

Tulare County Association of Governments	Date: <b>Monday, March 15, 2021</b> Time: <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Place: Tulare County Board of Supervisors 2800 W. Burrel Avenue Visalia, CA 93291
Technical Advisory Committee	Date: <b>Thursday, March 11, 2021</b> Time: <b>1:30 PM</b> Place: Tulare County Association of Governments 210 N. Church Street, Suite B (Sequoia Conference Room) Visalia, CA 93291
<p>NOTE: This meeting will allow Board Members and the public to participate in the meeting via Teleconference, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), available at <a href="https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf">https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Zoom Meeting   Direct Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/2Zt4BQY">https://bit.ly/2Zt4BQY</a>  <b>Toll Free Call in:</b> 1(888) 475-4499   <b>Meeting ID:</b> 744 710 0343   <b>Passcode:</b> 82243742  <b>Call in only instructions:</b>  Enter your meeting ID followed by #, Enter # for participant ID, Enter the passcode followed by #.</p>	

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.

Any staff reports and supporting materials provided to the board after the distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the TCAG office.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC  
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item of interest to the public and within the subject matter jurisdiction of TCAG but not appearing on this agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak with a total of fifteen (15) minutes allotted for the Public Comment Period. Speakers are requested to state their name(s) and address(es) for the record.

***Convene as the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee***

***All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by TCAG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. Items pulled from the Calendar will be considered separately.***

#### **IV. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT CALENDAR – ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **Request Approval of the Transportation Consent Calendar Action Item IV-A.**

- A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Appointment of Two (2) Members to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) (Pages 1-10)
- B. Information: Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Roundtable Appointments (Pages 11-12)
- C. Information: Implementation Status of Federally Funded Projects (Pages 13-14)
- D. Information: Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Competitive Programs Update (Pages 15-16)
- E. Information: Update on Timing and Funding Implications of the Federal SAFE Vehicles Regulation (Pages 17-18)

#### **V. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Presentation: Transit Provider Updates (No Page)
- B. Information: 2020/2021 Unmet Transit Needs (Pages 19-22)
- C. Public Hearing: 2020/2021 Unmet Transit Needs (No Page)
- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve Formula for Sub-allocation of Large Urbanized Area (UZA) Federal Transit Funds (Pages 23-26)
- E. Information: Status of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocations and California Transportation Commission (CTC) Update (Pages 27-28)
- F. Information: Caltrans Monthly Report (No Page)

*Adjourn as the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee and Convene as the Tulare County Association of Governments*

#### **VI. REQUEST TO REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by TCAG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the TCAG Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. Items pulled from the Calendar will be considered separately. The TCAG/Transportation Authority Board may provide guidance and/or direction to staff on any item listed as information.

#### **VII. ASSOCIATION CONSENT CALENDAR –ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **Request Approval of the Association Consent Calendar Action Items VII-A through VII-C.**

- A. Action: Minutes of February 22, 2021 TCAG Board Meeting (Pages 29-34)
- B. Action: Minutes of February 18, 2021 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (Pages 35-38)
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of Amendment No. 9 to the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Overall Work Plan (OWP) (Pages 39-48)

#### **VIII. ASSOCIATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Information: Legislative Update (Pages 49-50)
- B. Presentation: Report from Congressman Nunes' Office (No Page)
- C. Presentation: Report from Assemblyman Mathis' Office (No Page)
- D. Presentation: Report from Senator Hurtado's Office (No Page)
- E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan (Pages 51-60)
- F. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Appointment of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) Alternate Member (Pages 61-62)
- G. Information: Member-At-Large and Alternate Member at Large for Position No. 3 (Pages 63-64)
- H. Information: Draft Overall Work Plan (OWP) for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 (Pages 65-70)

- I. Information: Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Audit Year Ending June 30, 2020 (Pages 71-72)
- J. Information: Regional Transit Coordination Update (Pages 73-74)
- K. Information: Míocar Early Results Report (Pages 75-76)

## **IX. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. California State Transportation agency Letter Regarding Equitable Distribution of Federal HR 133 Highway Funds. (Pages 77)

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Information: Items from Staff:
  - 1. TCAG Director's Report
  - 2. Other Items
- B. Information: Items from Board Members
  - 1. Tulare County Water Commission Update
  - 2. San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Update
  - 3. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) - Amtrak Update
  - 4. San Joaquin Valley Housing Task Force Update
  - 5. TCAG Transit Report
  - 6. Other Items
- C. Request from Board Members for Future Agenda Items

## **XI. ADJOURN**

The next scheduled Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Board meeting will be held on **Monday, April 19, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.** at the **Tulare County Board of Supervisors, 2800 W. Burrel Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291**. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet on **Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.** at the **Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), 210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Sequoia Conference Room, Visalia, CA 93291**.

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

<b>BOARD OF GOVERNORS</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>ALTERNATE</b>
Larry Micari	Tulare County-District 1	Paula Clark
Pete Vander Poel, III - Chair	Tulare County-District 2	William Cushing
Amy Shuklian	Tulare County-District 3	Bill Whitlatch
Eddie Valero	Tulare County-District 4	Derek Williams
Dennis Townsend	Tulare County-District 5	Terren Brown
Maribel Reynosa	City of Dinuba	Linda Launer
Frankie Alves	City of Exeter	Dave Hails
Paul Boyer	City of Farmersville	Ruben Macareno
Ramona Caudillo	City of Lindsay	Hipolito Cerros
Martha A. Flores – Vice-Chair	City of Porterville	Milt Stowe
Terry Sayre	City of Tulare	Jose Sigala
Phil Cox	City of Visalia	Brian Poochigian
Rudy Mendoza	City of Woodlake	Florencio Guerra Jr
Greg Gomez	Public Transit Provider*	<i>Vacant</i>
Tyrone Holscher	Member-at-Large*	Shea Gowin
Walter Stammer, Jr.	Member-at-Large*	Pamela K. Whitmire
<i>Vacant</i>	Member-at-Large*	<i>Vacant</i>
Diana Gomez	Caltrans*	Michael Navarro

\* Caltrans serves as an ex-officio member of the TCAG Policy Advisory Committee. At-large TCAG members and the Public Transit Provider representative are not members of the Tulare County Transportation Authority or Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority.

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**TCAG STAFF**

Ted Smalley, Executive Director  
Ben Kimball, Deputy Executive Director  
Ben Giuliani, Executive Officer- LAFCO  
Leslie Davis, Finance Director  
Elizabeth Forte, Principal Regional Planner  
Roberto Brady, Principal Regional Planner  
Derek Winning, Senior Regional Planner  
Gabriel Gutierrez, Senior Regional Planner  
Kasia Poleszczuk, Associate Regional Planner  
Steven Ingoldsby, Associate Regional Planner  
Giancarlo Bruno, Regional Planner  
Sheela Bhongir, Regional Planner  
Gail Miller, Associate Regional Planner-EH  
Barbara Pilegard, Associate Regional Planner-EH  
Maria Garza, Associate Regional Planner-EH  
Michele Boling, TCAG Accountant III  
Brideget Moore, TCAG Staff Services Analyst III  
Amie Kane, TCAG Administrative Clerk II  
Servando Quintanilla, TCAG Administrative Clerk  
Holly Gallo, Office Assistant III

**Office Address**

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# Tulare County Association of Governments

## **AGENDA ITEM IV-A**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Giancarlo Bruno, TCAG Staff**

### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Adoption of Resolution: Appointment of Two (2) Members to Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires each local transportation planning agency (TPA) to provide for the establishment of a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). The SSTAC is responsible for advising the TPA on transit-related issues, particularly those concerning specialized transportation services, and for making recommendations on which comments received during the annual 'Unmet Transit Needs' process constitute unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. These recommendations provide the basis for the formal Unmet Transit Needs Finding adopted by the TCAG board for submittal to Caltrans.

Membership is comprised of 10 members representing local transit operators, social services providers and potential transit users from certain transit reliant populations. Terms are staggered, with three (3) members' terms due to expire on June 30, 2021.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Presently there are three (3) SSTAC members whose terms are expiring on June 30, 2021. An additional (1) seat is currently vacant due to a resignation. The vacant seat is designated for a representative of a local social services provider to people with disabilities.

An application for appointment to the SSTAC as a representative of a local social service provider to people with disabilities has been received from Michael Esquibel, an outreach specialist with Resources for Independence Central Valley.

Member Mark Michaelian of ABLE Industries, also a representative of a local social service provider to people with disabilities, has applied to serve another term.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Mark Michaelian to serve on the SSTAC for a three (3) year term concluding on June 30, 2024. Approve Michael Esquibel to serve the unexpired portion of a term concluding on June 30, 2023.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to TCAG. The SSTAC is required under state law.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution: Appointments to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
2. SSTAC Application from Michael Esquibel
3. SSTAC Application from Mark Michaelian
4. Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Member Categories

BEFORE THE  
TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of:

APPOINTMENT TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES )  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL )  
FOR TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA )

Resolution No. 2021-XXX

WHEREAS, the Tulare County Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was established in accordance with Article 3, Section 99238 of the California Public Utilities Code (PUC) which outlines the composition, duties, responsibilities, and terms of service of the SSTAC; and

WHEREAS, Section 99238 further stipulates that members of the SSTAC shall be appointed by the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), including filling vacancies on the council as they occur; and

WHEREAS, the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) is the RTPA for the County of Tulare; and

WHEREAS, the terms of SSTAC member Mark Michaelian expires on June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, member Michaelian has applied to serve another term on the council; and

WHEREAS, an additional vacancy on the SSTAC has been created by the departure of a representative of a local social service provider to people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Michael Esquibel has been nominated to serve on the SSTAC as a representative of a local social service provider to people with disabilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the TCAG Board hereby approves and appoints Michael Esquibel to serve on the Tulare County Social Services Transportation Advisory Council as a representative of a local social service provider to seniors for the unexpired portion of a term concluding on June 30, 2023, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 99238 of the Public Utilities Code.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby reappoints Mark Michaelian, Representative of a Social Service Provider to People with Disabilities, to a term concluding June 30, 2024.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted upon the motion of Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_, at a regular meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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Pete Vander Poel, III  
Chair, TCAG

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Ted Smalley  
Executive Director, TCAG





Tulare County Association of Governments

## SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC) APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT

If you are interested in serving on the Tulare County Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), please complete this questionnaire, including any comments or additional information in the section provided at the end, and return it to the address listed. Applications may be submitted by email or by submitting a hard copy. Applications are due **March 5, 2021** by 5:00 pm.

Membership on the SSTAC requires appointment by the Tulare County Association of Governments Board of Directors; therefore, it is necessary to present the Board with relevant information concerning each nominee.

NAME: Michael Esquibel

ADDRESS: 5842 W. Hillsdale Ave

TELEPHONE: Primary (559) 723-8546 Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS mesquibel.dat@gmail.com Years living in area 20 yrs

### CURRENT AND/OR PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE:

Office Assistant/Outreach Specialist Intern 9/1/20  
Office Assist Internship 1/2019 - 8/2019  
Visalia Transit Com. 10 yrs.  
Janitorial Assistant Able Industries 1-2004 - 1-2013

### RELEVANT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE (Organization, Tasks, Dates):

Peer Counseling/Volunteer PEP

### PLEASE BRIEFLY STATE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE SSTAC:

I have been associated with  
RF CV for many years. Five months  
ago I was hired for the position of  
Independent Living Specialist for  
Tulare Co. I want to share my advocacy for  
the disabled.

VACANT CATEGORY LISTING:

The following positions are currently available. Please check which you are applying for:

☒ Representative of a Local Social Service Provider- Social service transportation provider for seniors preferred, if possible

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the above information is true and correct and I authorize the verification of the information in the application in the event I am a finalist for the appointment.

Michael Yarnall  
Signature

2-17-21  
Date

Appointments will be considered at a TCAG Board of Directors meeting. Any information you submit will become a matter of public record. Applications may be submitted electronically by email or by delivery to the TCAG office.

Contact: Giancarlo Bruno  
Email: GBruno@tularecag.ca.gov  
Phone: (559) 623-0470

Tulare County Association of Governments  
210 N. Church St., Suite B  
Visalia, CA 93291



**SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(SSTAC) APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT**

If you are interested in serving on the Tulare County Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), please complete this questionnaire, including any comments or additional information in the section provided at the end, and return it to the address listed. Applications may be submitted by email or by submitting a hard copy. Applications are due **March 5, 2021** by 5:00 pm.

Membership on the SSTAC requires appointment by the Tulare County Association of Governments Board of Directors; therefore, it is necessary to present the Board with relevant information concerning each nominee.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Primary \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Years living in area \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT AND/OR PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE:

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RELEVANT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE (Organization, Tasks, Dates):

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PLEASE BRIEFLY STATE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE  
SSTAC:

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VACANT CATEGORY LISTING:

The following positions are currently available. Please check which you are applying for:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Representative of a Local Social Service Provider- Social service transportation provider for seniors preferred, if possible (*1 vacancy, 1 expiring term up for renewal*)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Representative of a Local Social Service Provider- Social service transportation provider for people with disabilities (*1 expiring term up for renewal*)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Financial Means (*1 expiring term up for renewal*)

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the above information is true and correct, and I authorize the verification of the information in the application in the event I am a finalist for the appointment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Appointments will be considered at a TCAG Board of Directors meeting. Any information you submit will become a matter of public record. Applications may be submitted electronically by email or by delivery to the TCAG office.

