
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
August 29, 2024
Tulare County Association of Governments
210 N. Church St, Ste. B
Visalia, CA 93291

9:00am-10:00am
In-Person Meeting

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Ralph M. Brown Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids, translation requests, or other accommodations, or to be able to access this agenda and documents in the agenda packet, please contact the TCAG office at 559-623-0450 at least 3 days prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. Unscheduled comments are limited to 3 minutes.

Note: Prior to action by the Council on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AND DISCUSSION:

- I. Welcome & Introductions.**
- II. Action: Approval of Minutes**
 - a. May 7, 2024 (Pages 4-9)
- III. Discussion: SSTAC Member Recruitment, Referrals**
- IV. Action: Approval of Corrected 2024/25 Meeting Schedule**
- V. Information: Microtransit Update**
- VI. Discussion: Transit Planning & Coordination**
 - a. Cross Valley Corridor Phase I Operations Plan
- VII. Transit Provider Updates**
 - a. Porterville Transit

- b. Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)
- c. Visalia Transit

VIII. Social Service Provider Updates:

- a. Optional updates from those in attendance

IX. Other Items/Future Agenda Item Requests- Chair

- X. Adjourn.** The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2024, at the Tulare County Association of Governments Office, 210 N. Church St., Suite B, Visalia, CA, 93291 at 10:00 a.m.

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) Members
of the
Tulare County Regional Transportation Planning Agency (TCAG)

<i>Vacant</i>	Representative of Potential Transit User 60 Years of Age or Older
Rebecca Donabed ² – Chair	Representative of Potential Transit User who is Disabled
Lia Hanner ¹	Representative of Potential Transit User who is Disabled
Michael Esquibel ²	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Seniors/Social Service Transit Provider
Dayna Wild ²	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Seniors/Social Service Transit Provider
James Alves ³ - Vice Chair	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider to People with Disabilities/ Social Service Transit Provider
<i>Vacant</i>	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider to People with Disabilities/ Social Service Transit Provider
<i>Vacant</i>	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Teresa Ortega ²	Transit Operator Representative
Caleb Bowman ¹	Transit Operator Representative
<i>Vacant</i>	Representative of Potential Transit Users from Local Youth

¹ indicates term ending June 30, 2025.

² indicates term ending June 30, 2026.

³ indicates term ending June 30, 2027.

SSTAC Chair – term ending June 30, 2025.

SSTAC Vice Chair – term ending June 30, 2025.

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TCAG Transit Staff

Derek Winning, Senior Regional Planner; DWinning@TulareCAG.ca.gov

Giancarlo Bruno, Regional Planner; GBruno@TulareCAG.ca.gov

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OFFICE ADDRESS

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Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2024/25

The following dates for SSTAC have been tentatively set as indicated below for FY 2024/25. Meetings (unless noted otherwise) will be held at the TCAG Office at 210 N. Church St., Suite B, Visalia, CA 93291

- August 29, 2024
- November 12, 2024
- February 11, 2025
- May 13, 2025 *

* Unmet Needs Meeting

Tulare County Association of Governments
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
May 7, 2024

ATTENDANCE LIST

Representative of potential transit user 60 years of age or over	<i>Vacant</i>
Representative of potential transit user who is disabled	Rebecca Donabed (P)
Representative of potential transit user who is disabled	Lia Hanner (A)
Representative of local social service provider for seniors/social service transportation provider	Michael Esquibel (P)
Representative of local social service provider for seniors/social service transportation provider	Dayna Wild (P)
Representative of local social service provider for the disabled/social service transportation provider	Mark Michaelian (P)
Representative of local social service provider for the disabled/social service transportation provider	Norma Verduzco (P)
Representative of local social service provider for persons of limited means	<i>Vacant</i>
Transit Operator Representative	Teresa Ortega (P)
Transit Operator Representative	Caleb Bowman (P)
Representative of potential transit users from local youth	Taryn Ward (P)

Others Present: Albert Barragan, TCRTA; Olivia Forte, TCRTA; Lorena Mendibles, Caltrans; Abul Hasan, TCRTA; Rich Tree, Porterville Transit, James Alves, ABLE Industries; John Mauro, Tulare County HHS
TCAG Staff: Giancarlo Bruno, Derek Winning

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

Public Comments

No public comments were received.

I. Welcome & Introductions

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was called to order by Chair Donabed at 10:03 a.m. on May 7, 2024.

II. Action: Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2024

A motion to approve the February 13th minutes was put forward by Member Michaelian and seconded by Member Ortega. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Action: Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025

Mr. Bruno provided a draft list of SSTAC meeting dates for 2024-2025, presenting them for approval by SSTAC members. The proposed meeting schedule was adopted unanimously upon a motion by Member Bowman and a second by Member Wild.

IV. Action: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024-25

Chair Donabed introduced the item and encouraged any members who were interested in serving as chair to put their names forward. Chair Rebecca Donabed was nominated to serve another year as chair by Member Verduzco, with a second by Member Ortega. The motion was carried unanimously. Member Alves expressed a willingness to serve a term as Vice-Chair. Upon a motion by Member Bowman and a second by Member Michaelian, James Alves was unanimously elected Vice-Chair.

