

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

MEETING AGENDA

February 12, 2019

Tulare County Association of Governments

210 N. Church St., Suite B

Visalia, CA 93291

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: Approval of Minutes (Pages 1 - 2)

- a. November 13, 2018

III. Discussion Regarding Unmet Transit Needs Process (Pages 3 - 7)

IV. Presentations

- a. Transit Operations Managers
 - i. Tulare County Area Transit (TCaT) and Tulare Intermodal Express (TIME)
 - ii. Visalia Transit
 - iii. Porterville Transit

V. Transit Provider Updates

- a. Visalia Transit
- b. Dinuba Area Regional Transit (DART)
- c. Tulare Intermodal Express (TIME)
- d. Porterville Transit
- e. Tulare County Area Transit (TCaT)

VI. Social Service Provider Updates

- a. Optional updates from those in attendance

VII. Other Items/Future Agenda Item Requests

VIII. Adjourn. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2019 at the Tulare County Association of Governments' Office, 210 N. Church St., Suite B, Visalia, CA, 93291. Scheduled meeting time will be 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Dan Fox ² – Chair	Representative of Potential Transit User 60 Years of Age or Older
Rebecca Donabed ³	Representative of Potential Transit User who is Disabled
Violeta Tapia ³	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Seniors/Social Service Transit Provider
Jaime Bacon ² – Vice Chair	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Seniors/Social Service Transit Provider
Mark Michaelian ¹	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for the Disabled/Social Service Transit Provider
Norma Verduzco ¹	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for the Disabled/Social Service Transit Provider
Albert Cendejas ¹	Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Teresa Ortega ³	Transit Operator Representative
Christine Chavez ²	Transit Operator Representative
Mary Wheeler ³	Resources for Independence Central Valley Representative
Carlos Garza ²	Representative of Potential Transit Users from Local Youth

¹ indicates term ending June 30, 2021

² indicates term ending June 30, 2019

³ indicates term ending June 30, 2020

SSTAC Chair – term ending June 30, 2019

SSTAC Vice Chair – term ending June 30, 2019

TCAG Transit Staff

Elizabeth Forte, Principal Regional Planner; EWright@tularecog.org

Giancarlo Bruno, Regional Planner; GBruno@tularecog.org

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Tulare County Association of Governments
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
November 13, 2018

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 local social service provider for seniors/social service transportation provider	Violeta Tapia (A)
Representative of local social service provider for seniors/social service transportation provider	Jamie Bacon (P)
Representative of local social service provider for the disabled/social service transportation provider	Mark Michaelian (A)
Representative of local social service provider for the disabled/social service transportation provider	Vacant
Representative of local social service provider for persons of limited means	Albert Cendejas (P)
Transit Operator Representative	Teresa Ortega (P)
Transit Operator Representative	Christine Chavez (A)
Resources for Independence Central Valley Representative	Mary Wheeler (A)
Representative of potential transit users from local youth	Carlos Garza (P)

***(P)=Present (A)=Absent**

Others Present: Melody Murch, Visalia Transit

TCAG Staff: Elizabeth Forte

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

Public Comments

Member Cendejas discussed transit services for seniors. He stated that other transportation measures have senior transit programs, and asked whether Measure R funds can be used to provide free rides to seniors. Perhaps a free ride day or shuttle/loop bus could be provided. Ms. Forte responded that Measure R provides transit expansion funds to transit-providing agencies for them to use at their discretion.

I. Welcome & Introductions

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was called to order by Chair Fox at 10:03 a.m. on November 13, 2018.

Persons in attendance introduced themselves.

II. Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. May 15, 2018

Upon a motion by Member Ortega and a second by Member Fox the minutes were unanimously approved.

b. August 14, 2018

Upon a motion by Member Ortega and a second by Member Bacon the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Election of Vice Chair

Upon a motion by Member Cendejas and a second by Member Donabed, Jaime Bacon was unanimously elected Vice Chair of the SSTAC.

