

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

MEETING AGENDA
February 8, 2022
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.-12:00 noon

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.

NOTE: This meeting will allow Board Members and the public to participate in the meeting via Teleconference, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, available at https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB361

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. Action: Approval of Minutes**
 - a. November 9, 2021 (Pages 4-7)
- IV. Discussion: Status of 2021 Unmet Transit Needs Reasonable to Meet**
- V. Discussion: 2022 Unmet Transit Needs Campaign**
- VI. Information: Environmental Justice and Public Health Assessments of Transportation in Tulare County**

VII. Action: Delegate Authority to Chair for Letters of Support

VIII. Discussion: Vacant Positions

- a. Representative from Local Youth

IX. Transit Provider Updates

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

X. Social Service Provider Updates

- a. Optional updates from those in attendance

XI. Other Items/Future Agenda Item Requests

XII. Adjourn. The next meeting is scheduled for **May 10, 2022**, 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)

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

¹ indicates term ending June 30, 2022.
² indicates term ending June 30, 2023.
³ indicates term ending June 30, 2024.

SSTAC Chair – term ending June 30, 2022.
SSTAC Vice Chair – term ending June 30, 2022.

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TCAG Transit Staff
Elizabeth Forte, Principal Regional Planner; EWright@TulareCAG.ca.gov
Giancarlo Bruno, Regional Planner; GBruno@TulareCAG.ca.gov

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OFFICE ADDRESS
Tulare County Association of Governments
210 N. Church St., Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: (559) 623-0450
Fax: (559) 733-6720
Website: www.tularecog.org

Tulare County Association of Governments
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
November 9, 2021
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	<i>Vacant</i>
Representative of local social service provider for seniors/social service transportation provider	Michael Esquibel (A)
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 (P)
Transit Operator Representative	Teresa Ortega (P)
Transit Operator Representative	Angelina Soper (P)
Representative of potential transit users from local youth	<i>Vacant</i>

Others Present: Richard Tree, TCRTA

TCAG Staff: Giancarlo Bruno, Elizabeth Forte, Jennifer Miller

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 Fox at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 2021. Persons in attendance noted presence over Zoom teleconference.

II. Action: AB 361 Emergency Certification

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Donabed and a second by Member Verduzco, the Council unanimously adopted an AB 361 Emergency Certification to allow business to be conducted via teleconference.

III. Action: Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the August 10, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved, upon a motion from Member Verduzco and a second by Vice Chair Donabed. Member Cendejas abstained due to his absence from the August meeting.

IV. Discussion: Transit System Feedback from Members

Vice Chair Donabed reported that she mostly rode transit in the City of Tulare. She reported that most drivers were not calling out timepoint stops or were not calling them out loudly and clearly enough to be heard when they did. She asked that transit operators make sure that the in-vehicle microphone systems are working and that drivers are calling out timepoints because it is an accessibility issue.

Chair Fox also reported that he observed drivers failing to call out stops or making announcements that were not loud and clear. He remarked that Visalia Transit had the best maintained transit center in the county. He also observed that the timing of Visalia Transit Route 12 and 15 were significantly off the mark: 12 runs ahead of schedule and 15 runs behind schedule consistently. He said that Dinuba had the cleanest buses but that the transit center was essentially closed. He found that TCaT had the dirtiest buses and that the Porterville Transit Center was very dirty and that bathrooms there were out of service.

Mr. Tree thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for their comments and promised to work on the issues they outlined. He asked whether they would like to revisit transit feedback on an annual or semi-annual basis. Chair Fox stated that he would like the SSTAC to revisit this subject in August, and also to see if any similar findings result from the upcoming unmet transit needs campaign.

V. Discussion: FTA Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Program

Mr. Tree provided a summary of the grant application that TCAG, TCRTA, HHSA, and partnering health care entities submitted for the FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty Program. He briefly described the intended project to provide “concierge”-type service to obtain non-emergency medical transportation for people with limited mobility and specialized medical needs. He asked if the SSTAC would be willing to provide a letter of support for similar grant applications that might come up soon. Chair Fox suggested that delegating authority to the chair to issue such a letter might be the most expedient way to do this. Ms. Forte stated that this suggestion could not be acted on at this meeting due to the fact it was not included in the agenda. The Chair then requested that such an item be added to the February 2022 agenda.

VI. Discussion: Vacant Positions

Mr. Bruno reported that the TCAG Board approved a request from the SSTAC to create a second position for a local transit rider with a disability or disabilities at its September 2021 meeting and reminded those present of the previously existing vacancy in the youth transit rider position. He encouraged members to suggest that interested parties who are eligible apply for these positions.

VII. Discussion: Cal-ITP Contactless Fare Payment Demonstration

Mr. Tree described the ongoing efforts at TCRTA to develop a contactless fare payment system and introduce it by March 1, 2022. He also noted other benefits of this project, such as the introduction of real time GTFS data where it had previously not been available. These technology improvements will be introduced in tandem with a simplified and consistent regional fare structure.

VIII. Transit Provider Updates

a. Visalia Transit

Member Soper reported that Visalia Transit had recently completed some repairs to bus lanes and concrete at its transit center and are currently working on their latest short-range transit plan as well as other plan updates. She added that the Visalia City Council had recently approved a transfer site in southwest Visalia that she hopes will provide a more practical alternative to transfers at Government Plaza.

b. Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)

Mr. Tree noted that TCRTA is currently undertaking several planning activities. He introduced Ms. Miller and stated she was aiding TCRTA in preparing its short-range transit plan, as well as Title VI and paratransit plans. He said that TCRTA intends to make its new technology, website, and printed passenger information available before the beginning of the next fiscal year. Mr. Tree noted that the agency's fare free program has been successful in increasing ridership by 45% since it began. Lastly, he described the upcoming expansion of micro transit to 5 additional localities and suggested that the contactless payment technology on fixed route buses can also be used on microtransit.

IX. Social Service Provider Updates

Member Michaelian reported that the pandemic continues to pose challenges for ABLE Industries due to the need to maintain social distancing and modify their usual programming in the interests of protecting the health of participants. He described some of the practical difficulties he has encountered in obtaining training to help participants ride transit independently.

Member Cendejas remarked that CSET has received a lot of calls from seniors who are seeking transportation to and from medical appointments and asked if there was a service that could help low-income seniors obtain this transportation at little or no out-of-pocket cost. Chair Fox suggested that TCRTA's free fares might make transit an option. Mr. Tree also suggested that The Green Line would be the best information

resource for seniors trying to make a Dial-a-Ride reservation or obtain travel information.

Member Verduzco reported that Family HealthCare Networks is in the process of bringing its transportation services back to full capacity by January 1, 2022.

X. Other Items/Future Agenda Items Requests

Ms. Forte reported that a consulting firm hired by TCAG to do an environmental justice and health impact assessment of transportation in Tulare County had reported back to staff on 6 major themes, including the difficulty of finding travel information and limited access to existing services. She promised to share the report with the SSTAC at its next meeting.

XI. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15am on November 9, 2021.