Executive Minutes of September 29, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made by Amy Hance and seconded by Moses Stites to approve the September 29, 2021 Executive Minutes. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. Selection of a new Chair for the SSTAC [APPROVE]

Todd Sobrado informed the committee that Bill Hyatt resigned his position as the Chair of SSTAC in order to focus all of his energy on his health. Mr. Hyatt was a tremendous asset to SSTAC and will be missed.

In light of an unexpected event, SSTAC committee members were prepared to nominate candidates and vote to select the next Chair.

A motion was made by Yonas Paulos and seconded by Amy Hance to elect Moses Stites to take the position of Chair to the SSTAC committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Moses Stites took over the SSTAC meeting as Chair after being elected.

IV. Update on the FY2021 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment [DISCUSSION]

Todd Sobrado reported on this item. Public outreach and feedback are an essential component of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment. Because of the extraordinary circumstances resulting from COVID-19, public outreach will be different from years past. Outreach, this year will be primarily virtual and broken down into two main components: virtual meetings and an online survey.

Four virtual meetings were planned, with three scheduled through ZOOM and a fourth planned for Facebook. The virtual meetings were scheduled as followed:

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021

10:30 a.m. via ZOOM

2:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Noon via Facebook

5:30 p.m. via ZOOM

The Public Hearing was Scheduled for the COG Policy Board at 5:30 PM on Thursday, March 25, 2021. Also, through ZOOM. This has since been changed to Thursday, April 29, 2021.

The second major form of outreach was an online survey providing stakeholders with the ability to electronically submit comments and feedback. Both the virtual meetings and survey were heavily marketed online and through Facebook. Notification had also taken place via email to COG mailing lists and on social media.

Facebook campaigns were highly targeted and limited to Fresno County.

Both campaigns started on Feb. 8, 2021, with messaging for virtual events running through March 2, 2021, the final virtual event date. Messaging for the online surveys ran through the end of March 2021.

Todd Sobrado gave an updated to the committee on the Zoom public outreach meetings.

V. FY 2020 Productivity Report [APPROVE]

Jeff Long reported on this item. The Productivity Evaluation was conducted annually to assess transit operators that receive State Transportation Development Act funds and to recommend potential productivity improvements. The FY 2020 Productivity Evaluation assessed the following transit agencies:

- Fresno Area Express and Handy Ride
- Clovis Stageline and Roundup
- Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
- Consolidated Transportation Services Agency.

Jeff Long discussed the report and his findings.
The draft report was attached for your review prior to the meeting.

Jeff Long, Amy Hance, Moses Stites and Monty Cox gave an updated report for their transit agency.

A motion was made by Monty Cox and seconded by Mathew Gillian to approve the FY 2020 Productivity Report. A vote was called for and the motion carried. .01.

VI. FAX Schedule Guide online [DISCUSSION]

Transit information is an essential component of transit service in that it enables transit riders to plan their trips. FAX makes this information available through the Schedule Guide, a printed publication, the MyFAXBus mobile app, and the Fresno.gov website.

FAX recently compiled all of the information on the website that is within the Schedule Guide and made it available in a single location on the website.

<https://www.fresno.gov/transportation/fax/schedule-guide/>

Todd Sobrado informed the committee that the purpose of the change was to make it easier for accessible transit riders to access and use this information.

VII. FAX Route changes starting on March 1, 2021 [DISCUSSION]

Effective Monday, **March 1, 2021**, Route 3 along Herndon Avenue began service, and Routes 20 and 45 were rerouted.

Route 3 – Herndon

The new Route 3 provides service from the El Paseo Shopping Center at Herndon and Riverside to the Clovis Community College Herndon Campus at Herndon and Villa. Route 3 services medical centers, commercial areas, and housing developments along Herndon. This new route will provide service every 45-minutes on weekdays and weekends.

Route 20 – Hughes/McKinley

Route 20 will travel further north to the El Paseo Shopping Center, connecting to the new Route 3, providing additional connections between northwest Fresno and the rest of the City. Southbound service along Blackstone, south of McKinley, will be eliminated. Instead, at McKinley and Blackstone, the route turns north on Blackstone, connecting to Fresno City College and the BRT, then east on Clinton, connecting to the VA Medical Center, then south on Fresno Street, returning to McKinley and heading back toward El Paseo. Route 20 will no longer connect to the L Shelter at Courthouse Park. Route 20 will operate every 45 minutes on weekdays and weekends.

Route 45 – Ashlan

Route 45 will operate across Ashlan Avenue with no changes to the eastern end of the route. West of Blackstone, Route 45 will operate on Ashlan to Cornelia with a turnaround at Central High School East. Route 45 will no longer service Herndon, Palm, Fruit, Blackstone, and Manchester Transit Center. Like Routes 3 and 20, Route 45 will also operate every 45 minutes, weekdays and weekends.

VIII. Other Member Items

Carolina Ilic informed the members of the free fair for FAX that was offered March 1, 2021, and they are working on communication to get the information out to the public.

Joe Vargas informed the members that masks will still be required to get on the bus.

Amy Hance informed the members of the groundbreaking for Landmark Square and William H Hub projects. Also, there will be free bus rides to get vaccinated for the members of Clovis Community.

Todd Sobrado informed the committee that there will be no meeting in March.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Sobrado
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