IV. Presentations

- a. Jaime Bacon – Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging (KTAAA): Multipurpose Senior Service Program (MSSP)**

Member Bacon provided a presentation on the many services provided by the MSSP.

- b. TCaT Update**

Member Ortega presented on TCaT services, trends, and programs.

V. Transit Provider Updates

- a. Visalia Transit**

Melody Murch updated the Council regarding new electric bus operations, the hiring of a new transit manager, and the federal grant award for two V-LINE buses.

- b. Dinuba Transit** (no one present to report)

- c. Tulare Transit** (no one present to report)

- d. Porterville Transit** (no one present to report)

- e. Tulare County Area Transit** (Update provided in item IV-b.)

VI. Social Service Provider Updates

- a. Updates from those in attendance**

KTAAA update was provided in item IV-a.

VII. Other Items

Member Fox stated that the price of the T-Pass is incorrect on the TCAG website and requested that it be fixed.

Member Donabed stated that transit drivers often refer to her as a “wheelchair.” She stated that she is not a chair, she is a person and does not appreciate being called that.

Member Garza responded to a question regarding his experience riding public transit, stating that the Visalia Transit application is not always working.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2019 at TCAG’s office.

AGENDA ITEM III

February 12, 2019

Prepared by Elizabeth Forte, TCAG Staff

SUBJECT:

Information: Unmet Transit Needs Process

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Development Act of 2004 (TDA) requires that the local Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) identify the unmet transit needs within its jurisdiction and those needs that are reasonable to meet. TCAG is the RTPA for Tulare County. As part of this process TCAG is required to 1) conduct at least one public hearing a year to solicit comments from the public on the possible unmet transit needs that may exist in the county, and 2) present all unmet needs requests to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) for consideration and to make recommendations on requests that may be reasonable to meet. TCAG has adopted criteria for what qualifies a transit request to be considered an “Unmet Need Reasonable to Meet.”

The annual Unmet Needs Hearings take place in March. The comments are taken to the SSTAC, and the findings and recommendations by the SSTAC are presented to the TCAG Board for adoption each year, along with additional information from TCAG staff if needed. Adopted unmet needs findings are submitted to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) by August 1st. Findings of unmet needs reasonable to meet must be satisfied by transit agencies during the upcoming fiscal year in order for those providers to use any Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for streets and roads purposes.

DISCUSSION:

TCAG will conduct two public hearings this year to solicit comments on possible unmet transit needs in Tulare County. On March 18, 2019 a hearing will be conducted in Visalia at 1:00 p.m. at the Lamp Liter Inn (3300 W. Mineral King) and at 5:30 p.m. at the Porterville Transit Administration Office (15 E. Thurman Avenue). In addition to the public hearings, comments on unmet transit needs will be solicited and collected via comment cards (postcards), outreach at community events, letters to various organizations, the TCAG website, social media, electronic surveys, phone calls, and e-mail through March 31, 2019.

A list of unmet transit needs requests, together with transit providers’ responses and TCAG comments will be provided to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) and discussed at the SSTAC on May 14, 2019 at its regularly scheduled meeting. Each comment will be found as either 1) *an Unmet Need That is Reasonable to Meet*, 2) *an Unmet Need That is Not Reasonable to Meet*, 3) *Not an Unmet Need* or 4) *an Operational Issue*. SSTAC recommendations will be presented to the TCAG Board in June for action.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Adopted Unmet Needs Criteria

Tulare County Unmet Transit Need Definition and Criteria

“Unmet Transit Need”: An unmet transit need, as identified during Tulare County Association of Governments annual Unmet Transit Needs Process, exists where public transit services are not currently provided for persons who rely on public transit to conduct daily activities. At a minimum, an unmet need must be identified by substantial community input through the public outreach process or identified in a Short Range Transit Plan, Coordinated Transportation Plan, or the Regional Transportation Plan and has not yet been implemented or funded.

