

## Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

### MEETING AGENDA

February 14, 2023

Tulare County Association of Governments

**ZOOM/ CALL-IN**

**Meeting ID: 585 064 9981**

**Passcode: 296011**

**Join by Phone: 833 548 0282**

**10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

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: AB 361 Emergency Certification**

**III. Discussion: AB 2449 Teleconferencing under Specific Circumstances**

**IV. Action: Approval of Minutes**

a. November 8, 2022 (Pages 4-5)

**V. Discussion: 2022 Unmet Needs Recap & Emerging Issues**

**VI. Information: 2023 Unmet Needs Outreach Campaign**

**VII. Information: DRAFT 2023 Tulare County Coordinated Transportation Plan**

**VIII. Discussion: College of the Sequoias/ Youth Member Recruitment**

**IX. Discussion: Transportation Planning & Coordination**

- a. Cross Valley Corridor Phase I Operations Plan
- b. TCRTA branding and outreach
- c. Zero Emissions Rollout Plan

**X. Transit Provider Updates**

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

**XI. Social Service Provider Updates**

- a. Optional updates from those in attendance

**XII. Other Items/Future Agenda Item Requests**

**XIII. Adjourn.** The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2023, at the Tulare County Association of Governments Office, 210 N. Church St., Suite B, Visalia, CA, 93291, and via teleconference, at 10:00 a.m.

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

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Dan Fox <sup>3</sup> - Chair	Representative of Potential Transit User 60 Years of Age or Older
Rebecca Donabed <sup>1</sup> - Vice Chair	Representative of Potential Transit User who is Disabled
Glen Stewart <sup>2</sup>	Representative of Potential Transit User who is Disabled
Michael Esquibel <sup>1</sup>	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Seniors/Social Service Transit Provider
John Mauro <sup>3</sup>	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Seniors/Social Service Transit Provider
Mark Michaelian <sup>2</sup>	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for the Disabled/Social Service Transit Provider
Norma Verduzco <sup>2</sup>	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for the Disabled/Social Service Transit Provider
Albert Cendejas <sup>2</sup>	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Teresa Ortega <sup>1</sup>	Transit Operator Representative
Caleb Bowman <sup>3</sup>	Transit Operator Representative
<i>Vacant</i>	Representative of Potential Transit Users from Local Youth

<sup>1</sup> indicates term ending June 30, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> indicates term ending June 30, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> indicates term ending June 30, 2025.

SSTAC Chair - term ending June 30, 2023.

SSTAC Vice Chair - term ending June 30, 2023.

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**TCAG Transit Staff**  
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Giancarlo Bruno, Regional Planner; GBruno@TulareCAG.ca.gov  
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**Tulare County Association of Governments**  
**Social Services Transportation Advisory Council**  
**November 8, 2022**  
**ATTENDANCE LIST**

Representative of potential transit user 60 years of age or over	Dan Fox - Chair (P)
Representative of potential transit user who is disabled	Rebecca Donabed (P)
Representative of potential transit user who is disabled	Glen Stewart (P)
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	John Mauro (A)
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	Albert Cendejas (A)
Transit Operator Representative	Teresa Ortega (P)
Transit Operator Representative	Caleb Bowman (P)
Representative of potential transit users from local youth	<i>Vacant</i>

**Others Present:** Richard Tree, TCRTA; Albert Barragan, TCRTA; Jenny Miller, TCRTA

**TCAG Staff:** Giancarlo Bruno; Jennie Miller; Derek Winning

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**

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**Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was called to order by Chair Fox at 10:00 a.m. on November 8, 2022. Persons in attendance noted presence over Zoom teleconference.

**II. Action: AB 361 Emergency Certification**

Upon a motion by Member Donabed and a second by Member Esquibel, the motion was approved unanimously.

**III. Action: Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the August 9, 2022 were unanimously approved, with the request that language of unmet transit need reasonable to meet #5 be amended as described below, upon a motion from Chair Fox and a second by Vice Chair Donabed.

#### **IV. Discussion: September Ride Day Report**

Chair Fox began the discussion by recounting his observations from riding transit throughout the county. He mentioned that the automated PA systems on the Visalia Transit buses were working, which had not been the case in previous trips he had taken in recent months. He observed that the new route 17 might enjoy higher ridership if its service area were shifted further to the south and/or west. Chair Fox also noted with disappointment that two people were turned away from Visalia Transit Route 2 due to the farebox not accepting coins. He concluded by describing his positive experience using the TransPort on-demand service in Porterville.

Member Esquibel shared his experiences of riding TCRTA Route C40 to Lindsay. He said that the driver was very helpful and called out upcoming bus stops loudly so that visually impaired riders could hear.

Vice Chair Donabed remarked that the yellow 'stop' cord on some buses in the City of Tulare was very stiff and hard to activate.

#### **V. Information: TransPort Expansion**

Mr. Tree described the planned expansion of the TransPort on-demand microtransit service throughout Tulare County.

#### **VI. Information: Genfare Implementation Update**

Mr. Tree and Mr. Bowman discussed the progress made and difficulties encountered during the initial rollout of the new regional Genfare fare equipment.

#### **VII. Transit Provider Updates**

##### **a. Visalia Transit**

Mr. Bowman shared recent ridership data from Visalia Transit, including V-Line and Dial-a-Ride services. Daily fixed route ridership had rebounded to approximately 2,000 passengers per day, compared to about 1,500 passengers per day in the first quarter of 2022. The current levels of ridership are about 40-50% of what was seen in 2019. He noted that V-Line ridership had returned to near pre-pandemic levels and that dial-a-ride activity had also risen significantly since the early stages of the pandemic.

**b. Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)**

Mr. Barragan shared that TCRTA provided 55,000 unlinked trips in August 2022. Mr. Tree provided a brief update on the TCRTA marketing and outreach plan and the upcoming website launch.

**VIII. Social Service Provider Updates**

No social service provider updates were provided.

**IX. Other Items/Future Agenda Items Requests**

Chair Fox shared the news of his election to the California Senior Legislature, an advocacy group for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

**X. Adjournment.**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:38am on November 8, 2022.