Contact: Giancarlo Bruno  
Email: [GBruno@tularecag.ca.gov](mailto:GBruno@tularecag.ca.gov)  
Phone: (559) 623-0470

Tulare County Association of Governments  
210 N. Church St., Suite  
B Visalia, CA 93291

**SOCIAL SERVICES  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**

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**Member Categories**  
***March 2021***

1. One representative of potential transit users who are 60 years of age or older.  
Dan Fox (term ends 6/22)
2. One representative of potential transit users that are disabled.  
Rebecca Donabed (term ends 6/23)
3. **Two representatives of local social service transit providers for seniors/social service transportation providers.**  
VACANCY (term ending 6/23)  
John Mauro, Deputy Director, HHSA: Adult Services (term ends 6/22)
4. **Two representatives of local social service transit providers for the disabled/social service transportation providers.**  
**Mark Michaelian, Able Industries (term ends 6/21)**  
Norma Verduzco, Family Health Care Network (term ends 6/21)
5. One representative of a local social service provider for persons of limited means.  
Albert Cendejas, Community Services Employment Training (CSET) (term ends 6/21)
6. Two representatives from local transit providers.  
Teresa Ortega, County of Tulare (term ends 06/23)  
Angelina Soper, City of Visalia (term ends 06/22)
7. One representative of potential transit users from local youth.  
Carlos Garza (term ends 6/22)

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## AGENDA ITEM IV-B

March 15, 2021

Prepared by Ben Kimball, TCAG Staff

### SUBJECT:

**Information:** Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Roundtable Appointments

### BACKGROUND:

Every 4 years TCAG updates their Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as required by State and Federal regulations. The RTP is the highest level and most comprehensive planning document prepared by TCAG. The RTP update process has always represented a major work effort.

As part of TCAG's strategy for stakeholder participation in development of the 2022 RTP, a Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the SCS was adopted at the January TCAG Board meeting. One of the provisions of the SCS PPP for stakeholder outreach is the establishment of an RTP Roundtable committee.

The purpose of the RTP Roundtable is to support TCAG in development and preparation of the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. It is vital to the success of the process that the RTP Roundtable help to generate consensus about the RTP to be based on the input of an informed and active local constituency. While the RTP Roundtable will provide comments and input on issues related to development of the 2022 RTP/SCS, the final decisions on the RTP will be the responsibility of the TCAG Board of Governors.

TCAG developed guidelines for 2022 RTP Roundtable. These Guidelines will serve to guide the development of the 2022 RTP update and adoption. They state that applications for positions on the RTP Roundtable are subject to approval by the Board. The Guidelines do not provide for a term of appointment since upon the adoption of the 2022 RTP Update the RTP Roundtable will dissolve in its current form, as it has done in the past.

### DISCUSSION:

There are no new appointments for your consideration (as of the publishing of this agenda item). We still have several vacancies. Those future appointments will be placed on the consent agenda for consideration. Current members are listed in the table shown.

Positions	Name
County of Tulare	Aaron Bock
Dinuba	Crystal Flores
Exeter	Lisa Wallis-Dutra
Farmersville	Lisa Wallis-Dutra

Lindsay	Michael Camarena
Porterville	Jason Ridenour
Tulare	Mike Miller
Visalia	Nick Mascia
Woodlake	Rebecca Griswald
LAFCo	Julie Allen
Public Transportation	Richard Tree, Dan Fox
Agriculture	Vacant
Environmental Advocate	Adam Livingston (Sequoia Riverland Trust)
Bicycle/Pedestrian advocate	Mark Wall (Southern Sierra Cyclist)
Health Advocate	Vacant
Goods Movement	Vacant
Disabled Access/ADA	Vacant
SJV Air District	Vacant
Caltrans, District 6	David Deel
Tribal Governments	Vacant
Building/Development	Mike Lane
Environmental Justice Community	Bianca Escobedo
Banking, finance or real estate	Vacant
Affordable Housing Advocate	Betsy McGovern-Garcia
Broad-based business or economic development organizations	Vacant
At-Large 1	Vacant
At-Large 2	Vacant

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No action needed

**ALTERNATIVES:**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Administration of the RTP Roundtable will be charged to the Regional Transportation Plan budget, Work Element 602.01 for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. These types of costs were anticipated and should not, in themselves, necessitate a budget adjustment.

**ATTACHMENT:**

None



## AGENDA ITEM IV-C

March 15, 2021

Prepared by Gabriel Gutierrez and Elizabeth Forte, TCAG Staff

### SUBJECT:

**Information:** Implementation Status of Federally Funded Projects

### BACKGROUND:

The **Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP)**, formerly known as STP, is a major source of funds that may be used by local agencies for projects to preserve and improve the transportation system consistent with regional priorities. The funds may be utilized on any Federal-aid highway, including the National Highway System (NHS), bridge projects on any public road, transit capital projects, and intracity and intercity bus terminals and facilities. In Tulare County, these funds have been primarily used for street and highway construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing, and operational improvements. Local agencies navigate a sometimes-complicated federal aid funding process to request and spend these funds in a timely manner. However, through our partnership with Caltrans, TCAG has helped local agencies with the timely and efficient delivery of their projects.

The **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program** has been a longstanding source of funding for TCAG's member agencies. Tulare County agencies qualify for funding due to the region being in a non-attainment area for meeting federal air quality standards for Particulate Matter (PM) and Ozone. The program exists under federal law and is implemented via guidance issued by the Federal Highway Administration and carried out by Caltrans. TCAG received estimates for the receipt of approximately \$6.1 million per year for the next four-year cycle. Project examples include roundabouts, signal coordination, compressed natural gas and electric facilities and vehicles, transit route expansion and bus purchases, etc.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funds** are another invaluable resource to agencies in Tulare County. There are several funding sources under FTA that provide both operating and capital funds for urban and rural transit providers. Some funding is also provided to non-profit human services agencies in Tulare County as well.

### DISCUSSION:

#### STBGP

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Tulare County region, TCAG is responsible for soliciting projects from eligible agencies for programming in the FTIP and ensuring that the funds are being utilized appropriately and are obligated in a timely manner. Beginning in federal fiscal year (FFY) 22/23, TCAG will begin distributing federal STBGP funds on a competitive basis. The first call for projects is scheduled for spring of 2021. Selected projects will be programmed in the 2021 FTIP. STBGP funds in FFY 20/21 remain committed to the two projects described in the table below. Staff is working with Caltrans to identify a project to program the FFY 21/22 funds.

FFY	Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Amount of STBGP Funds
20/21	Visalia	Tulare Avenue Rehabilitation	In City of Visalia, on Tulare Avenue from Demaree Avenue to Cotta Street; rehabilitate roadway	\$1,834,000 Construction
	County of Tulare	Avenue 152 Rehabilitation Project	Near community of Tipton, on Avenue 152 between the road alignment of Road 136 and Road 168; rehabilitate roadway	\$1,775,000 Construction

### CMAQ

Two roundabout projects are scheduled for obligation this year and are currently on schedule for submittal by April 1, 2021:

City of Dinuba: **Roundabout at Alta and Nebraska**

- CMAQ: \$1,015,000 Match: \$635,000

City of Woodlake: **Roundabout at Sierra and Castle Rock**

- CMAQ: \$1,970,000 Match: \$518,000

### **ATTACHMENT:**

None

## AGENDA ITEM IV-D

March 15, 2021

Prepared by Gabriel Gutierrez, TCAG Staff

### SUBJECT:

**Information:** Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Competitive Programs Update

### BACKGROUND:

On April 28, 2017, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 1 (SB1) (Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017), which is also known as the Road Repair and Accountability Act (RMRA) of 2017. This Act provides the first significant, stable, and ongoing increase in state transportation funding in more than two decades. In providing this funding, the Legislature has provided additional funding for transportation infrastructure, increased the role of the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in a number of existing programs, and created new transportation funding programs for the CTC to oversee.

The purpose and intention of the Act is to address basic road maintenance, rehabilitation, and critical safety needs on both the state highway and local streets and road systems as well as provide transit assistance. SB1 affected eight different transportation funding programs including the Local Partnership Program (LPP), Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP), and Active Transportation Program (ATP).

### DISCUSSION:

TCAG staff participated in the discussions leading up to the adoption of the 2020 Local Partnership Program, 2020 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and 2021 Active Transportation Program Guidelines. Draft guidelines for each of the programs were presented to the California Transportation Program (CTC) on January 29, 2020. The final guidelines were adopted by the CTC on March 25, 2020. Information regarding funding caps, programming cycles, grant submittal deadlines, and other pertinent issues are shown in the table below:

Funding Program	Minimum and Maximum Funding Request	Programming Cycle	Other Information
Local Partnership Program (Competitive)	Minimum: \$2,000,000 Maximum: \$25,000,000	2020/21 2021/22 2022/23	The LPP Competitive Program grant application for the Commercial Avenue Interchange Project was submitted on June 30, 2020. The grant application requested \$25m in LPP competitive grant funds. On November 12, 2020, it was announced that TCAG was awarded \$9 million in LPP funds.
Trade Corridor Enhancement Program	The TCEP utilizes a corridor-based programming target approach. Last cycle, the Bay Area/Central Valley regional corridor, which Tulare County is part of, had a \$217 million target (27% of overall funding available). Different programming target proposals are currently under consideration.	2020/21 2021/22 2022/23	A TCEP grant application for right-of-way funding for the Tulare City Widening Project was submitted in August 2020. The grant application requested \$18.6 million for right of way costs. Unfortunately, this project was not selected for funding under this cycle of the TCEP program.

Active Transportation Program	There are no minimum or maximum funding limitations for the Active Transportation Program. The program is divided into three funding components – the Statewide, Small Urban and Rural, and MPO Components. TCAG agencies are eligible to compete for ATP funding under the Statewide and MPO Components.	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25	Agencies from the Tulare County region submitted a total of 18 projects for funding consideration. The total ATP funding request was \$66.3 million for projects totaling \$75.7 million. Funding recommendations were released on February 8, 2021. Two projects from the Tulare County region were recommended for funding. They are the Butterfield Stage Corridor (Henderson Ave. to Dale Ave.) awarded \$4 million and the Butterfield Stage Corridor (W. North Grand Ave. to College Ave.) awarded \$7.1 million.
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### *Federal BUILD Grant*

As announced in September 2020, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded TCAG \$16 million in BUILD grant funds for the State Route 99 and Commercial Avenue Interchange Project.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Information item only. No action needed at this time.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

None

## Tulare County Association of Governments

### **AGENDA ITEM IV-E**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Roberto Brady, TCAG Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Information:** Update on Timing and Funding Implications of the Federal SAFE Vehicles Regulation

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In August 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule. On September 27, 2019 NHTSA published a portion of the SAFE Vehicles Rule in the Federal Register as “Part One.” Part One is highly significant in that it included the withdrawal of California’s preemption waiver. That is, California’s ability to adopt vehicle emissions standards stricter than federal regulations applicable nationwide.

Part Two of the SAFE Vehicles Rule followed, being published on April 30, 2020. It became effective on June 29, 2020. Essentially, Part Two requires both Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and CO2 standards to increase in stringency by 1.5% per year for Model Years (MY) 2021-2026 from 2020 levels. This replaces the previous rule that required a 5% annual increase in stringency over the same period.

Because California’s current mobile source emissions model, EMFAC, did not account for the greater emissions possible under the SAFE Vehicles Rule, it could not be used to demonstrate regional or project-level conformity with the Clean Air Act until updated.

California, along with at least 23 other states, filed lawsuits challenging aspects of both parts of the SAFE Vehicle Rule. The lawsuits have not requested temporary injunctive relief. This means the rule remains in effect during litigation.

A more extensive summary of SAFE Vehicles Rule impacts is available on the California Association of Council of Governments (CalCOG) website (<https://calcog.org/safe-rule/>).

On November 20, 2019, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) published off-model adjustment factors for EMFAC output intended to replicate the effects of the implementation of SAFE Vehicles Rule. This was proposed to make conformity determinations for non-exempt plans and projects possible until the emissions model itself could be updated. EPA indicated their concurrence with the off-model adjustment factors in a letter dated March 12, 2020. More recently, they indicated verbally, concurrence that the off-model adjustments also addressed the effects of Part 2. As long as this concurrence holds, federal agencies can approve conformity determinations in California and implications to transportation funding can be avoided. As of the publishing of this agenda item, no significant changes have occurred affecting SAFE Vehicle Rule implementation by California MPOs. Staff will report subsequent changes, if any, at the meeting. The federal concurrence applies to adjustment factors for both EMFAC 2014 and EMFAC 2017. California MPOs, including TCAG, are transitioning to EMFAC 2017 as the model required for developing conformity demonstrations.

The more central issue becomes the characteristics of EMFAC 2017 itself. Five of the eight Valley MPOs have been unable to meet regional conformity with EMFAC 2017. While TCAG does appear to still meet conformity using the newer model, it can still be affected if other regions in the same air basin do not meet conformity. Valley MPO staff and our consultants are working with ARB to develop possible solutions. A new version of EMFAC (2021 v1.0.0) was released on January 15, 2021. It may be possible to shift straight to that model and bypass EMFAC 2017 if the new model shows better results. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the largest MPO in the nation, is also having issues with EMFAC 2017. This means the matter should continue to receive high priority from ARB and other state agencies.

