

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Executive Minutes

Date: January 20, 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: COG Conference Room, Second Floor
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Members Present:

Darlene Christiansen, FAX

Yonas Paulos, Veterans Advocate Via-Phone

Katherine Martindale, DSS

Chenier Derrick, Fresno Co. Via-Phone

Members Absent:

Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit

Matthew Gilliam, Fresno Co.

Thomas Dulin, Fresno EOC

Others Attending:

Todd Sobrado, FAX/COG

Jeff Long, FAX/COG

Nick Chin, Clovis Transit

Olivia Forte, Clovis Transit

Adam Tsudama, Fresno EOC

Rebecca Donabed, RICV

Robert Phipps, FCOG

Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA

Emily Flores, FCRTA

Matthew Shimizu, FCOG

Julie Saldivar, FCOG

Todd Sobrado called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

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 for May 20, 2025, SSTAC Meeting

A motion was made by Darlene Christiansen and seconded by Yonas Paulos to approve the May 20, 2025, meeting minutes. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. Election of a New Chair

The meeting opened with the election of a new chair for the SSTAC following Moses's resignation in December. Staff clarified that they could not serve as chair, leaving the role open to current non-staff members on the membership list, which was noted to be thin. After reviewing eligible members, Katherine and Darlene were identified as the primary candidates. Staff explained that the SSTAC chair role is relatively light, with staff handling most administrative work, and that the committee mainly meets January through May to oversee the unmet transit needs process and related advisory items before they advance to higher committees. Nominations were opened, Darlene was initially nominated but declined due to workload, and Katherine agreed to serve with staff support, potentially for a limited term while membership is stabilized. Katherine was formally nominated, the motion passed unanimously, and she was confirmed as the new SSTAC chair.

IV. FY2026-27 Fresno COG Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Assessment kick-off

Jeff Long reported on this item. The Annual Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) process is currently in progress. It runs from January through June and concludes with board approval at the end of June. The mailing list is in final review, and any requested changes should be submitted by January 28. Plans are underway to notify the public and finalize meeting locations, with a tentative schedule of approximately eight meetings: three in Fresno, one in Clovis, two to three rural meetings, and an additional online meeting, likely to be held on a Saturday.

Two rural meetings, in Kerman and Reedley, will be coordinated with RTP/SCS meetings, during which staff will be available to gather feedback. Meetings are expected to take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays between February 17 and early March, followed by preparation of results and a public hearing in April.

As in prior years, the online survey will serve as a primary feedback tool, generating approximately 90% of responses. The group invited additional comments or suggestions to help improve this year's UTN cycle.

ACTION: This is an information item. No action is needed from the SSTAC Committee.

V. FY2024-25 FTA Section 5310 Recommended Funding for Projects

Matthew Shimizu reported on this item. Fresno COG is the designated recipient of FTA Section 5310 funds for Fresno County. These funds provide capital and operating assistance for transportation projects that serve seniors and individuals with disabilities. Funding is targeted to areas where public transit is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate, and to projects that exceed ADA requirements or improve access to fixed-route services. In fall 2025, Fresno COG issued a call for projects with approximately \$1.7 million available in Section 5310 funding and received six applications requesting a total of \$3.1 million. Following evaluation by a scoring committee composed of staff from Fresno COG, Clovis Transit, and Fresno Area Express, five of the six projects were awarded funding, with some projects fully funded and others partially funded, resulting in the obligation of \$1,741,617 in total.

A motion was made by Darlene Christiansen seconded by Yonas Paulos to approve the FTA Section 5310 Recommended Funding for Projects. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VI. Membership

The discussion centered on the need to fill several open positions on the SSTAC Committee and a request for assistance in identifying potential members to recruit. It is filled by membership categories—such as representatives from the disabled community, seniors and aging services, transit users, and potential riders to meet minimum requirements. The overall goal is to broaden representation and ensure a diverse, well-rounded committee. It was suggested to review the current membership list to identify gaps and reach out through county social services and partner agencies for potential candidates.

The committee welcomed Janelle Delcampo, who is assuming the role of Executive Director of FCRTA following Moses Stites' retirement, and Adam Sudama of FEOC. Adam briefly introduced himself, sharing his background of 24 years in the military, short stints in the freight industry, and more than three and a half years with Fresno EOC as operations manager.

A motion was made by Darlene Christiansen seconded by Yonas Paulos to approve the Fresno COG TTC and PAC re-appointments of interested SSTAC members for a 2-year term. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VII. Measure C Progress Update

Robert Phipps, Executive Director of Fresno COG, reported on this item. On January 7, the COG Board voted 9–3 to cease all official government activity related to Measure C after the county declined to agendize approval of the expenditure plan and indicated the measure would not pass, rendering further outreach to other jurisdictions ineffective since county approval was required. This action effectively ends the government-led Measure C effort and shifts any future transportation tax measure to third parties, most notably a coalition of community organizations pursuing a citizen-led initiative that—if successful—would reduce the voter approval threshold from two-thirds to a simple majority and be largely based on the previously

approved expenditure plan, though other initiatives with different priorities may emerge. Failure of Measure C would have significant negative impacts on transit agencies, particularly smaller jurisdictions that rely on Measure C to supplement Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds, resulting in a “double hit” from the loss of Measure C revenue and potential redirection of TDA funds to regional agencies such as FCRTA, leading to service reductions, route cuts, and possible budget losses of up to one-third.

ACTION: This is an information item. No action is needed from the SSTAC Committee.

VIII. Member Items

- A. Thomas Dulin, now back at Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC) in a new capacity, requested to share a flyer with the Committee to raise awareness of FEOC’s catering services. The services are available for events such as weddings, corporate events, meetings, fundraisers, and private gatherings, highlighting “catering with a cause” that combines quality food with meaningful community impact.
- B. Janelle Delcampo, Executive Director of FCRTA, introduced Emily Flores, the new Operations and Planning Manager in Selma. She noted that FCRTA is transitioning into the new Selma facility, has added new staff, and expressed her excitement about Emily joining the team. Emily will be joining her at all future SSTAC meetings.

Action: This is an information item. No action is needed from the SSTAC Committee.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.