



210 N. Church Street, Suite B
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Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

November 12, 2024

Tulare County Association of Governments

210 N. Church St, Ste. B

Visalia, CA 93291

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. August 29, 2024 (Pages 4-9)

III. Discussion: SSTAC Member Recruitment, Referrals

IV. Discussion: Bus Stop Signage & Print Materials

V. Information: Microtransit Update

VI. Discussion: Transit Planning & Coordination

a. Cross Valley Corridor Phase I Operations Plan

b. Porterville Transit Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP)

c. Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) SRTP

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 February 11, 2025 , 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
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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 29, 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	James Alves (P)
Representative of local social service provider for the disabled/social service transportation provider	<i>Vacant</i>
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	<i>Vacant</i>

Others Present: Abul Hasan, TCRTA; Ashlee Compton, TCRTA; Tina Sheinwald, Ron Sheinwald
TCAG Staff: Giancarlo Bruno

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

Public Comments

Ms. Tina Sheinwald (SIC) commented that local bus signage is challenging for people with limited vision. Bay Area bus stops have large, bright bus stops signs with large lettering and large markings on the street. The small signs make it difficult to identify bus stops from a distance. Maps and schedules are also challenging. Some bus stops provide very little information about the routes that serve them. 6" lettering would make signs easier to read. Safety orange or yellow on black background.

Mr. Hasan responded on behalf of TCRTA, saying that the agency is currently working on redesigned bus stop "flags" and that citizen input would be helpful to the selection process. Mr. Bruno then showed the TCRTA website while Mr. Hasan described TCRTA microtransit service and how to use it. Mr. Bruno highlighted some of the accessibility features of the website.

Mr. Bowman responded on behalf of the City of Visalia, stating that Visalia Transit is in the process of reevaluating its signage and stop locations and plans to redesign its printed materials.

I. Welcome & Introductions

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was called to order by Chair Donabed at 9:04 a.m. on August 29, 2024. The members, staff, and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

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

A motion to approve the May 13th minutes was put forward by Vice Chair Alves and seconded by Member Wild. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Discussion: SSTAC Member Recruitment, Referrals

Mr. Bruno reminded the members present that there were several vacancies on the SSTAC. He noted that there were vacant seats for a Representative of Potential Transit Riders Aged 60 & Over, Representative of a Social Service Provider to People with Disabilities, Representative of a Social Service Provider to People of Limited Financial Means, and Representative of a Potential Transit Rider from Local Youth. He implored members to refer anyone who is qualified for these positions and would be interested in serving on the SSTAC to contact him or obtain an application from the TCAG website.

IV. Action: Approval of Corrected 2024/25 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Bruno explained that the August SSTAC meeting was rescheduled due to a delay in the release of the agenda and that an amended 2024/25 meeting schedule was being presented to the members for their approval. Motion to approve was made by Member Wild with a second by Member Ortega. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Discussion: Microtransit Update

Member Ortega informed the group that TCRTA is now operating microtransit in Dinuba, North County, Woodlake, City of Tulare, South County, and Strathmore. She added that the ridership appears to be growing and that TCRTA is doing extensive outreach to increase awareness of the service. Staff have gone to community meetings and Visalia Rawhide games to share information.

Mr. Hasan explained that the current microtransit operation is part of a three (3) year pilot program that is intended to produce valuable information about travel demand and patterns. He went on to describe how microtransit is meant to fill the gap in “first mile, last mile” transportation, connecting people to mainline transit systems to their homes or ultimate destinations. The aim is for on-demand service to fill this gap without threatening the viability of productive fixed routes. He went on to describe how paratransit and on-demand microtransit have been comingled by TCRTA, maximizing utilization of their vehicles.

Mr. Bowman provided an update on behalf of Visalia Transit. He shared that Visalia Transit is requesting permission from City Council to purchase vehicles and software to be used for microtransit. He went on to say that the launch of Visalia’s local microtransit service is planned

for the next few months and will include nearby areas such as Farmersville and Goshen. He promised to have more concrete details at the November 12th SSTAC meeting. He also anticipated that outreach to promote the new service will begin before the end of the year. He concluded by noting that there are still significant decisions to be made regarding service design and deployment, such as whether all three (3) transit agencies will share a single app that works across the whole county.

VI. Discussion: Transit Planning & Coordination

Mr. Bruno shared that the Cross Valley Corridor Phase 1 Operations Plan was wrapping up and a final Service & Operations Plan had been delivered by consultants. He added that grants were already being pursued to implement this project on an aggressive timeline, with high-frequency service between the City of Lindsay and the future Kings Tulare High Speed Rail station expected to begin before the end of the decade.

VII. Transit Provider Updates

a. Porterville Transit

No updates were received.

b. Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)

Mr. Hasan explained that TCRTA is facing some difficult headwinds but is striving to provide high-quality transit services to the traveling public. He stressed that people who rely on transit should make it a priority to inform their elected officials of the importance of transit.

c. Visalia Transit

Mr. Bowman informed the group that Visalia Transit had recently awarded a new operations contract to RATP-DEV, who are slated to take over operations beginning October 1. The transition to the new contractor is currently underway and is already proceeding smoothly. The new contractor will also be providing new rider assistance tools like updated apps, though these might take some time to be introduced. Chair Donabed offered to assist the new operators with sensitivity training and aiding riders with disabilities. Member Esquibel expressed his hope that the Dial-a-Ride reservation system and information technology used by Visalia Transit will be improved. Mr. Bowman confirmed that the city is working to improve in both areas.

VIII. Social Service Provider Updates

No updates were received.

IX. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am on August 29, 2024.