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SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Executive Minutes

Date: April 21, 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m.

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

Members Present:

Bethany Berube, Clovis Transit
Yonas Paulos, Veterans Advocate
Adam Tsudama, Fresno EOC
Darlene Christiansen, FAX, Via-Phone

Rebecca Donabe, RICV, Via-Phone

Members Absent:

Chenier Derrick, Fresno Co.
Katherine Martindale, DSS
Matthew Gillam, Fresno Co.

Others Attending:

Todd Sobrado, FAX/COG
Jeff Long, FAX/COG
Nick Chin, Clovis Transit
Janelle Del Campo, FCRTA

Brenda Thomas, FCOG
Julie Saldivar, FCOG

Todd Sobrado called the meeting to order at 1:37 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 February 17, 2026, SSTAC Meeting

A motion was made by Yonas Paulos and seconded by Bethany Berube to approve the February 17, 2026, meeting minutes. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

III. FY2026-27 Fresno COG Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Public Outreach

Todd Sobrado reported on this item. Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) is completing the FY2026-27 Unmet Transit Needs process. With the online survey open since late January and six public meetings completed, the public outreach process concludes with the public hearing scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026, at the FCOG Policy Board meeting. To date, 73 comments have been received.

Participating transit agencies, specifically, Fresno Area Express (FAX), Clovis Transit, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), and their respective paratransit service review the comments received, provide feedback, and render to a determination as to whether a comment meets the definition of an unmet transit need. None of the comments received applied to Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC) through the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA).

A discussion followed and focused on reviewing and correcting responses to public comments related to regional transit planning. Identified were several issues, including missing or misplaced responses, formatting errors, and inconsistencies in how feedback was documented. There was consensus that staff should follow up with respondents—particularly those who provided contact information—to acknowledge their input and outline next steps. Specific comments from seniors and individuals with disabilities were noted as especially important and warranting direct outreach. The group also discussed the need to clarify whether certain concerns qualify as “unmet transit needs,” recognizing that some services are already available but may be inconvenient or not well understood. Staff committed to revising and verifying the document to ensure accuracy prior to presentation at upcoming meetings, while broader efforts to improve communication, service clarity, and accessibility remain ongoing priorities.

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

IV. Other Member Items

Mr. Long reported that **Fresno Area Express (FAX)** has temporarily relocated all downtown bus operations from Courthouse Park to an area on L Street due to extensive infrastructure work, including sewer and water upgrades, street closures, and an upcoming courthouse construction project expected to last several years. While this reflects long-term progress in downtown Fresno, it is causing short-term disruptions to transit service.

Ms. Thomas reported on new federal accessibility requirements (WCAG standards) for government websites and digital materials. These requirements mandate that all public-facing content—including agendas, PDFs, and social media—be accessible to users with disabilities. Agencies acknowledged that meeting these standards will require significant effort, particularly to update older documents, address formatting issues such as tables, and add image descriptions. Compliance will be time-consuming, may require outside support, and will likely influence how future reports and documents are designed.

V. Items from Staff

A. Upcoming 2026 SSTAC meeting dates.

- **May 19**
- **June 16**
- **July 21**
- **August – No meeting**
- **September 15 – Tentative**
- **October 20**
- **November 17 – Tentative**
- **December – No meeting**

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.