V. Action: Unmet Transit Needs Comment Review and Recommendations

Chair Donabed called upon Mr. Bruno to introduce the item. Mr. Bruno provided a brief overview of the the SSTAC's role in evaluating unmet transit needs comments and making recommendations to the TCAG board regarding which comments represent unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. He added that the comments should be placed in one of the following categories: unmet transit need reasonable to meet, unmet transit need not reasonable to meet, further investigation warranted, operational issue, and not an unmet transit need.

The SSTAC reviewed each comment and reached a consensus on the recommendations for each comment. The SSTAC recommendations to the TCAG Board included eight (8) unmet transit needs that they found reasonable to meet and an additional three (3) that warranted further investigation. Mr. Bruno recorded these recommendations for transmittal to the TCAG board. A list of the SSTAC recommendations for 2023/24 is attached to these minutes.

VI. Other Items/ Future Agenda Items Request

Member Mauro shared news of his upcoming retirement. The SSTAC members and staff present thanked him for his service and wished him well.

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm on May 7, 2024.

BEFORE THE
TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of:

ADOPTING FINDINGS FOR UNMET)
TRANSIT NEEDS IN TULARE COUNTY FOR)
FISCAL YEAR 2023/24)

Resolution No. 2024-045

WHEREAS, the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), acting as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, is responsible for determining which, if any, unmet transit needs exist in Tulare County; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2024, TCAG adopted definitions of “unmet transit needs” and “reasonable to meet,” which are hereby made a part of this Resolution by reference; and

WHEREAS, TCAG held public hearings on March 18, 2024 in Visalia and via remote teleconference, for the purpose of gathering unmet transit needs in Tulare County; and

WHEREAS, opportunity for public testimony was provided at said hearings concerning transit needs for areas throughout Tulare County pursuant to P.U.C. Section 99238.5 for the purpose of soliciting comments on the unmet transit needs that may exist within the jurisdiction of Tulare County; and

WHEREAS, additional testimony was received by TCAG staff either in writing via U.S. mail, electronic mail (e-mail), text message, online survey, or verbally by telephone; and

WHEREAS, all said testimony has been reviewed by the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC); and

WHEREAS, the SSTAC has recommended eight (8) findings of an unmet need reasonable to meet and an additional three (3) unmet transit needs that warrant further investigation to the TCAG Board of Governors pursuant to P.U.C. Section 99238; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the unmet needs findings by SSTAC and concurs with the finding of eight (8) unmet transit needs reasonable to meet and three (3) that warrant further investigation; and

WHEREAS, the TCAG Board, through the unmet needs process, has complied with Section 99401.5(b) of the Public Utilities Code, Division 10, Part 11.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tulare County Association of Governments, the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Tulare County, finds, pursuant to Section 99401.5(d) of the Public Utilities Code, Article 8, that there are eight (8) unmet transit needs reasonable to meet within the jurisdiction of this agency and a further three (3) unmet transit needs that merit further investigation, as detailed below:

1. Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) shall update signage at the 'M' St. & Tulare Ave. bus stop in City of Tulare to indicate that it is serviced by Route T2.
2. Regional microtransit service shall be provided and shall include service to rural communities such as Matheny Tract, Pixley, Poplar, Cotton Center, Earlimart, and Tipton. Matheny Tract should be included in the greater Tulare service area.
3. Porterville Transit shall install bicycle racks on those fixed-route transit buses in its fleet which currently do not have this equipment.
4. TCRTA and Visalia Transit shall evaluate options for providing transportation to residents of supportive housing at Madson Gardens (formerly Tagus Ranch).
5. Porterville Transit shall work with Porterville City Engineer to determine a safe location to install a new bus stop on W. Date Ave. in the vicinity of S. 'G' St.
6. Visalia Transit shall restore fixed-route transit service to the Visalia branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles.
7. Porterville Transit, TCRTA, and Visalia Transit shall make their bus schedules and information available in a format that is accessible to persons with a visual impairment.
8. Tulare County transit agencies shall issue and accept regional 1-day and 7-day passes at the prices established by the TCAG board.
9. TCRTA shall investigate the feasibility of installing a bench and/or shelter at the bus stop outside United Health Center in Earlimart and at the Avenue 308 & Juniper bus stop in Goshen.
10. Visalia Transit shall investigate the feasibility of installing a bench at the bus stop on the southern side of Houston Ave. near Giddings St.
11. TCRTA shall investigate the feasibility of introducing on-demand microtransit service to the communities of Terra Bella, Tooleville, and Springville

The foregoing Resolution was adopted upon the motion of Member Townsend, seconded by Member Whitmire, at a regular meeting on the 17th day of June 2024, by the following vote:

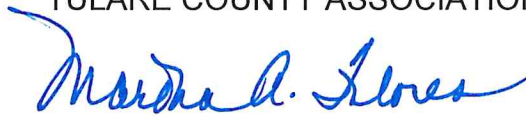
AYES: Valero, Townsend, Reynosa, Riddle, Boyer, Flores, Sayre, Poochigian, Mendoza, Wynn, Holscher, Allen, and Whitmire

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Micari, Vander Poel, and Shuklian,

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



Martha Flores
Vice-Chair, TCAG



Ted Smalley
Executive Director, TCAG