“Reasonable to Meet”: Following is the TCAG definition of "Reasonable to Meet" including the recommended benchmarks for the passenger farebox recovery ratio for new transit services in Tulare County. An unmet transit need shall be considered “reasonable to meet” if the proposed service is in compliance with of the following criteria, as each are applicable:

Equity

1. The new, expanded, or revised transit service is needed by, and will benefit, either the general public or the elderly and disabled population as a whole. Transit service cannot be provided for a specific subset of either of these groups.
2. The proposed service will not require reductions in existing transit services that have an equal or higher priority.
3. The proposed service will require a subsidy generally equivalent to other similar services.

Timing

1. The proposed service is in response to an existing rather than future transit need.

Feasibility

1. The proposed service can be provided with available TDA funding (per state law, the lack of available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet.)
2. Sufficient ridership potential exists for the new, expanded, or revised transit service.
3. The proposed service can be provided with the existing fleet or under contract to a private provider.

Performance

1. The proposed service will not unduly affect the operator's ability to maintain the required passenger fare ratio for its system as a whole.
2. The proposed service can meet the scheduled passenger fare ratio standards as described in the recommended benchmarks for the passenger farebox recovery ratio for new transit services in Tulare County.
3. The estimated number of passengers to be carried will be in the range of similar services, and/or, the proposed service provides a "link" or connection that contributes to the effectiveness of the overall transit system.
4. The proposed service must have potential providers that are available to implement the service.

Community Acceptance

1. The proposed service has community acceptance and/or support as determined by the unmet needs public outreach process, inclusion in adopted programs and plans, adopted governing board positions and/or other existing information.

ADA Conformity

1. The new, expanded, or revised transit service, in conforming with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, will not impose an undue financial burden on the transit operator if complementary paratransit services are subsequently required.

Operational Feasibility

1. The new, expanded, or revised transit service must be safe to operate and there must be adequate roadways and turnouts for transit vehicles.

Notes:

1. Per state law, the lack of available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet.

RECOMMENDED BENCHMARKS FOR PASSENGER FAREBOX RECOVERY RATIO FOR NEW TRANSIT SERVICES IN TULARE COUNTY.

The state has established a basic requirement in Section 99268 of the Public Utility Code for all proposed transit services in urban areas (the Visalia, Tulare, and Porterville Urbanized Areas). This requirement is to achieve a 20% passenger fare ratio by the end of the third year of operation. A passenger fare ratio of 10% exists for special services (i.e. elderly and disabled, demand-response) and rural area services. Transit serving both urban and rural areas, per state law, may obtain a blended passenger fare ratio. If a provider is granted a blended farebox recovery, performance levels should be adjusted accordingly.

TCAG has established more detailed interim passenger fare ratio standards, which will be used to evaluate new services as a result of the unmet needs process as they are proposed and implemented, which are described below. Transit serving both urban and rural areas, per state law, may obtain an "intermediate" passenger fare ratio.

END OF TWELVE MONTHS OF SERVICE

Performance Level

<i>Urban Service</i>	<i>Special/Rural Service</i>	<i>Recommended Action</i>
Less than 6%	Less than 3%	Provider may discontinue service
6% or more	3% or more	Provider will continue service, with modifications if needed

END OF TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS

Performance Level

<i>Urban Service</i>	<i>Special/Rural Service</i>	<i>Recommended Action</i>
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Less than 10%	Less than 5%	Provider may discontinue service
10% or more	5% or more	Provider will continue service, with modifications, if needed.

END OF THIRTY-SIX MONTHS

Performance Level

<u>Urban Service</u>	<u>Special/Rural Service</u>	<u>Recommended Action</u>
Less than 15%	Less than 7%	Provider may discontinue service
15-20%	7-10%	Provider will continue service, with Modifications if needed
20% or more	10% or more	Provider will continue service, with Modifications if needed