
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

MEETING AGENDA

November 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.-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. Action: Approval of Minutes

a. August 9, 2022 (Pages 4-5)

IV. Discussion: September Ride Days Report

V. Information: TransPort Expansion

VI. Information: Genfare Implementation Update

VII. Information: Report on SSTAC to TCRTA Board by Chair Fox

VIII. Discussion: Transportation Planning & Coordination

- a. Coordinated Plan update
- b. Cross Valley Corridor Operations Plan
- c. TCRTA branding and outreach
- d. Zero Emissions Rollout Plan

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 February 14, 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)

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

¹ indicates term ending June 30, 2023.

² indicates term ending June 30, 2024.

³ 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
August 9, 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 (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	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; Albert Barragan, TCRTA; Caleb Bowman, Visalia Transit; Kevin Rucker, First Transit; Ricardo Boulware, Transdev

TCAG Staff: Giancarlo Bruno; Jennie Miller; 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 Fox at 10:00 a.m. on August 10, 2021. Persons in attendance noted presence over Zoom teleconference.

II. Action: AB 361 Emergency Certification

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

III. Action: Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 10 & 17, 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 Vice Chair Donabed and a second by Member Esquibel.

IV. Discussion: 2021/22 Unmet Transit Needs Follow-Up

Chair Fox initiated the discussion on this year's unmet transit needs. Mr. Bruno shared the finalized list of six (6) unmet transit needs reasonable to meet and outlined each request.

Chair Fox asked about how the SSTAC and TCAG can make sure that unmet needs reasonable to meet are addressed. Mr. Bruno stated that depending on the depth of the issue it might be necessary to consider good faith efforts on the transit agencies to resolve long term issues.

Vice Chair Donabed and Chair Fox discussed in detail issues regarding the ADA-mandated stop announcements. Chair Fox noted that in his experience Dinuba was the only area where the drivers fully complied with this requirement. He said that he was interested to hear from the operating contractors about what was being done to bring about a definitive resolution.

Mr. Boulware of Transdev responded that Transdev is currently making a full-fledged effort to bring all automated PA systems back into operation and to stress to drivers the importance of the requirement to make stop announcements in the interim. He noted that they are performing internal audits to ensure drive follow-through.

Mr. Tree added that he appreciates that it is evident that Transdev is taking the issue seriously, particularly given that they have only started operating TCRTA services in the last 30 days.

Chair Fox and Vice Chair Donabed expressed their frustration with some drivers that do not make stop announcements as required. Mr. Bowman described Visalia Transit's efforts to systematically address the problem. Mr. Rucker explained that Visalia Transit is repairing the automated PA systems as they are reported as nonfunctional and stressed the difficulty of making an announcement that would be clearly audible from the back of the bus without the aid of the intercom.

V. Discussion: SSTAC Ride and Report

Chair Fox expressed the desire to provide SSTAC members with T-Passes and set up a 'Ride and Report' day for September. He lamented the fact that last year only he and Vice Chair Donabed participated in a similar effort and implored the other members to use the transit system at least one day before the next meeting. Members present agreed to meet at the Visalia Transit Center at 9:00 am on September 13th.

VI. Introduction to TransPort

Mr. Tree gave a presentation on the recently introduced TransPort microtransit on-demand service. He highlighted some of the difficulty local commuters have with low-frequency, long distance commuter routes that are typical in Tulare County. He highlighted some of the beneficial use cases for the new service and discussed its upcoming expansion beyond the Porterville area.

VII. Transit Provider Updates

a. Visalia Transit

Mr. Bowman shared recent ridership data from Visalia Transit, including V-Line and Dial-a-Ride services. Chair Fox and Member Stewart shared their disappointment with the current configuration of Route 7.

b. Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)

Mr. Tree noted that small service improvements and schedule adjustments will soon be introduced by TCRTA. He added that the Free Fares for All program will end on August 31st, after which point the new regionwide fare structure will be introduced. He also shared that regional one-day, 7-day, and 31-day passes will be available once the necessary equipment is installed across the whole fleet.

VIII. Social Service Provider Updates

No social service provider updates were provided.

IX. Other Items/Future Agenda Items Requests

No requests for future items were received.

X. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:47am on August 9, 2022.