In late August, ARB released a new version of EMFAC 2017 (v. 1.0.3) and a new web platform. The issues addressed in this update may be of importance to MPOs as they include input of custom speed profiles over multiple years. This is relevant to regional conformity modeling. Testing of TCAG's current regional transportation scenarios shows minimal change due to the update and does not affect our ability to demonstrate conformity.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The change in the White House resulting from the November elections signals a drastic change in federal environmental priorities. The new administration is expected to make the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions a top priority. The SAFE Vehicles Rule will certainly be targeted for replacement. However, just as it took years to replace certain Obama-era regulations through formal rulemaking, the same may be true of replacing the most recently established regulations.

With regard to emissions modeling, at a recent meeting between valley MPO staff and consultants, ARB and US EPA, there was consensus that MPOs could continue to use the current version of EMFAC (2014) for upcoming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) updates if actual modeling for the RTPs begin by the sunset date of that model in August of 2021. This appears to be a viable option for TCAG. It fits within our current RTP update schedule. It appears that the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) continues to have trouble demonstrating conformity using EMFAC 2017. Since SCAG is the largest MPO in California (and the nation), this issue is likely to remain at the forefront for ARB, EPA and other involved agencies.

Staff will continue to carefully monitor and report on developments that affect transportation planning and infrastructure funding. These will include known issues such as the SAFE Vehicles Regulation and emissions modeling discussed above as well as potential new issues arising from shifting legislative and regulatory priorities at various governmental levels.

## **ATTACHMENT(S):**

None

## **AGENDA ITEM V-B**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Giancarlo Bruno, TCAG Staff**

### **SUBJECT:**

**Information:** 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) of 1971 is the primary state law governing public transportation in California. The TDA requires that the local Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) identify the unmet transit needs within its jurisdiction and determine which of those needs are reasonable to meet. TCAG is the designated TPA for Tulare County.

The TPA must conduct at least one public hearing as part of this outreach process. The TPA is also required under the statute to adopt a resolution establishing one of the following findings for each request received: 1) item is not an unmet transit need; 2) item is an unmet need that is not reasonable to meet; or 3) item is an unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet. The TCAG Board has adopted definitions of an unmet need that is reasonable to meet. This definition is considered by the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), which reviews each comment submitted and makes a recommendation of findings to the TCAG Board for adoption.

### **DISCUSSION:**

TCAG has implemented extensive outreach for the 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs process, building on and refining the efforts of recent years. Outreach methods include:

1. Designing and distributing comment cards, posters, and on-board bus advertisements in English and Spanish countywide. Information is also included in Tagalog.
2. Direct mailings to an extensive list of agencies, including social service agencies, the Tule River Tribe, civic organizations, community centers, clinics, libraries, and even local supermarkets to provide comment cards that residents can easily fill out and send to TCAG postage-free. Flyers including QR codes linking to an online submission form have also been distributed.
3. Working with Tulare County Public Health to post information in high traffic public buildings, and to increase awareness at local social service offices.
4. Posting official notices in local newspapers, in English and Spanish. Two public meetings will be held, attendees can participate in either by phone or Zoom conference call.
5. Advertising campaign on Facebook and Instagram.
6. Distributing an online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RXQ5THS>).
7. Accepting comments via a dedicated email address:  
[TCAGInfo@tularecag.ca.gov](mailto:TCAGInfo@tularecag.ca.gov)

Two public hearings are being conducted for this process on March 15, 2021, the first being at 1:00 p.m. during the regularly scheduled TCAG Board meeting and on Zoom, and the latter at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom only. Spanish translation will be provided at both hearings.

The final day to submit comments for consideration this year is March 31, 2021. Once all comments have been received, TCAG staff will review comments and distribute them to the respective transit agencies for responses.

In May, staff will provide all comments, along with transit agency responses, to the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) for their consideration. The SSTAC will make recommendations for each comment received. The SSTAC recommendations will be brought to the Board for action in June. The adopted findings must then be transmitted to Caltrans. Identified unmet transit needs that are found reasonable to meet are required to be implemented before any allocation is made for streets and roads using TDA funds in 2021/22.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Tulare County Unmet Transit Needs Definition and Criteria adopted August 2020.



## 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 hearing 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 all of the following criteria, as each are applicable:

### Equity

1. The proposed service will not require reductions in existing transit services that have an equal or higher priority.

### 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.
2. 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 will 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 be safe to operate and there must be adequate roadways and turnouts for transit vehicles. 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 hearing record, inclusion in adopted programs and plans, adopted governing board positions and/or other existing information.

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 similar targeted passenger fare ratio of 10% exists for special services (i.e. elderly and disabled, demand-response) and rural area services. 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 services 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.

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### END OF TWELVE MONTHS OF SERVICE

#### *Performance Level*

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

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### END OF TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS

#### *Performance Level*

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

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### 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

## **AGENDA ITEM V-D**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Elizabeth Forte, TCAG Staff**

### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Adoption of Resolution: Approve Formula for Sub-allocation of Large Urbanized Area (UZA) Federal Transit Funds

### **BACKGROUND:**

TCAG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tulare County region. There are many responsibilities as an MPO, the most fundamental being the development of the Regional Transportation Plan, programming of all federal transportation funds, and transportation modeling and air quality conformity analysis.

TCAG is also the Designated Recipient of federal transit funds apportioned to the Large Urbanized Area (UZA) in our region. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Caltrans manage funding apportionments for the Small Urban and rural areas. Transit funds are apportioned at the federal level to urbanized areas (and states, for rural populations). It is TCAG's responsibility to approve the sub-allocation of urbanized areas funds apportioned to a UZA to the agencies within the UZA.

Currently, there is a formula used that splits the Large UZA apportionment into two: an apportionment for the City of Visalia and one for the City of Tulare. After the apportionment, Visalia works with the County, Farmersville, and Exeter to credit them a share of the apportionment since they are included in the urbanized area.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Per federal guidance, the Designated Recipient should make funding decisions that sub-allocate federally-allocated transit funds based on the needs of the agencies and the region. Agency needs and funding decisions could vary year to year. Staff recommends adopting a formula for sub-allocation of funds. A formula, if adopted, would remain in place until the Board desired to amend the distribution.

Federal Transit Administration funds are allocated to urbanized areas in the country based on the following formula:

- 50% Bus Revenue Vehicle Miles

- 25% Population

- 25% Population Density (persons per square mile)

The current formula used to split the Visalia UZA funds into two is:

- 20% Bus Revenue Vehicle Miles

- 40% Population

- 40% Ridership

In fiscal year 2019/2020, the Large UZA's federal apportionment of \$6,857,195 was split between Visalia and Tulare by formula: \$5,200,490 and \$1,656,705, respectively.

Per transfer agreements between Visalia and each of the other agencies in the UZA (Exeter, Farmersville, and the County), a federal credit was issued to each: \$52,765 (Exeter), \$87,010 (Farmersville), \$126,597 (County).

These funding divisions are not necessarily "apples to apples." The larger UZA split is based off a posted federal apportionment and the transfer agreements are based on actual operating costs for that year's service. Implementing the formula proposed with this staff report for all agencies at the time of the initial apportionment will make the division of funds amongst each agency more clear.

Considering the formula factors, population density would be difficult to calculate annually, and other relevant data for calculating the funding allocation is more readily available. Regarding using ridership as a factor in a funding allocation, it is not part of the federal funding allocation and is not a reflection of the cost of running transit – miles are generally used as the proxy for cost. Ridership is considered a measure of performance, but it is also important to consider the characteristic differences and transit needs of residents within cities versus spread throughout the county. Staff recommends the following for the formula for sub-allocating funds:

40% Bus Revenue Vehicle Miles

40% Population

20% Ridership

This formula, if approved, would be used to sub-allocate funds among all agencies in the Large UZA, starting this fiscal year, 2020/2021.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a formula for the sub-allocation of federal transit funds under the purview of the Designated Recipient, using factors of 40% Bus Revenue Vehicle Miles, 40% Population, and 20% Ridership.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to TCAG. This formula would adjust the sub-allocation of federal Large Urbanized Area funds within the Visalia UZA.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

1. Resolution approving formula for sub-allocation of Large UZA federal transit funds.

BEFORE THE  
TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of:

APPROVE FORMULA FOR SUB-	)	
ALLOCATION OF LARGE URBANIZED	)	
AREA (UZA) FEDERAL TRANSIT FUNDS	)	Resolution No. 2021-XXX

WHEREAS, the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) is the Designated Recipient of Federal Transit administration Urbanized Area Program Formula Funds for the Visalia Urbanized Area (UZA); and

WHEREAS, the Designated Recipient receives and/or sub-allocates Urbanized Area Program Formula Funds; and

WHEREAS, the formula used to sub-allocate Urbanized Area Program Formula funds in the Visalia UZA has been reviewed and an update is necessary for transparency and to reflect current regional needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 and future years until this resolution is superseded, the sub-allocation for Urbanized Area Program Formula Funds IS by formula as follows:

40% Bus Revenue Vehicle Miles  
40% Population  
20% Ridership.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted upon the motion of Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_, at a regular meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Vander Poel, III  
Chair, TCAG

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Smalley

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## AGENDA ITEM V-E

March 15, 2021

Prepared by Benjamin Giuliani, TCAG Staff

### SUBJECT:

**Information:** Status of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocations and California Transportation Commission (CTC) Update

### BACKGROUND:

The CTC is responsible for the programming and allocating of funds for the construction of highway, passenger rail and transit improvements throughout California. The CTC met via webinar/teleconference on January 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. The next CTC meeting will also be held via webinar/teleconference on March 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. The STIP is a biennial document, which covers five years of programming for transportation projects in California. The STIP is comprised of Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIPs) from each of the counties in California and the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) that is developed by Caltrans. The RTIPs account for 75% and the ITIP accounts for 25% of the total STIP funding.

### DISCUSSION:

#### March CTC Meeting

The March CTC agenda was not published at the time of the printing of the TCAG agenda. An update will be given at the TCAG meeting.

#### January CTC Meeting

There were two delegated Caltrans allocations:

\$3.75 million for SR-190 from 1 mile east of Camp Nelson Rd to .5 mile west of Quaking Aspen campground, removal of fire damaged trees and brush, repair culverts, clean drainage systems, apply erosion control measures and repair fire damaged pavement.

\$1.839 million for SR-63 and SR-137 installing rumble strips at various locations.

#### December CTC Meeting

##### *Local Partnership Program (LPP):*

Programming of \$9 million of competitive LPP funding for the construction of the SR-99/Commercial Interchange.

##### *Active Transportation Program (ATP):*

Allocation of \$1 million for the construction of the Greenway Belt Trail connection on the east side of Visalia, north of SR-198.

#### 2020 RTIP/STIP

The CTC adopted the 2020 STIP at the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. TCAG's RTIP was included as proposed.

## 2020 RTIP/STIP

Project	Agency	Phase	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25
SR-65 Realignment and operational improvements	Caltrans	PS&E				\$1.5m	
SR-99/Caldwell Interchange	Caltrans	R/W Con			\$4.6m	\$7.0m	
SR-99/Commercial Interchange	Caltrans	R/W Con	\$5.5m	\$7.4 m <sup>1</sup>			
SR-99 Widening (Tagus-Prosperity)	Caltrans	Con	\$69.491 m <sup>2</sup>				
SR-99 Widening (City of Tulare)	Caltrans	E&P PS&E	\$4.15m <sup>3</sup>		\$6.37 m <sup>4</sup>		

<sup>1</sup>Additionally, \$29.4 million from Measure R and \$16 million from BUILD

<sup>2</sup>\$62.327 million from Caltrans' Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP), \$7.164m from RTIP

<sup>3</sup>\$2.0 million from ITIP, \$2.15 million from RTIP

<sup>4</sup>\$4.3 million from ITIP and \$2.07 million from Prop 1b savings

PS&E = Plans, Specifications & Estimate, R/W = Right of Way, E&P = Environmental Studies and Permits

## ATTACHMENTS:

None



**AGENDA ITEM VII-A**  
**TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
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**Executive Minutes February 22, 2021**

Board Members	Alternates	Present Member/Alternate	Agency
Larry Micari	Paula Clark	<b>M</b>	Tulare County-Dist. 1
Pete Vander Poel (Chair)	William Cushing	<b>M</b>	Tulare County-Dist. 2
Amy Shuklian	Bill Whitchlatch	<b>M</b>	Tulare County-Dist. 3
Eddie Valero	Derek Williams	<b>M</b>	Tulare County-Dist. 4
Dennis Townsend	Terren Brown	<b>M</b>	Tulare County-Dist. 5
Maribel Reynosa	Linda Launer	<b>M/A</b>	City of Dinuba
Frankie Alves	Dave Hails	<b>M</b>	City of Exeter
Paul Boyer	Ruben Macareno	<b>M</b>	City of Farmersville
Ramona Caudillo	Hipolito Cerros	<b>M</b>	City of Lindsay
Martha A. Flores (Vice-Chair)	Milt Stowe	<b>M</b>	City of Porterville
Terry Sayre	Jose Sigala	<b>A</b>	City of Tulare
Phil Cox	Brian Poochigian	<b>M</b>	City of Visalia
Rudy Mendoza	Florencio Guerra Jr.	<b>M</b>	City of Woodlake
Greg Gomez	<i>Vacant</i>	<b>M</b>	Rep. from Public Transit
Tyrone Holscher	Shea Gowin	<b>M</b>	Member-At-Large*
Walter Stammer Jr.	Pamela Whitmire	<b>A</b>	Member-At-Large*
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<b>-</b>	Member-At-Large*
Diana Gomez	Michael Navarro	<b>A</b>	Caltrans*

\* Caltrans serves as an ex-officio member of the TCAG Policy Advisory Committee. At-large TCAG members and the Public Transit Provider representative are not members of the Tulare County Transportation Authority or Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority.

