

# TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY (TCRTA) SUBCOMMITTEES

**June 7, 2021, 1:00-3:00 P.M.**

**Tulare County Association of Governments  
210 N. Church St. Suite B  
Visalia, CA 93291  
(559) 623-0450**

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: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf>

**Zoom Meeting | Direct Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86088775988?pwd=eWFJU0JCvFUwMThSS3FnMU5pQXI5QT09>

**Toll Free Call in:** (888) 475-4499 | **Meeting ID:** 860 8877 5988 | **Passcode:** 920816

**Call in only instructions:** Enter your meeting ID followed by #, Enter # for participant ID, Enter the passcode followed by #.

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 Tulare County Association of Governments ("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.

## **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC** **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

During public comment period, members of the public may comment on any item of interest to the public and within the subject matter jurisdiction of TCRTA Subcommittees 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.

**1:00 P.M. – TIMED ITEM**  
**TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY**  
**TECHNICAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

- I. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND ROLL CALL**
  - II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
  - III. TCRTA TECHNICAL OPERATIONS CONSENT ITEMS**
    - 1. ACTION: Approve the May 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Pages 01-03)
    - 2. ACTION: Reschedule the July 5, 2021 Meeting (Pages 04-05)
  - IV. TCRTA TECHNICAL OPERATIONS ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
    - 1. PRESENTATION: ENGIE – Transforming Public Transportation for Greener Mobility (Page 06)
  - V. ADJOURN**

Adjourn as the TCRTA Technical Operations Committee and convene as the TCRTA Policy Committee.
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**1:30 P.M. – TIMED ITEM**  
**TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**

- I. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND ROLL CALL**
  - II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
  - III. TCRTA POLICY COMMITTEE CONSENT ITEMS**
    - 1. ACTION: Approve the May 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Pages 01-03)
    - 2. ACTION: Reschedule the July 5, 2021 Meeting (Pages 04-05)
  - IV. TCRTA POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
    - 1. DISCUSSION: Fare Simplification or Fare Free (Page 07)
  - V. ADJOURN**

Adjourn as the TCRTA Policy Committee and convene as the TCRTA Finance Committee.
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**2:00 P.M. – TIMED ITEM**  
**TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND ROLL CALL**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**III. TCRTA FINANCE COMMITTEE CONSENT ITEMS:**

1. ACTION: Approve May 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Pages 01-03)
2. ACTION: Reschedule the July 5, 2021 Meeting (Pages 04-05)
3. ACTION: Approve May 13, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes (Page 08)

**IV. TCRTA FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. DISCUSSION: Mechanism to Finance Fare Policies (Page 09)

**V. ADJOURN**

Adjourn as the TCRTA Finance Committee.

*(Pending approval of rescheduling the July 2021 TCRTA Subcommittee meeting)*

The next scheduled meeting of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Subcommittees will be held on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the Tulare County Association of Governments, via Zoom 210 N. Church St. Suite B, Visalia, CA 93291.

*(If the reschedule of the July 2021 TCRTA Subcommittee Meeting is not approved)*

The next scheduled meeting of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Subcommittees will be held on Monday, July 5, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the Tulare County Association of Governments, via Zoom 210 N. Church St. Suite B, Visalia, CA 93291.

# **TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY**

## **AD HOC & SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **AD HOC –EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH**

Greg Gomez  
Eddie Valero  
Jose Sigala

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Jose Sigala  
Monte Reyes  
Eddie Valero