**Counsel and TCAG Staff Present (X)**

<u>  </u> X	Jeff Kuhn, Tulare County Deputy Counsel	<u>  </u> X	Steven Ingoldsby, Associate Regional Planner
<u>  </u> X	Ted Smalley, Executive Director	<u>  </u> X	Giancarlo Bruno, Regional Planner
<u>  </u> X	Benjamin Kimball, Deputy Executive Director	<u>  </u> X	Sheela Bhongir, Regional Planner
<u>  </u> X	Benjamin Giuliani, Executive Officer-LAFCO	<u>  </u> X	Gail Miller, Associate Regional Planner/EH
<u>  </u> X	Leslie Davis, Finance Director	<u>  </u> X	Barbara Pilegard, Associate Regional Planner/EH
<u>  </u> X	Elizabeth Forte, Principal Regional Planner	<u>  </u> X	Maria Garza, Associate Regional Planner/EH
<u>  </u> X	Roberto Brady, Principal Regional Planner	<u>  </u> X	Michele Boling, TCAG Accountant III
<u>  </u> X	Derek Winning, Senior Regional Planner	<u>  </u> X	Brideget Moore, TCAG Analyst III
<u>  </u> X	Gabriel Gutierrez, Senior Regional Planner	<u>  </u> X	Amie Kane, Administrative Clerk II
<u>  </u> X	Kasia Thompson, Associate Regional Planner	<u>  </u> X	Servando Quintanilla, Administrative Clerk
<u>  </u> X		<u>  </u> X	Holly Gallo, Office Assistant III

**I. WELCOME**

The Tulare County Association of Governments Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Vander Poel at 1:00 p.m. on February 22, 2021 at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, 2800 W. Burrell Avenue, Visalia, CA, 93291.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Supervisor Valero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments opened/closed at 1:04 p.m. No public comments received.

***Convene as the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee***

**IV. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT CALENDAR – ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

## **Request Approval of the Transportation Consent Calendar Action Item IV-D**

- A. Information: Approve Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Roundtable Appointments**
- B. Information: Status of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocations and California Transportation Commission (CTC) Update**
- C. Information: Implementation Status of Federally Funded Projects**
- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: 2021 California Safety Performance Management 1 (PM1) Target Setting**

Upon a Motion by Member Shuklian, and seconded by Member Flores, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Transportation Consent Calendar Action Item IV-D. Absent: None.

## **V. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Action: Approve Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects**

Ms. Forte provided a background on the CMAQ program and grant application process. Ms. Forte explained that a call for projects had been released in November of 2020 and all applications were due in January 2021. Since that time TCAG staff had reviewed the applications and created a project list that was recommended for current programming. Ms. Forte highlighted the project list and noted two projects, the Porterville Butterfield Stage Corridor Bike Path and the Visalia Akers Signal Coordination at SR-198 that would be funded with alternative funds. Ms. Forte explained that the Porterville purchase of 3 electric refuse trucks would be recommended for a standby list due to the federal Buy America regulations and that staff would need to wait to see if waivers would be approved.

Upon a Motion by Member Flores, and seconded by Member Cox, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved the CMAQ Projects as presented. Absent: None.

### **B. Information: process for Division of Large Urbanized Area (UZA) Federal Transit Funds**

Ms. Forte explained that there is one large UZA in our region, called the Visalia UZA however, this area also encompasses areas in Farmersville, Exeter, Tulare, and unincorporated residents such as Ivanhoe and Goshen. Ms. Forte stated that it is TCAG's responsibility to approve the division of urbanized area funds apportioned to a UZA to the agencies within those boundaries and the formula should be corrected. Ms. Forte reported that these corrections would be outlined and presented at a future meeting for formal adoption.

### **C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the Final 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis**

Mr. Gutierrez presented the 2021 FTIP and explained that these federal projects are reviewed and approved by the FHWA and the FTA. Mr. Gutierrez stated that the FTIP is subject to federal air quality conformity rules established by the EPA. Mr. Gutierrez announced that the TCAG Board held a public hearing for the FTIP and Air Quality Conformity in December 2020 and that no public comments had been received; however, TCAG did receive comments from Caltrans and responses were included in the final draft of the 2021 FTIP. Final approval from FHWA is expected sometime in mid-April 2021 according to Mr. Gutierrez and approval from the TCAG Board was requested.

Upon a Motion by Member Valero, and seconded by Member Micari, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved the 2021 FTIP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis as presented. Absent: None.

### **D. Information: 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs Outreach Campaign**

Mr. Bruno stated that each year identifying unmet transit needs is required under the Transportation Development Act (TDA). Mr. Bruno highlighted the extensive outreach efforts to gain input from the public for the 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs and noted that two public hearings are scheduled for March 15, 2021. Member Sigala requested that the findings and comments from the Unmet Transit Needs also be shared with the TCRTA Board.

### **E. Information: Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Competitive Programs Update**

Mr. Gutierrez provided the quick monthly update and highlighted the Local Partnership Program funds and the Active Transportation Program funded projects.

**F. Information: Update on Timing and Funding Implications of the Federal SAFE Vehicles Regulation**

Mr. Brady provided the monthly update on the Federal SAFE vehicle regulations and stated that given the new administration these regulations are likely to change. Mr. Brady stated that staff will continue to carefully monitor and report on developments that

**G. Information: Caltrans Monthly Report**

Mr. Navarro provided an update on the Caltrans planning grant process and stated that applications had been received and scoring would begin. Mr. Navarro congratulated the City of Porterville on the success of having received an ATP grant. Mr. Navarro reminded everyone of the March 19, 2021 deadline to apply for USDOT INFRA grants and outlined the various Caltrans projects being conducted within Tulare County.

***Adjourn as the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee and Convene as the Tulare County Association of Governments***

**VI. REQUEST TO REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Upon a Motion by Member Townsend, and seconded by Member Valero, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously reaffirmed all actions while sitting as the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee. Absent: None.

**VII. ASSOCIATION CONSENT CALENDAR-ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

Request Approval of the Association Consent Calendar Action Items VII-A through VII-B

**A. Action: Minutes of January 25, 2021 TCAG Board Meeting**

**B. Action: Minutes of January 21, 2021 TCAG Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

Upon a motion by Member Valero, and seconded by Member Micari, the Association unanimously approved the Association Consent Calendar Items VII-A through VII-B. Absent: None.

**VIII. ASSOCIATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Information: Legislative Update**

Mr. Kimball announced that a virtual Sacramento trip would possibly take place in early March and tentatively planning for an in-person Washington D.C. trip sometime in the Fall.

Mr. Smalley reported that in the last stimulus package funds had been added for transportation and currently review of how those funds would be split throughout the State are being reviewed. Mr. Smalley stated that Staff are looking to add funds to projects that are currently ready and would relieve Measure R funds; several potential projects were reviewed.

**B. Presentation: Report from Congressman Nunes' Office**

No representative present, report not given.

**C. Presentation: Report from Assemblyman Mathis' Office**

Rachel Ray, field representative for Assemblyman Mathis' office, provided an update on recent legislation.

**D. Presentation: Report from Senator Hurtado's Office**

Jacob Villagomes, district representative for Senator Hurtado's office, provided an update on recent legislation.

**E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan**

Mr. Kimball reported that this item was previously brought before the Board and carried over to allow time to collaborate with the Tribe and since have had many positive meetings to gain their input; however, more time is needed therefore Staff request to table this item and bring it back for consideration in March.

Upon a motion by Member Flores, and seconded by Member Townsend, the Association unanimously approved to extend Item VIII-E and bring it back in March. Absent: None.

**F. Information: Housing Planning Funds Update**

Mr. Ingoldsby provided the monthly update and highlighted the Local Action Planning Grants (LEAP) Funding. Mr. Ingoldsby stated that all TCAG member agencies applied in time for the LEAP Planning grants. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant program funding was also discussed, and Mr. Ingoldsby reported that TCAG intends to use \$225,000 of the REAP funds to complete a variety of planning related housing items including preparation of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Mr. Ingoldsby informed everyone that the California Department of Housing and Community Development would be hosting a virtual workshop on the REAP Grant Program for the San Joaquin Valley jurisdiction on February 23, 2021; and stated that member agencies had been notified and encouraged to attend.

**G. Information: Regional Transit Coordination Update**

Ms. Forte stated that TCRTA is still meeting monthly and that the subcommittees continue to meet and work on several issues. Ms. Forte highlighted that TCRTA is looking at Caltrans grants for short range transit options, free fare systems, and medical transportation options. Ms. Forte stated that advertisement for the new Executive Director position had begun and applications would be accepted until March 17, 2021.

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. None

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Information: Items from Staff**

**1. TCAG Director's Report**

Mr. Smalley outlined three topics: The first being that several groundbreaking ceremonies are currently being scheduled for summer of 2021. Secondly the trash cleanup efforts and beatification of highway routes 190, 65, 99, & 198 are underway, and Staff would be partnering with Caltrans to assist with the costs associated with the trash pickup efforts. Lastly Mr. Smally announced the formation of the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) and explained that this is the Governors plan to spend digressionary funds in California; and a more detailed report would be given at a future Board meeting.

**2. Other Items**

None

**B. Information: Items from Board Members**

**1. Tulare County Water Commission Update**

Vice-Chair Flores stated that the meeting had been held February 8, 2021 and had been very informative. Vice-Chair Flores reported that a presentation had been given regarding the Friant-Kern Canal, Self-help Enterprises had discussed the domestic water tank program, the Governor's budget proposal was reviewed, and annual priority had been discussed. Vice-Chair Flores stated that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on March 8, 2021.

**2. San Joaquin Valley Policy Council Update**

Mr. Mendoza stated that there was nothing to report this month.

**3. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) – Amtrak Update**

Member Shuklian reported that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on March 26, 2021; after which she would be able to provide an update.

**4. San Joaquin Valley (SVJ) Housing Task Force Update**

Member Valero stated that no meeting was held, and he had nothing to report.

**5. TCAG Transit Report**

Member Gomez stated that currently much focus had been on the 2020 Unmet Transit Needs and findings would be reported during the March TCAG Board meeting.

**6. Other Items**

None

**C. Request from Board Members for Future Agenda Items**

None

**XI. ADJOURN**

The TCAG Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:18 p.m.

**ADJOURN AS THE TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND CONVENE AS THE  
TULARE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

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**Item VII-B**  
**TCAG Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Tulare County Association of Governments - 210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Visalia, CA 93291**  
**February 18, 2021 – Summary Meeting Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE LIST**

City of Dinuba	<i>Absent</i>
City of Exeter	Eddie Wendt
Cities of Farmersville, Woodlake	Lisa Durta-Wallis
City of Lindsay	Michael Camarena
County of Tulare	<i>Absent</i>
City of Porterville	<i>Absent</i>
City of Tulare	<i>Absent</i>
City of Visalia	<i>Absent</i>
Tule River Indian Reservation	<i>Absent</i>
TCAG	Ben Kimball
Caltrans	David Deel

**Others Present:**

**TCAG Staff Present:** Steven Ingoldsby, Gabriel Gutierrez, Ted Smalley, Elizabeth Forte, Roberto Brady, Giancarlo Bruno, Holly Gallo, and Servando Quintanilla Jr Recording.

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**

(Minutes reflect agenda items discussed only)

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**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kimball at 1:32 p.m.

All action and informational documents were distributed for review and discussion. All actionable items would be voted on at the next Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Board meeting, scheduled for February 22, 2021.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Kimball opened public comment and closed with no public comment.

**IV. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT CALENDAR – ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Information: Approve Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Roundtable Appointments**

Mr. Kimball gave an update on SCS and RTP Roundtable Appointments with no new applications turned in.

**B. Information: Status of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocations and California Transportation Commission (CTC) Update**

Mr. Giuliani stated that the CTC would meet on March 24, 2021.

**C. Information: Implementation Status of Federally Funded Projects**

Mr. Gutierrez gave an update on the STBGP with two projects currently in the FTIP, one the Visalia Tulare Avenue Rehabilitation and the second County of Tulare Avenue 152 Rehabilitation Project. Ms. Forte gave an update on three CMAQ projects, one is the City of Woodlake Roundabout, second is the City of Dinuba Roundabout, and third is a bus project for City of Porterville.

**D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: 2021 California Safety Performance Management 1 (PM1) Target Setting**

Mr. Gutierrez stated that this item is for the adoption of Safety Performance Management 1 Target setting and that TCAG would use the states recommended perform measures to program projects.

**V. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Action: Approve Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects**

Mr. Forte stated that a Call for Projects was released in November 2020 for new CMAQ projects and applications were due in January 2021 with approximately \$10 million is available for projects through 2023 and listed all recommended projects in Tulare County and due to federal Buy America regulations, non-transit vehicle purchases have not been approved since 2017.

**B. Information: Process for Division of Large Urbanized Area (UZA) Federal Transit Funds**

Ms. Forte discussed that TCAG's role as the MPO and designated recipient for large UZA transit funds and after the 2010 Census TCAG received a large UZA fund because of the population of the county. With TCAG as the designated recipient they put together a methodology on how funding should be split.

**C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the Final 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis**

Mr. Gutierrez specified that this item was an approval for the final 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Corresponding Air Quality Conformity Analysis. This item had a public hearing with no comments but did receive comments from Caltrans staff which had been address and the 2021 Final FTIP would be brought to the Board for approval.

**D. Information: 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs Outreach Campaign**

Mr. Bruno gave an update on the 2020/21 Unmet Transit Needs Outreach Campaign with outreach efforts done by distributing posters, mailing agencies, digital displays in public areas, post in newspapers, online social media, and creating a survey to take online.

**E. Information: Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Competitive Programs Update**

Mr. Gutierrez recounted two SB 1 Competitive Programs one was Local Partnership Program, second was the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, and gave an update on the Butterfield Stage Corridor project. Mr. Gutierrez stated cities that submitted projects that did not get recommended for funding as a statewide component still have an opportunity to get funding through the MPO component.

**F. Information: Update on Timing and Funding Implications of the Federal SAFE Vehicles Regulation**

Mr. Brady reported that there would be a change with the new Biden Administration replacing the Safe Rule and one thing to note would be the conformity update to the RTP and FTIP with Valley wide MPO's not meeting EMFAC 2017.

**G. Information: Caltrans Monthly Report**

Mr. Deel stated that last Friday was the grant deadline for submitting Short Range Transit Plans and thanked Elizabeth for submitting TCRTA Short Range Transit Plan before the deadline.

**VII. ASSOCIATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Information: Legislative Update**

Mr. Kimball stated the TCAG is doing its best legislatively trying to show the state the vision TCAG had for active transportation, transit, and housing. Mr. Kimball stated that he would have a virtual trip to Sacramento.



**E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: 2020 Draft Tribal Public Participation Plan**

Mr. Kimball specified that this item will be kept on the agenda till next month for further review.

**F. Information: Housing Planning Funds Update**

Mr. Ingoldsby highlighted that the LEAP funding grant program deadline was on January 31, 2021 and all TCAG member agencies applied for that program in time and gave an update on the REAP funding with TCAG receiving approximately \$1,427,500 and would use that fund for assistance in the RHNA and remaining funds would be distributed to member agencies.

**G. Information: Regional Transit Coordination Update**

Ms. Forte gave an update on the TCRTA and is looking into new programs, no fares, and non-medical transportation but before that can happen the TCRTA needs to be recognized as a federal grantee and the TCRTA needs to work with each of the operators to transfer over service. Mr. Forte stated that the Executive Director position is open and is being advertised on several different websites and the deadline to apply would be on March 17, 2021

**XI. ADJOURN**

The TCAG Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

The next scheduled Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Board meeting will be held on **Monday, March 15, 2021, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**, at the **Tulare County Board of Supervisors 2800 W. Burrell Ave, Visalia, CA 93291**. The Technical Advisory Committee will meet on **Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), 210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Sequoia Conference Room, Visalia, CA 93291**.

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## Tulare County Association of Governments

### **AGENDA ITEM VII-C**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Leslie Davis, TCAG Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Adoption of Resolution: Approval of Amendment No. 9 to the FY 2020/2021 Overall Work Plan (OWP)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

On June 22, 2020, the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) FY 2020/2021 Overall Work Plan (OWP) was adopted through Resolution No. 2020-132. Amendments throughout the year are necessary to allow TCAG to deliver services as requested by its member agencies.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Amendment No.9 to the FY 2020/2021 OWP is necessary to allow TCAG to deliver services as requested by its member agencies. Following is redistribution of PL and TDA funding in order to spend effectively in the areas most needed.

1. Redistribute TDA funding from Work Element 602.04, Transit Planning and Coordination to Work Element 601.01, Transit Administration & Project Implementation, in the amount of \$ 32,000.
2. Redistribute PL funding from Work Element 602.03, Active Transportation Planning, to Work Element 602.01, Regional Transportation Plan, in the amount of \$20,000.
3. Redistribute PL Carryover and PL funding from Work Element 610.01, Air Quality Planning and Analysis, to Work Element 602.01, Regional Transportation Plan, in the amount of \$35,000.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends the approval Amendment No. 9 to the OWP.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution approving FY 2020/2021 OWP Amendment No. 9
2. OWP summary documents as affected by Approval

BEFORE THE  
TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of:

APPROVING FY 2020/2021 OVERALL WORK)  
PLAN (OWP) AMENDMENT NO. 9 )

Resolution No. 2021-XXX

WHEREAS, The Regional Transportation Planning Agency Board of Governors adopted the FY 2020/2021 Overall Work Program (OWP) on June 22, 2020, with approval of Resolution 2020-132; and

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 9 to the FY 2020/2021 OWP is necessary to allow TCAG to deliver services as requested by its member agencies; and

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 9 to the FY 2020/2021 OWP is necessary to redistribute TDA funding from Work Element 602.04, Transit Planning and Coordination to Work Element 601.01, Transit Administration & Project Implementation, in the amount of \$ 32,000; and

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 9 to the FY 2020/2021 OWP is necessary to redistribute PL funding from Work Element 602.03, Active Transportation Planning, to Work Element 602.01, Regional Transportation Plan, in the amount of \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 9 to the FY 2020/2021 OWP is necessary to redistribute PL Carryover and PL funding from Work Element 610.01, Air Quality Planning and Analysis, to Work Element 602.01, Regional Transportation Plan, in the amount of \$35,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the TCAG 2020/2021 Overall Work Program (OWP) is amended as shown in Attachment "2" and is herein referenced as Amendment No. 9.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted upon motion of Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_, at a regular meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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Pete Vander Poel III  
Chair, TCAG

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Ted Smalley  
Executive Director, TCAG

**W.E 601.01 Transit Administration & Project Implementation**

REVENUES	DOLLARS	EXPENDITURES	DOLLARS	STAFF PERSON MONTHS
Member Dues		TCAG Staff	125,660	13.4
Local Contribution		City of Dinuba		
TDA	262,000	City of Exeter		
FHWA PL (carryover)		City of Farmersville		
FHWA PL		City of Lindsay		
FTA Section 5303 (carryover)		City of Porterville		
FTA Section 5303		City of Tulare		
FTA Section 5304		City of Visalia		
FTA Section 5305		City of Woodlake		
DMV		County of Tulare		
City of Dinuba		Insurance		
City of Exeter		Memberships		
City of Farmersville		Office Expense		
City of Lindsay		Consultant	136,340	
City of Porterville		Publications and Legal Notice		
City of Tulare		Training		
City of Visalia		Transportation and Travel		
City of Woodlake		Print Services		
County of Tulare		County Counsel		
Measure R		Auditor		
LAFCO		Motorpool		
TCAG Reserves		Rent		
SB1 Sustainable Community Grant		Special Dept Exp		
Other Grants		Dues/Subscriptions		
		Utilities		
		Office Equipment		
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>262,000</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>262,000</b>	<b>13.4</b>
Toll Credits(5303&Carryover) (Not Revenues)				
Toll Credits(PL&Carryover) (Not Revenues)				

**Consultant**

\$40,000 TDA audits( incl Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville,Lindsay,Porterville,Tulare,Visalia,Woodlake,County)  
\$56,340 (Yr 2 of 3) per year for 3 years Remix Software and Services  
\$40,000 SBLB Transit Coordination Implementation

**W. E. 602.01 Regional Transportation Plan**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>DOLLARS</b>
Member Dues	
Local Contribution	
TDA	
FHWA PL (carryover)	14,029
FHWA PL	112,887
FTA Section 5303 (carryover)	
FTA Section 5303	
FTA Section 5304	
FTA Section 5305	
DMV	
City of Dinuba	
City of Exeter	
City of Farmersville	
City of Lindsay	
City of Porterville	
City of Tulare	
City of Visalia	
City of Woodlake	
County of Tulare	
Measure R	
LAFCO	
TCAG Reserves	
SB1 Sustainable Community Grant	
Other Grants	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>126,916</b>
Toll Credits(5303&Carryover) (Not Revenues)	
Toll Credits(PL&Carryover) (Not Revenues)	14,557

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>DOLLARS</b>	<b>STAFF PERSON MONTHS</b>
TCAG Staff	121,916	13.0
City of Dinuba		
City of Exeter		
City of Farmersville		
City of Lindsay		
City of Porterville		
City of Tulare		
City of Visalia		
City of Woodlake		
County of Tulare		
Insurance		
Memberships		
Office Expense		
Consultant		
Publications and Legal Notice		
Training		
Transportation and Travel		
Print Services		
County Counsel	5,000	
Auditor		
Motorpool		
Rent		
Special Dept Expense		
Dues/Subscriptions		
Utilities		
Office Equipment		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>126,916</b>	<b>13.0</b>

**W.E. 602.03     Active Transportation Planning**

REVENUES	DOLLARS
Member Dues	
Local Contribution	
TDA	
FHWA PL (carryover)	
FHWA PL	51,830
FTA Section 5303 (carryover)	
FTA Section 5303	72,785
FTA Section 5304	
FTA Section 5305	
DMV	
City of Dinuba	
City of Exeter	
City of Farmersville	
City of Lindsay	
City of Porterville	
City of Tulare	
City of Visalia	
City of Woodlake	
County of Tulare	
Measure R	
LAFCO	
TCAG Reserves	
SB1 Sustainable Community Grant	
Other Grants	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>124,615</b>
Toll Credits(5303&Carryover) (Not Revenues)	8,348
Toll Credits(PL&Carryover) (Not Revenues)	5,945

EXPENDITURES	DOLLARS	STAFF PERSON MONTHS
TCAG Staff	106,615	11.4
City of Dinuba		
City of Exeter		
City of Farmersville		
City of Lindsay		
City of Porterville		
City of Tulare		
City of Visalia		
City of Woodlake		
County of Tulare		
Insurance		
Memberships		
Office Expense		
Consultant		
Publications and Legal Notice		
Training	500	
Transportation and Travel	500	
Print Services	2,000	
County Counsel		
Auditor		
Motorpool		
Rent		
Special Dept Expense	15,000	
Dues/Subscriptions		
Utilities		
Office Equipment		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>124,615</b>	<b>11.4</b>

**Printing Services**

\$2,000 Bicycle Safety Promotion Materials

**Training**

Misc Training

**Transportation /Travel**

Misc Travel

**Special Dept Exp**

\$15,000 Advertising



**W.E. 602.04 Transit Planning and Coordination**

REVENUES	DOLLARS
Member Dues	
Local Contributions	
TDA	
FHWA PL (carryover)	
FHWA PL	43,000
FTA Section 5303 (carryover)	26,662
FTA Section 5303	100,000
FTA Section 5304	
FTA Section 5305	
DMV	
City of Dinuba	
City of Exeter	
City of Farmersville	
City of Lindsay	
City of Porterville	
City of Tulare	
City of Visalia	
City of Woodlake	
County of Tulare	
Measure R	
LAFCO	
TCAG Reserves	
SB1 Sustainable Community Grant	
Other Grants	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>169,662</b>
Toll Credits(5303&Carryover) (Not Revenues)	14,528
Toll Credits(PL&Carryover) (Not Revenues)	4,932

EXPENDITURES	DOLLARS	STAFF PERSON MONTHS
TCAG Staff	89,650	9.6
City of Dinuba		
City of Exeter		
City of Farmersville		
City of Lindsay		
City of Porterville		
City of Tulare		
City of Visalia		
City of Woodlake		
County of Tulare		
Insurance		
Memberships		
Office Expense		
Consultant		
Publications and Legal Notice		
Training	1,650	
Transportation and Travel	1,700	
Print Services	5,000	
County Counsel		
Auditor		
Motorpool		
Rent		
Special Dept Expense	71,662	
Dues/Subscriptions		
Utilities		
Office Equipment		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>169,662</b>	<b>9.6</b>

**Training**

2 CalAct Conferences \$1,150  
Misc Training \$500

**Transportation/Travel**

2 CalAct Conferences \$1,200  
Misc Training \$500

**Print Services**

\$5,000 printing services

**Special Dept Expense**

\$50,000 CalVans contribution

**W.E. 610.01 Air Quality Planning and Analysis**

REVENUES	DOLLARS
Member Dues	
Local Contribution	1,415
TDA	
FHWA PL (carryover)	
FHWA PL	97,764
FTA Section 5303 (carryover)	
FTA Section 5303	
FTA Section 5304	
FTA Section 5305	
DMV	
City of Dinuba	
City of Exeter	
City of Farmersville	
City of Lindsay	
City of Porterville	
City of Tulare	
City of Visalia	
City of Woodlake	
County of Tulare	
Measure R	
LAFCO	
TCAG Reserves	
SB1 Sustainable Community Grant	
Other Grants	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>99,179</b>
Toll Credits(5303&Carryover) (Not Revenues)	
Toll Credits(PL&Carryover) (Not Revenues)	11,214