### **TECHNICAL OPERATION COMMITTEE**

Greg Gomez  
Armando Longoria  
Eddie Valero

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

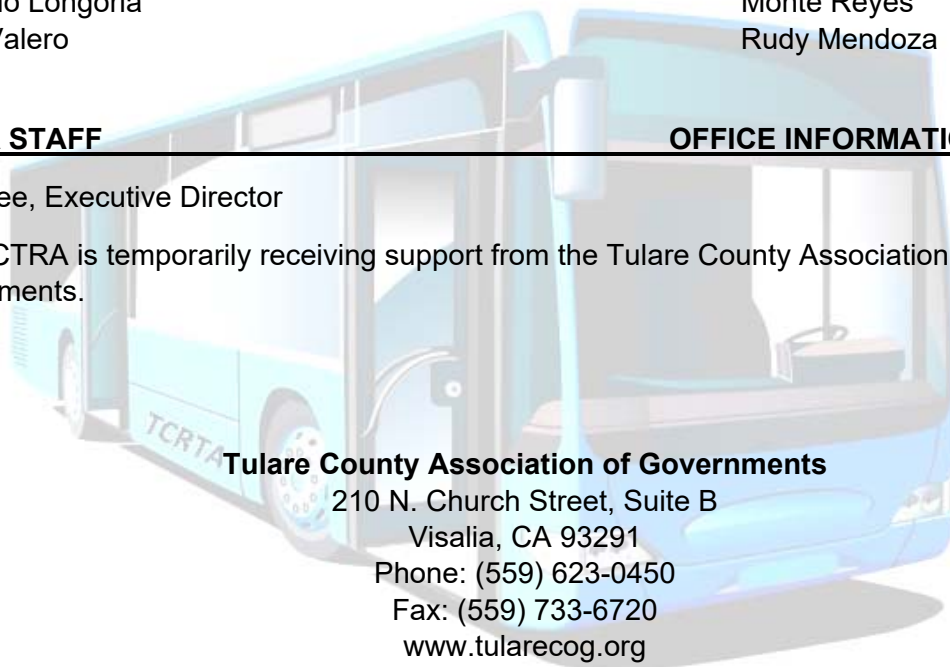
Kuldip Thusu  
Monte Reyes  
Rudy Mendoza

### **TCRTA STAFF**

Rich Tree, Executive Director

### **OFFICE INFORMATION**

\*The TCTRA is temporarily receiving support from the Tulare County Association of Governments.



### **Tulare County Association of Governments**

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# TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES May 3, 2021

**Tulare County Association of Governments  
210 N. Church St. Suite B  
Visalia, CA 93291  
(559) 623-0450**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## STAFF

JOSE SIGALA	P	RICHARD TREE	P
EDDIE VALERO	P	TED SMALLEY	P
KULDIP THUSU	P	ELIZABETH FORTE	P
MONTE REYES	P	AMIE KANE	N
RUDY MENDOZA	P	SERVANDO QUINTANILLA	P
GREG GOMEZ	P	BRIDEGET MOORE	P
ARMANDO LONGORIA	N	HOLLY GALLO	P
P= Present      A= Alternate      N= Not Present			
<b>Others Present:</b> Leslie Davis, Teresa Ortega, Albert Barragan, Susan Hafner- SBLB			

### **I. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Sigala called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

### **II. ACTION: APPROVE APRIL 5, 2021 MINUTES**

Upon motion by Chair Sigala and second by member Valero, the TCRTA Policy Committee minutes were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Member Thusu and second by Member Reyes, the TCRTA Finance Committee minutes were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Member Gomez and second by Member Valero, the TCRTA Technical Operations Committee minutes were unanimously approved.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments opened and closed at 1:08pm

### **IV. TCRTA SUBCOMMITTEES ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **1. DISCUSSION: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grantee Process Update**

Mr. Tree discussed the FTA grantee process stating that they provided a lot of guidance in their circular regarding how the funding should be expended and how they perform spot checks on agencies. He further discussed grant management requirements. He further discussed user roles, urbanized areas, state review, and existing service agreements. Mr. Tree discussed information from FTA from April 29<sup>th</sup> stating that they fully support the agreement and how it set the compass for signing service agreements. He further reviewed funding that would be effective July 1<sup>st</sup> and financial assistance for the coming fiscal year. Discussion ensued regarding public notice and options for the Board with deobligated funds and the MOU being a living document.

## **2. DISCUSSION: Transfer of Transit Service Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)**

Mr. Tree reviewed insights into how the draft MOUs were developed. He discussed the eight uniform activities as outlined in the staff report and went on to describe the individual needs of the agencies and how the MOUs had been drafted to address those individual needs and requests of respective member agencies. Discussion ensued regarding MOUs being vetted by county counsel.

## **3. DISCUSSION: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Funding Opportunity**

Mr. Tree explained that to review that draft budget, a special subcommittee meeting would be set up with the permission of the board. Mr. Tree provided an overview of RAISE, explaining that it was not a new funding source but had been renamed. It was previously called BUILD and TIGER. It focused on climate change as well as low-income communities. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the DOT announced the competitive opportunity and explained the chances of funding award. There was a max award of 25 million and no more than 100 million for a single state. He discussed Tulare County qualifications for the grant opportunity, thinking big and the current administration's environmental focus. Mr. Tree discussed CalStart partnership, discretionary funds and possibly planning to go after the funding.

## **4. DISCUSSION: Free Fare Analysis & Possibilities\***

Ms. Susan Hafner of SBLB gave a presentation reviewing the covid ridership recovery fare strategies such as free fares, continue fares, hybrid with partners for free ridership, regulatory requirements, operational cost savings and system sustainability. Ms. Hafner discussed data regarding the average fares collected of \$1,348,291 and the average 10% recovery rate. She further provided details regarding the net calculation of free fares estimates. She highlighted partnerships with local employers, health care providers, air quality programs, schools, federal, state and local grant funds to assist with free fares. She went on to highlight the example of the zero-fair program in Kansas City and hybrid model options; funding partnerships for ridership segments such as students, low income, seniors, social service programs and employers.

## **V. ACTION: ADJOURN**

At 2:231pm, the TCRTA Policy, Finance, and Technical Operations Committees adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Subcommittees will be held on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the Tulare County Association of Governments, via Zoom 210 N. Church St. Suite B, Visalia, CA 93291.

\*Item heard out of order



# **TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY**

## **AD HOC & SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **AD HOC –EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH**

Greg Gomez  
Eddie Valero  
Jose Sigala

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Jose Sigala  
Monte Reyes  
Eddie Valero

### **TECHNICAL OPERATION COMMITTEE**

Greg Gomez  
Armando Longoria  
Eddie Valero

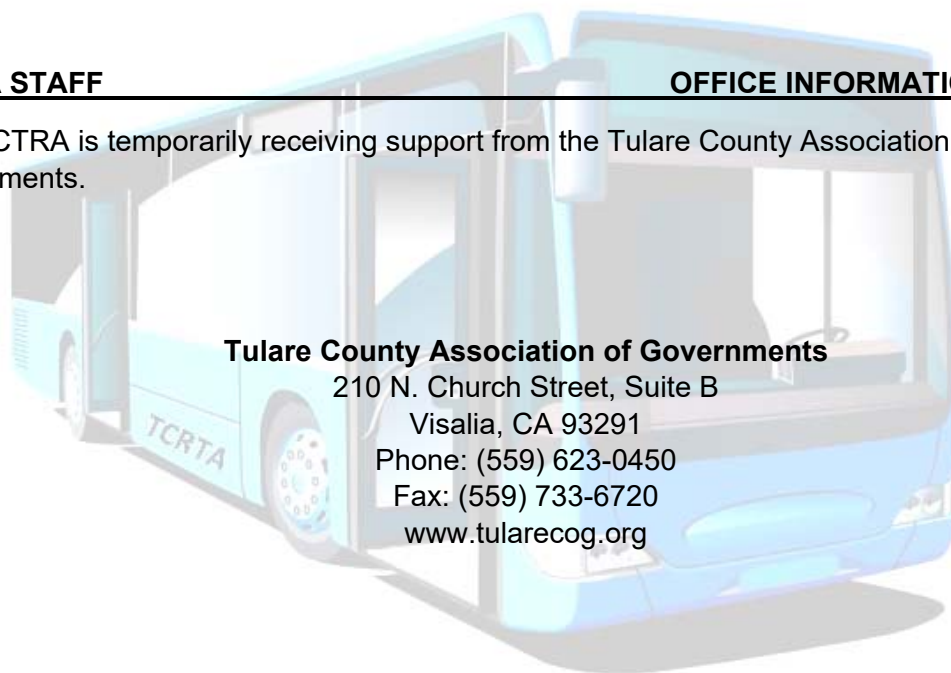
### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Kuldip Thusu  
Monte Reyes  
Rudy Mendoza