EXPENDITURES	DOLLARS	STAFF PERSON MONTHS
TCAG Staff	50,179	5.3
City of Dinuba		
City of Exeter		
City of Farmersville		
City of Lindsay		
City of Porterville		
City of Tulare		
City of Visalia		
City of Woodlake		
County of Tulare		
Insurance		
Memberships		
Office Expense		
Consultant	36,000	
Publications and Legal Notice		
Training	1,000	
Transportation and Travel	2,000	
Print Services		
County Counsel		
Auditor		
Motorpool		
Rent		
Special Dept Expense	10,000	
Dues/Subscriptions		
Utilities		
Office Equipment		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>99,179</b>	<b>5.3</b>

**Consultant**

\$16,000 for Air Quality Consultant Contract

\$20,000 Air Quality conformity coordination/8 Valley coord efforts

**Training**

Valleywide air quality meetings and state updates/training on conformity

**Transportation & Travel**

Valleywide air quality meetings and state updates/training on conformity

**2020/2021 Overall Work Program**

**SUMMARY**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>DOLLARS</b>
Member Dues (191,500)	191,500
Local Contribution 1,116,090	1,116,090
TDA	282,000
FHWA PL (carryover)	164,439
FHWA PL	1,018,518
FTA Section 5303 (carryover)	26,662
FTA Section 5303	172,785
FTA Section 5304	105,416
FTA Section 5305	
DMV	3,000
City of Dinuba	
City of Exeter	
City of Farmersville	
City of Lindsay	
City of Porterville	
City of Tulare	
City of Visalia	13,658
City of Woodlake	
County of Tulare	9,994
Measure R	373,479
LAFCO	255,500
TCAG Reserves	320,777
SB1 Sustainable Community Grant	707,005
Other Grants (Census)	59,000
TCRTA	93,419
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>4,913,242</b>
Toll Credits(5303) (Not Revenues)	22,877
Toll Credits(PL) (Not Revenues)	135,685

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>DOLLARS</b>	<b>STAFF PERSON MONTHS</b>
TCAG Staff	2,390,626	244
City of Dinuba	96,580	
City of Exeter	24,463	
City of Farmersville		
City of Lindsay		
City of Porterville		
City of Tulare	500	
City of Visalia	40,500	
City of Woodlake		
County of Tulare	342,186	
Insurance	5,500	
Memberships	13,830	
Office Expense	22,500	
Consultant	688,539	
Publications/ Legal Notice/Dues	700	
Training	15,650	
Transportation and Travel	60,220	
Print Services	22,859	
County Counsel	22,000	
Auditor	2,500	
Motorpool		
Rent	160,885	
Special Dept Expense	972,704	
Dues/Subscriptions	6,500	
Utilities	16,000	
Office Equipment	8,000	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>4,913,242</b>	<b>244.2</b>

\* FHWA PL Funding

Carryover	\$164,439
<u>Current Year funding:</u>	<u>\$992,518</u>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$1,156,957</b>

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## Tulare County Association of Governments

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-A**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Benjamin A. Kimball, TCAG Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Information:** Legislative Update

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Every year, TCAG holds one or more One Voice trips to Washington, D.C. to collaborate with administration and legislative bodies on matters of federal policy and financing. TCAG also participates in legislative efforts and Valley Voice trips conducted by the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council, both to Washington, D.C. for federal matters and Sacramento for state matters.

In addition, TCAG works with the California Councils of Government (CalCOG), the Self Help Counties Coalition (Self Help), the American Planning Association (APA) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) to advance the regional agenda and get additional support from the federal and state government.

Assisting TCAG staff in these efforts is our federal lobbyist, Pace Government Solutions, and our State Lobbyist the Politico Group.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The successful awarding of a federal grant for the Commercial Interchange on SR 99 was the capstone achievement of legislative efforts in 2020. With a new year upon us and the election process behind us, TCAG is analyzing our legislative platform for opportunities and strategies to build our state and federal partnerships and find solutions to our needs. TCAG will be involved in any discussions regarding a federal transportation bill and continue to seek policies and funding that is favorable to our projects, especially those serving disadvantaged communities.

Additional information on legislative matters will be made available at the Board Meeting.

#### **ATTACHMENT(S):**

None

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## Tulare County Association of Governments

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-E**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Benjamin Kimball, TCAG Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Adoption of Resolution: Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan is used to solicit public comment on transportation-related issues of the Tulare County for matters regarding the Tule River Tribe as part of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Having an outreach plan for the tribe, separate from the Public Participation Plan used for the RTP allows TCAG to focus on the unique needs of the tribe and craft outreach to meet their specific circumstances. This is a way of planning outreach that has not been attempted at TCAG in prior years.

On December 2, 2020, the public comment period opened for the Tribal PPP. At the December 14, 2020 Board meeting, the Draft 2020 Tribal PPP was introduced to the Board. The Plan was distributed to Caltrans District 6 and Headquarters, Tule River Tribe Representative, the Regional Transportation Plan Roundtable, various other Tulare County agencies and interested parties, as well as advertised on the TCAG website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Additionally, the notice of public hearing and draft plan was posted in the Sun Gazette newspaper.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan was distributed via e-mail to local, state and federal agencies and notice of the availability of the Plan on the TCAG website was emailed and disseminated via local newspaper and social media. The forty-five-day public comment period began December 2, 2020 and a public hearing regarding the Draft Plan was held at the TCAG Board Meeting on January 25, 2021. Public comments collected have been reviewed and considered for incorporation into the 2020 Draft Plan.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no fiscal impacts with the adoption of the Draft 2020 Participation Plan.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution approving the Draft Tribal Public Participation Plan
2. Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan

BEFORE THE  
TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of:

APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT 2020 TRIBAL )  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN ) Resolution No. 2021-xxx

WHEREAS, the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) is a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), pursuant to State and Federal designation; and

WHEREAS, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Sec. 450.316(a) requires that MPOs develop and use a documented participation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan was developed in full compliance with federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan and notice of the location of the Plan on the TCAG website was widely circulated to identified Resource Agencies, Tule River Tribe Representative, social media, local agencies and groups and individuals on TCAG's email distribution list; and

WHEREAS, the public comment period for the Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan was opened on December 2, 2020 with a public hearing held on January 25, 2021 and the comment period was extended to February 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, comments were received from the following: *(to be added at the February 22<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting)*; and

WHEREAS, all comments submitted regarding the Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan through January 25th will be addressed in the Final Plan; and



WHEREAS, there will be an additional update to the Tribal Public Participation Plan to address the public participation process in the development of the Sustainable Communities Strategy and Alternative Planning Strategy as required by SB 375 (Steinberg) prior to the adoption of the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the TCAG adopts the Draft 2020 Tribal Public Participation Plan.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted upon motion of Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_, at a regular meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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Pete Vander Poel III,  
TCAG Chair

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Ted Smalley,  
Executive Director, TCAG

## **Tulare County Association of Governments 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Tribal Outreach Strategy**

### **Introduction**

The United States Constitution and treaties recognize Native American communities as separate and independent sovereign nations within the territorial boundaries of the United States. In the Tulare County Region, there is one federally recognized tribal government. Federal legislation requires that federally recognized tribal governments be consulted in the development of Regional Transportation Plans (RTP) and programs (23 U.S.C. §450.312). In particular, the current federal transportation authorization – the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) – reinforces federal emphasis on tribal government participation. President Obama, in his November 5, 2009 Memorandum on Tribal Consultation (Federal Register, Vol. 74, No. 215, November 9, 2009), reiterated the directive for public agencies to incorporate tribal consultation into their plans and programs in a timely and meaningful manner. At the state level, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s administration emphasized the importance of tribal-state relations through the creation of the Office of the Tribal Advisor (Executive Order B-10-112 ) in 2010. The Tribal Advisor's charge is to serve as a direct link between the tribes in California and the Governor; facilitate communication and consultations between tribes and State Agencies; and, review state legislation and regulations affecting tribes and provide recommendations.

At the regional level, there are minimal guidelines for consultation. How consultation should occur is left to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and the tribal governments. Over the last decade, the Tulare County Association of Governments, as an MPO, has forged a strong working relationship with the Tule River Tribe based on a framework of communication, service, and joint projects. With each cycle of the RTP process, TCAG has engaged the Tribe in soliciting comments on issues regarding policy, scenario selection and project selection. TCAG has made presentations at the tribal Council Meetings, engaged in active transportation awareness at the reservation and worked with the City of Porterville to provide a number of transportation projects and services.

Caltrans was the first state agency in California to enact an agency-wide policy on tribal consultation. Its objectives are to: (a) establish close coordination and early project involvement with tribal governments to streamline funding, environmental, and project delivery processes in areas on or near reservations; (b) ensure that Caltrans programs do not adversely affect important California Native American sites, traditions, or practices; (c) encourage cooperation between other agencies and local tribal governments; (d) assist with training, information dissemination, and project delivery; and (e) consider the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) from individual tribes for employment and

contracting opportunities for Native Americans on Caltrans projects on or near reservations.

Led by TCAG, the Regional Plan combines an overall vision for the region's future with an implementation program to make the vision a reality. As the Tulare County Region's MPO, TCAG is responsible for developing an RTP every four years. Each cycle of the RTP is an iterative process in which the region's long-term transportation goals and project priorities are revisited and discussed through a public involvement process among diverse stakeholders. The most recent RTP was approved by the TCAG Board of Directors in June 2018 and the next is anticipated to be approved in June 2022.

## **Tule River Tribal Background** *(Provided by Gelya Frank of the Tribe).*

### History

When gold was discovered in 1848, California was under American military occupation in the war against Mexico. Thousands of American prospectors poured into the territory. California statehood followed in 1850 and everything changed for the native people of the Great Central Valley. Although Spain, and later Mexico, had sent forays into the interior of California for a century and a half, the Indians of the foothills of the Sierras were relatively well protected. There were the safest of any California Indians from military expeditions, capture, and forced conversion at the missions. With the Gold Rush and California statehood, disease decimated the population. The ravages of disease were compounded by injustice and starvation. In 1860 the Indian population in California was only 20% of what it had been ten years earlier.

### Stories & Legends

Many of the Stories told by the Elders of the Tule River Indian reservation have been handed down from generation to generation. Almost all of these stories reflect the ways and life of the Tule River Tribes. All of the stories however, carry a strong message to the youth and adults in the region. Significant historical facts on these stories come from Painted Rock. This is a formation located next to the Tule River, on the Reservation.

### Arts & Crafts

In the old days, basket weaving was not only a common practice but a necessity of every day life. Baskets were used for cooking, gathering and storage. "Baskets were the early Tupperware," says Basket Weaver and Tule River Tribal Member Nicola Larsen. Baskets are made of various materials available on the reservation, such as pine needle, willow, sour berry, etc. Today, Basket weaving is a revived skill that is practiced amongst various Tule River Tribal members.

### Language

At one time, there were many different dialects spoken amongst the original inhabitants on Tule River Indian Reservation. Today, some Tule River Tribal members still teach and practice their tribe's dialect to continue the culture. Denise Hunter teaches members of the community the Yowlumne dialect, with some Wukchumne. Her classes are held on Wednesdays at 4pm. For more information she may be contacted at 559.784.0973. Nicola Larsen has been teaching the Yowlumne dialect since 2002. This is a tradition she has carried on from her great grandmother Mary Santiago. Nicola not only covers language, but continues to teach other cultural practices such as acorn making, milk weed fiber making, songs, and so much more. All tribal members are welcome. Her classes are held in a trailer right behind the Education Center every Wednesday at 5pm and every Saturday at 10:30am

## Economic Development

The Tule River Economic Development Corporation (TREDC), organized in the state of California and located in Porterville, CA on Tule River Trustee Land. TREDC is a non-profit organization that is owned by the Tule River Indian Tribe, and governed by a Board of Directors comprised by the Tule River Tribal Council. Having started Tule River Economic Development Corporation years prior to the advent of Indian gaming, it is now situated to help the Tribe diversify its revenue potential as well as employment opportunities for members of the Tribe. TREDC's business model is hierarchical with leadership and management oversight of day-to-day operations coming from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Executive Staff. TREDC operates businesses with onsite management for superior customer service. Current Economic Development Projects Include:

- Arrow Falcon Exporters, Inc.
- The Oak Pit
- Eagle Feather Trading Post #1
- Eagle Feather Trading Post #2 (Outside of the Tulare County Region)
- Burger Box

## Planning and Transportation Issues

A number of planning issues surround this reservation, as it is located in a remote area far from major highways. Inadequate access to and from the reservation often results in a lack of economic opportunities, as well as insufficient health, social, and cultural services.

Gaming is a traditional social activity among many tribal nations; however, tribal gaming enterprises expanded exponentially nationwide in the early 1990s as a result of the passage of the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). The IGRA was the result of a legal battle between the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and the State of California over the issue of the definition of sovereignty. The State claimed that Cabazon was

violating state anti-gambling laws, while the tribe asserted its sovereign right to pursue its own economic interests. In 1987, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of Cabazon, prompting Congress to pass a federal gaming regulatory act to define how gaming should be conducted nationwide and what role the states should have in that activity. The Tule River Tribe owns and operates a Casino and associated uses on the reservation, but has plans for a new casino on their trust land adjacent to the Porterville Airport and emerging business park. The existing casino provides jobs and economic development for the tribe and its members. Getting casino customers up the hill on narrow, winding roads has been a challenge since the casino was constructed. Although improvements to the road have been made over the years, and the City of Porterville has contracted with the Tribe to provide transit service to and from the casino, the Tribe has worked for years on a plan to relocate it.

The City of Porterville is the closest community to the reservation. Many tribe members live, work and recreate in Porterville and many of their children attend Porterville schools. The City of Porterville has a long-standing relationship with the tribe and contracts with them to provide needed services, including transit. When plans for a new casino near the airport first emerged, the City and Tribe created a Joint Powers Agreement to manage the roads and land within the city limits that were adjacent to the proposed site. This organization was funded by both parties and has an elected board.

As the Porterville Industrial Park has grown, access to the area has become an issue of major concern. Existing road and highway access has historically been inadequate to serve the existing and proposed truck trips from the businesses, as well as passenger vehicles from the new Sports Park and Fair Grounds. The construction of a casino in that area would put added strain on a system already struggling. There is little in the way of transit service to this area and current active transportation routes don't extend that far west or south.

Projects being considered in the upcoming 2022 Regional Transportation Plan

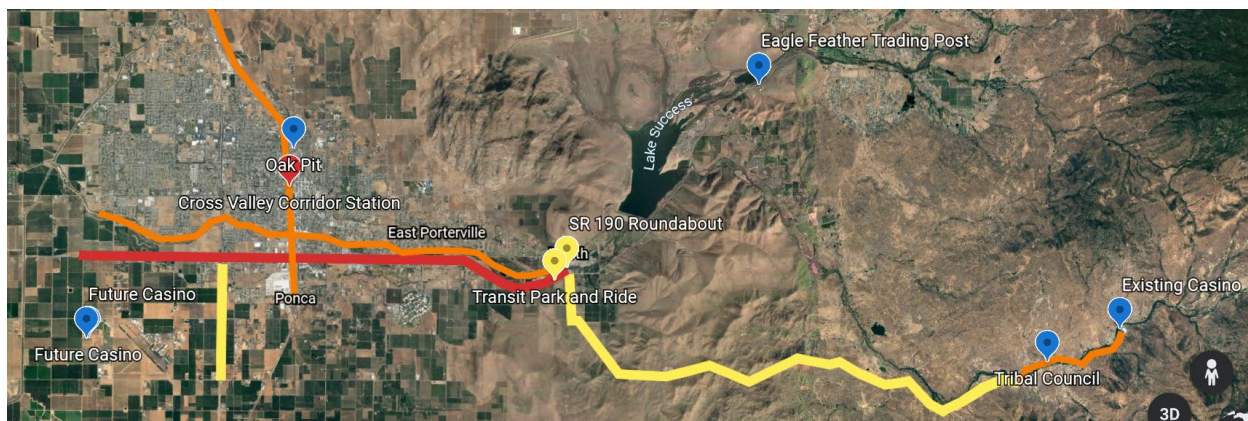
In order to help the tribe meet its economic development, safety, and environmental goals, TCAG has been partnering with the City of Porterville, Tulare County and Caltrans to help improve the transportation system in that area.

Past projects that benefit the tribe are shown on the map in yellow and include:

- Operational improvements to Reservation Road
- New Roundabout at SR 190 and Reservation Road
- Park and Ride lot at SR 190 and Reservation Road for transit buses serving the reservation.
- Widening of SR 65 from SR 190 to Teapot Dome Avenue, providing greater access to the industrial park.

Projects being considered in the future are shown on the map in red for roads and orange for active transportation, and include:

- Active Transportation Program funding for sidewalks in the reservation.
- SR 190 Corridor enhancements, per a recent corridor plan.
- Extension of the Tule River Parkway, giving greater access to the west of Porterville on foot or bike.
- The Butterfield Stagecoach Corridor project, bringing an active transportation trail through the community that will provide access to the north eastern portion of the industrial park and serve the Oak Pit restaurant owned by the tribe.
- Cross Valley Corridor Station, bringing people into the area using an alternate mode.



## Past Outreach Efforts

Successful outreach for Regional Planning with the Tribe is a mixture of outcomes. We have had successes with some approaches and lacked successful interaction with others.

For years, the tribe has been a member of the TCAG Technical Advisory Committee. The tribe receives regular agendas and monthly meeting information and is invited to participate. Meetings include reviews of all official TCAG business and solicitations of comments by member agencies on all TCAG actions. However, the tribe does not want to participate on this committee, nor do they attend the meetings. Invitations and encouragement to attend continue regularly.

The tribe has also been invited to participate in past RTP Roundtables as a voting member. The Roundtable reviews the work done in preparation of the RTP and makes recommendations to the TCAG Board on related items including policies, scenarios and projects. During the 2018 the tribe was unwilling to participate on the Roundtable, even

when given the option of calling into the meeting to avoid a long trip to the meeting site. During the initial stages of the 2022 RTP, the tribe has already expressed that they will not be participating in Roundtable or other related meetings. Their stated reason was concern over COVID and lockdowns, and the struggles having sufficient staff during these times to do the work, even when given teleconferencing opportunities.

What has worked well in recent efforts is physically going to the reservation and meeting with them at their facilities. During the 2018 RTP outreach efforts TCAG attended a Tribal Council meeting to give and update on the plan and solicit their input on a preferred scenario. The Council was pleased to get this report and offered excellent advice. Meeting their staff at the reservation to examine the sites for an active transportation project went well too. A short time after that, TCAG held a bike rodeo to build awareness in youth on bike safety principles and connect with the community. There was a great deal of support from the tribe and the families there for this event.

This is not unlike the results TCAG has seen with outreach to other groups: not much success bringing them to workshops, but a lot of success when we “go where they already are.”

## **Upcoming Outreach Efforts**

As the tribal reservation continues to develop, the need for establishing a government-to-government framework at a regional level has become increasingly apparent. The tribe operates under independent constitutions, has their own system of governance, and establishes and administers their own laws. This sovereign status of tribal governments dictates that the United States, and all agencies operating within it, is expected to engage in government-to-government relationships with Native American tribes. Government-to-government interaction with Native American tribes should follow the principles of coordination, cooperation, and consultation.

Having learned a great deal from the successes of past outreach efforts, TCAG will be engaging the tribe to the maximum extent possible during the 2022 RTP process. Specifically, TCAG will be:

- Continuing efforts to include the tribe in the monthly Technical Advisory Committee
- Continuing efforts to include the tribe in the RTP Roundtable and its meetings
- Continuing efforts to include the tribe in the Rural Communities Committee (focused on environmental justice issues)
- Working with FHWA and Caltrans staff to better understand tribal needs and effective communication techniques
- Contacting the tribe to ask them how they would like to be involved in this process this time around

- Attending Tribal Council meetings to present plan updates and solicit feedback (as far as quarantine measures allow)
- Conduct another bike rodeo to further promoted bike safety and solicit feedback from participants on important RTP issues
- Work in tandem with the City of Porterville to communicate with the tribe and partner on the preparation of plans and projects
- Use Facebook ads and other social media to reach residents directly with plan updates and solicit feedback



## Tulare County Association of Governments

### AGENDA ITEM VIII-F

March 15, 2021

Prepared by Ted Smalley, TCAG Staff

#### SUBJECT:

**Action:** Adoption of Resolution: Appointment of San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) Alternate Member.

#### BACKGROUND:

Every two years, TCAG elects a Member and an Alternate Member to the SJJPA as required by the existing Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws. The current term for this selection runs from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. Due to the retirement of the SJJPA Alternate, a new member will need to be appointed.

#### DISCUSSION:

On January 1, 2021 the retirement of Bob Link rendered his Alternate Member position on the SJJPA vacant. The election of a new officer for the alternate position is required. This agenda item will continue each month until the position is filled.

AGENCY/COMMITTEE	CURRENT BOARD MEMBER(S)	# REPS	# ALT REPS
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES POLICY COUNCIL	DENNIS TOWNSEND RUDY MENDOZA, MARIBEL REYNOSA (ALT)	2	1
TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION	MARTHA FLORES	1	0
SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (SJJPA)	AMY SHUKLIAN, <b>ALT - VACANT</b>	1	1
TCAG TRANSIT (FULFILLED BY PUBLIC TRANSIT PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE)	GREG GOMEZ	1	1

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appointment of SJJPA Alternate Member to finish the current term set to expire on June 30, 2022.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution: Appointment of San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Alternate Member

BEFORE THE  
TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of:

APPOINTMENT OF SAN JOAQUIN JOINT	)	
POWERS AUTHORITY (SJJPA)	)	Resolution No. 2021-xxx
ALTERNATE MEMBER	)	

WHEREAS, the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Board is made up of eight city representatives, Tulare County Board of Supervisors, and three At-Large members; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Powers Authority (SJJPA), Caltrans, and the California State Transportation Agency have authorized localized management of the SJJPA, and TCAG is specifically listed as a member agency to the SJJPA for the Tulare County region; and TCAG may have two representatives on the SJJPA; and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2020, a TCAG Board member who had been serving an active term representing TCAG on the SJJPA retired; and that term runs from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022, requiring a midterm appointment to that position.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board approves the appointment \_\_\_\_\_ to represent the SJJPA as an alternate member.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted upon motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_, at a regular meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Vander Poel  
Chair, TCAG

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Smalley  
Executive Director, TCAG

# Tulare County Association of Governments

## AGENDA ITEM VIII-G

March 15, 2021

Prepared by Amie Kane, TCAG Staff

### SUBJECT:

**Information:** Member-At-Large and the Alternate Member-At-Large for Position No. 3

### BACKGROUND:

The TCAG Board is made up of eight city representatives, Tulare County Board of Supervisors, one public transit provider and three At-Large members. At-Large Board members are not appointed based on geographic location in the County. At-Large Board Members' term expire after a three-year term or upon resignation, whichever comes first. The end of the three-year term for each of the At-Large Member falls on a different year for each member and on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and thus an At-Large Member must be reappointed annually.

TCAG Member-At-Large Position and the Alternate Member-At-Large position No. 3 term expired on December 31, 2020. The positions are currently *Vacant*

Member-At-Large: Vacant

Alternate Member-At-Large: Vacant

<u>YEAR TERM EXPIRES</u>	<u>POSITION NUMBER</u>	<u>APPOINTEE/ALTERNATE</u>
December 31, 2021	#1	Tyrone Holscher/Shea Gowin
December 31, 2022	#2	Walter Stammer, Jr./Pamela K. Whitmire
December 31, 2023	#3	

The position was posted to the TCAG website and on TCAG's public social media platforms to solicit interest.

### DISCUSSION:

Since the December Board meeting, the member-at-large position also became vacant. TCAG will continue to solicit interest on the TCAG website and social media for the Member At Large and Alternate Member At Large No.3 positions.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

No action required at this time.

### ATTACHMENTS:

None

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## **AGENDA ITEM VIII-H**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Leslie Davis, TCAG Staff**

### **SUBJECT:**

**Information:** Draft Overall Work Plan (OWP) for Fiscal Year 2021/2022

### **BACKGROUND:**

TCAG staff has completed the 2021/2022 Draft Overall Work Plan and Budget. The OWP contains work elements with detailed tasks as well as revenues and expenditures anticipated by task for the year. Enclosed (*under separate cover*) is a copy of the draft 2021/2022 OWP.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The total estimated expenditures for FY 2021/2022 are \$5,177,978. Of those expenditures, \$752,379 is Measure R, or LAFCO related and \$175,000 is related to TCRTA. The following is a summary of major work products and highlights for FY 2021/2022:

1. Development of transportation performance measures
2. TDA and Measure R audits for all member Cities, the County, and TCAG/TCTA
3. SB1 formula funding of \$898,605 projects
4. Process and manage the Overall Work Plan which includes quarterly billing and reporting for 2021/2022 and budget preparation for 2022/2023
5. Advocacy and transportation representation in Washington, DC and Sacramento
6. Active Transportation Program (ATP) development, project selection and programming
7. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) preparation for the 2022 RTP
8. Comprehensive Master Plan for Tulare River Native Community
9. Process and Manage the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and the State Transit Assistance Fund (STA) for 2021/2022
10. Process amendments for the 2021/2022 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)
11. Continued Measure R Implementation
12. Implementation, programming and tracking of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects
13. Congestion Management Process update
14. Continued public information and participation
15. Air quality monitoring, compliance, and conformity determinations
16. Continued monitoring of state and federal legislation

17. Multiple preliminary reports required for future state projects
18. Update of the Travel demand model to a new base year of 2022
19. ITS Plan update
20. SCS Update as part of the RTP update
21. Upgrading bike and ped modeling tools in the travel model
22. Farmersville Complete street and multimodal access study and Visalia SRTP
23. Development of procedures for Regional Transit reorganization
24. Tri-annual performance audits

The following summary compares the Draft 2021/2022 and Final 2020/2021 (with amendments) Overall Work Programs (OWP).

Item	20/21 OWP	Draft 21/22 OWP	Difference
Budget (non Measure R, TCRTA & LAFCO)	\$ 4,190,844	\$ 4,250,599	\$ 59,755
Measure R, TCRTA, & Lafco Admin	\$ 722,398	\$ 927,379	\$ 204,981
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 4,913,242</b>	<b>\$ 5,177,978</b>	<b>\$ 264,736</b>
Membership Dues	\$ 191,500	\$ 191,500	\$ -
<b>LTF Contributions</b>			\$ -
TDA Admin	\$ 282,000	\$ 282,000	\$ -
TDA Planning	\$ 889,681	\$ 889,681	\$ -
Coordination, Mgmt, & Implementation	\$ 226,409	\$ 226,409	\$ -
<b>Total LTF</b>	<b>\$ 1,398,090</b>	<b>\$ 1,398,090</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Consultants	\$ 688,539	\$ 833,559	\$ 145,020

Attachment 1 displays the funding and contribution summary for the Draft 2021/2022 budget.

Attachment 2 displays the funding and contribution summary for the 2020/2021 budget. There is an overall increase of \$264,736 for the Draft 2021/2022 TCAG budget.

Shown below is the proposed schedule for completion of the 2021/2022 OWP:

1. January 10, 2021 - Received verbal comments from Caltrans and FHWA/FTA
2. March 2, 2021 - Draft OWP provided to Caltrans and FHWA/FTA
3. March 2, 2021 - Draft OWP posted on TCAG Website
4. March 11, 2021 - Receive comments from Technical Advisory Committee
5. March 15, 2021 - Present Draft OWP to the TCAG Board and receive comments
6. May 17, 2021 - Present Final OWP for Board Approval

Upon Board approval in May, the OWP will be printed and submitted to Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration for final approval.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2021/2022 Overall Work Plan Summary
2. 2020/2021 Overall Work Plan Summary
3. Consultant Contract List

## 2021/2022 Overall Work Program

## SUMMARY

REVENUES	DOLLARS
Member Dues	191,500
Local Contribution	1,116,090
TDA	282,000
FHWA PL (carryover)	206,636
FHWA PL	1,003,790
FTA Section 5303 (carryover)	50,000
FTA Section 5303	188,373
FTA Section 5304	80,000
FTA Section 5305	
DMV	3,000
City of Dinuba	
City of Exeter	
City of Farmersville	
City of Lindsay	
City of Porterville	
City of Tulare	
City of Visalia	10,365
City of Woodlake	
County of Tulare	
Measure R	496,879
LAFCO	255,500
TCAG Reserves	200,240
SB1 Sustainable Community Grant	898,605
Other Grants	20,000
TCRTA	175,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>5,177,978</b>
Toll Credits(5303) (Not Revenues)	27,341
Toll Credits(PL) (Not Revenues)	138,836

EXPENDITURES	DOLLARS	STAFF PERSON MONTHS
TCAG Staff	2,333,041	226
City of Dinuba		
City of Exeter	24,463	
City of Farmersville		
City of Lindsay		
City of Porterville		
City of Tulare	100	
City of Visalia	40,100	
City of Woodlake		
County of Tulare	320,354	
Insurance	5,500	
Memberships	13,830	
Office Expense	22,500	
Consultant	833,559	
Publications/ Legal Notice/Dues	700	
Training	15,650	
Transportation and Travel	60,220	
Print Services	18,760	
County Counsel	32,000	
Auditor	2,500	
Motorpool		
Rent	165,708	
Special Dept Expense	1,258,493	
Dues/Subscriptions	6,500	
Utilities	16,000	
Office Equipment	8,000	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5,177,978</b>	<b>225.5</b>

\* FHWA PL Funding

Carryover  
Current Year funding:  
**Total Funding**

\$164,439  
\$992,518  
**\$1,156,957**



## 2020/2021 Overall Work Program

## SUMMARY

REVENUES	DOLLARS	EXPENDITURES	DOLLARS	STAFF PERSON MONTHS
Member Dues (191,500)	191,500	TCAG Staff	2,390,626	244
Local Contribution 1,116,090	1,116,090	City of Dinuba	96,580	
TDA	282,000	City of Exeter	24,463	
FHWA PL (carryover)	164,439	City of Farmersville		
FHWA PL	1,018,518	City of Lindsay		
FTA Section 5303 (carryover)	26,662	City of Porterville		
FTA Section 5303	172,785	City of Tulare	500	
FTA Section 5304	105,416	City of Visalia	40,500	
FTA Section 5305		City of Woodlake		
DMV	3,000	County of Tulare	342,186	
City of Dinuba		Insurance	5,500	
City of Exeter		Memberships	13,830	
City of Farmersville		Office Expense	22,500	
City of Lindsay		Consultant	688,539	
City of Porterville		Publications/ Legal Notice/Dues	700	
City of Tulare		Training	15,650	
City of Visalia	13,658	Transportation and Travel	60,220	
City of Woodlake		Print Services	22,859	
County of Tulare	9,994	County Counsel	22,000	
Measure R	373,479	Auditor	2,500	
LAFCO	255,500	Motorpool		
TCAG Reserves	320,777	Rent	160,885	
SB1 Sustainable Community Grant	707,005	Special Dept Expense	972,704	
Other Grants (Census)	59,000	Dues/Subscriptions	6,500	
TCRTA	93,419	Utilities	16,000	
		Office Equipment	8,000	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>4,913,242</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>4,913,242</b>	<b>244.2</b>
Toll Credits(5303) (Not Revenues)	22,877			
Toll Credits(PL) (Not Revenues)	135,685			

\* FHWA PL Funding

Carryover	\$164,439
Current Year funding:	\$992,518
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$1,156,957</b>

**TCAG/TPA Consultant Contracts for the 2021/2022 Overall Work Program**

Work Element	Amount	Description of Work	Consultant	Local	Valley	Undetermined/ Other	DBE Amount	DBE %	TCAG Project Manager
601.01 Transit Administration	\$ 45,000.00	TDA Audits for Cities/County	Brown Armstrong		\$45,000.00	100%			Leslie
601.01 Transit Administration	\$ 56,340.00	Remix Software & Services	Remix		\$56,340.00	100%			Leslie
601.01 Transit Administration	\$ 40,000.00	Transit Coordination Implementation	SBLB		\$40,000.00	100%			Leslie
601.02 TCAG Administration	\$ 33,000.00	Outside Auditor	TBD			100%			Ben K
601.08 Advocacy	\$ 57,000.00	Federal Government Relations	TBD		\$57,000.00	100%			Ben K
601.08 Advocacy	\$ 43,000.00	State Consultant	TBD		\$43,000.00	100%			Ben K
601.08 Advocacy	\$ 5,000.00	RTP/AQ	CalCog		\$5,000.00	100%			Ben K
602.02 Traffic Forecasting/Modeling Dev	\$ 35,000.00	Traffic Modeling Assistance	TBD			100%			Mark
602.04-0045 Transit Planning & Coord	\$ 83,565.00	Visalal SRTP	TBD			100%			Elizabeth
602.10 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant	\$ 311,054.00	Various	TBD			100%			Various
605.01 Congestion Management Program	\$ 15,000.00	Traffic Count Data Collection	Quality Traffic Data			100%			Mark
700.01 Measure R Administration & Planning	\$ 44,000.00	Audit Services	Brown Armstrong		\$44,000.00	100%			Leslie
700.01 Measure R Administration & Planning	\$ 15,000.00	Financial Services	KVIN		\$15,000.00	100%			Leslie
700.01 Measure R Administration & Planning	\$ 1,500.00	Arbitrage Services	BLX		\$1,500.00	100%			Leslie
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 764,459.00</b>			<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 306,840.00</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>\$ 477,619.00</b>	<b>61%</b>	

**Measure R Capital Projects**

Work Element	Amount	Description of Work	Consultant	Local	Valley	Other	DBE Amount	DBE %	TCAG Project Manager
700.02 Measure R Santa Fe Trail	\$ 100.00					\$100.00			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>					<b>\$100.00</b>			

**TCAG/TPA Fair Share Contributions & Special Contracts for the 2021/2022 Overall Work Program (Not used for DBE calculations)**

Work Element	Amount	Description of Work	Consultant	Comments	TCAG Project Manager
620.01 Valleywide Coordination	\$ 13,000.00	Regional Policy Council Coordination	Fresno COG	Fair Share contribution for Valleywide Coordination and Website Maintenance	Ben K
610.01 Air Quality Planning	\$ 36,000.00	Air Quality Conformity consultation	SUCOG	Fair share contribution to Valley-wide air quality consulting - Firm selected by Valley-COG directors	Elizabeth
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 49,000.00</b>				
	\$ 833,559.00				

## Tulare County Association of Governments

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-I**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Leslie Davis, TCAG Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Information:** Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Audit Year Ending June 30, 2020

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) audit was completed for the year ending June 30, 2020 and issued February 26, 2021. The audited financial statements of the governmental activities and the major funds of the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) can be found at <https://tularecog.org/tcag/finance/budgets/> The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Controller General of the United States.

The TCAG audit by Brown Armstrong Certified Public Accounts did not identify any instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) audit is complete and did not have any material weaknesses for the year-ended June 30, 2020.

Member Agencies: The City of Porterville and City of Tulare, City of Lindsay, City of Dinuba, City of Exeter, City of Farmersville, City of Woodlake, County of Tulare, and the City of Visalia TDA audits have not been completed.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

None

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## Tulare County Association of Governments

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-J**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Elizabeth Forte, TCAG Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Information:** Regional Transit Coordination Update

#### **BACKGROUND:**

TCAG led the effort to improve regional transit service by facilitating the creation of a regional transit agency. The Joint Powers Agreement creating the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) was effective August 11, 2020. Eight member agencies have joined the TCRTA.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The TCRTA has not met since the last TCAG meeting. The TCRTA Board will meet shortly after TCAG. A number of items are on their agenda, such as a discussion of unmet transit needs, the possibility of free fares, and the approval of agency certifications and assurances required to become a recipient of federal funds.

The advertisement for the agency's Executive Director is currently in circulation. Applications are due March 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

None

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## Tulare County Association of Governments

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-K**

**March 15, 2021**

**Prepared by Giancarlo Bruno, TCAG Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Information:** Míocar Early Results Report

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Míocar is an electric vehicle car share program based in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The program is the product of a partnership between Mobility Development, Self-Help Enterprises, California Climate Investments, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and TCAG.

The program launched in Tulare County in 2019, and currently maintains eight (8) sites in Kern and Tulare counties. A report studying the data collected from the first 10 months of Míocar's operation has been produced by the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis. Results are based on post-trip surveys collected by Míocar.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Míocar had a steady growth in members during its first several months, reaching a total of 153 unique users by March 2020. The number of reservations made, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) also trended upward during this period; the highest number of monthly reservations was 106 in November 2019, the highest VMT observed was 8,226 miles in January 2020. Revenues also rose during the first 10 months, peaking at \$2,741 in February 2020.

A large majority of users (68%) reported an annual household income of under \$50,000. 37% of respondents reported an annual household income below \$25,000. The mean number of vehicles available per household was 1.7, slightly below the average of 2.0 cars per household for Tulare and Kern counties. Most users (83%) lived in households of 3 or more people. One third of users lived in households with 3 or more adults aged 18 or older.

While users made reservations for a wide variety of purposes, more than 8 in 10 survey respondents indicated that their most recent reservation was for either family/personal errands (38%), work-related (28%), school (8%), or medical (7%) purposes. The median number of passengers reported was 2.0. Nearly 1 in 3 trips were made with 3 or more passengers (including the driver) in the vehicle. A slight majority of users responded that they either walked (45%) or rode transit (12%) to the Míocar site where they picked up the vehicle.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

None

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210 North Church St. Suite B.  
Visalia, California 93291  
Phone (559)623-0450  
Fax (559)733-6720  
[www.tularecog.org](http://www.tularecog.org)

February 1, 2021

David Kim  
California State Transportation Agency  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Equitable Distribution of Federal HR 133 Highway Funds for California

Dear Secretary Kim,

Over the last half-century, the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) has worked to ensure the continued improvement of multi-modal transportation infrastructure in a region defined by its rurality, diversity, and unique environmental challenges. The success of these projects is due in large part to our productive partnership with the State of California, and we are grateful for this collaboration.

Though the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic have been devastating on many levels, we are thankful that we can put our communities to work on a variety of creative projects that ensure safe, reliable, and adaptive transportation solutions. Such projects provide a substantive respite from the economic duress caused by the pandemic, and we hope to continue to provide such opportunities. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (HR 133) provides California with approximately \$900 million through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program, and it will allow many regions to do just that.

HR 133 funds can be programmed to STBG eligible projects, preventative maintenance, routine maintenance, operations, and personnel. Our communities have shovel-ready projects that can utilize this funding immediately to address greenhouse gas emissions, safety, efficiency, and equitable access to resources; however, HR 133 allocates STBG funds directly to large Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) as direct recipients of funds. We respectfully ask that the State of California broaden eligibility of direct funding recipients to small MPOs and consider exchanging federal STBG funds for state funds for agencies that participate in the STBG State Exchange program. These remedies will ensure the equitable distribution of these funds, expedite economic relief, and accelerate project delivery.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Smalley, Executive Director of the Tulare County Association of Governments, at 559.623.0450 or [tsmalley@tularecog.ca.gov](mailto:tsmalley@tularecog.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Vander Poel', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pete Vander Poel  
Chair of the Tulare County Association of Governments Board  
Tulare County Supervisor, District Two