### **TCRTA STAFF**

### **OFFICE INFORMATION**

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TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY  
SUBCOMMITTEES

**AGENDA ITEM III-2**

**June 7, 2021**

**Prepared by Amie Kane, TCAG Staff**

**SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Reschedule the July 5, 2021 Meeting

**DISCUSSION:**

The 2021 revised Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Subcommittees generally meet the first Monday of each month, therefore the July meeting would fall on July 5, 2021. However due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and in consultation with the Executive Director the request to move the TCRTA Subcommittees meeting to Monday, July 12, 2021 is being made.

Attached is a suggested meeting calendar for the remainder of the calendar year. Per the Joint Powers Agreement, the TCRTA meets once per month unless a meeting is canceled by the Board.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the rescheduling of the July 5, 2021 Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Subcommittees to July 12, 2021.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Proposed calendar for the remainder of the 2021 calendar year.

## Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)

### Subcommittees

#### 2021 Meeting Calendar

<b>July 12, 2021*</b>
<b>August 2, 2021</b>
<b>September 6, 2021</b>
<b>October 4, 2021</b>
<b>November 1, 2021</b>
<b>December 6, 2021</b>

Meeting time is 1:00 p.m. Most meetings fall on the First Monday of each month; dates with asterisks fall on the second Monday of the month due to holidays.

Meetings will be held at the Tulare County Associate of Governments (TCAG) offices located at 210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Visalia, CA 93291

TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY  
TECHNICAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

**AGENDA ITEM IV-1**

**June 7, 2021**

**Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff**

**SUBJECT:**

**Presentation:** ENGIE – Transforming Public Transportation for Greener Mobility

**DISCUSSION:**

ENGIE deploys a range of the best available expertise hinged around energy and systems, for safe, clean, efficient, and appealing public transportation solutions. Electrification, alternative fuels that reduce pollution, increased connectivity, digitalization of services, smart systems and digital tools for data management and analysis are at the heart of solutions Engie offers to their customers.

ENGIE's portfolio includes 35,000 buses equipped with fleet management systems, 22 metro lines designed, equipped and built, and 200 buses powered by green charging stations (electricity or hydrogen).

**ATTACHMENT:**

None

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TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY  
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

**AGENDA ITEM IV-1**

**June 7, 2021**

**Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff**

**SUBJECT:**

**Discussion:** Fare Simplification or Fare Free

**DISCUSSION:**

Moving toward “One Bus, One Fare” or Fare Free Policy

Staff will be discussing fare policy as part of an effort to simplify the regional fare structure for customers. Fare simplification is also part of a regional “Next Generation” fare system that allows riders to pay their fare on multiple Tulare County transit agencies using one smartcard.

Staff have identified five problems that result from the region’s disjointed approach to fare policy:

Problem 1: Inconsistent fare policies

Problem 2: Fare policies that penalize commuters (multi-agency trips)

Problem 3: Fare equity

Problem 4: Does not support integrated services

Problem 5: Limits the usability and appeal of “Next Generation” fare system

Moving toward “One Bus, One Fare” will make it easy for transit riders to understand the price of a ride on transit, make transfers simple and hassle-free, and offer new ways to pay your fare.

**ATTACHMENT:**

None

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**Tulare County Regional Transit Agency  
Finance Committee  
Minutes**

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**May 13, 2021, 3:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Kuldip Thusu, Rudy Mendoza, Monte Reyes  
**Members Absent:**  
**Alternates Present:**  
**Staff Present:** Ted Smalley, Elizabeth Forte, Rich Tree, Brideget Moore,  
Leslie Davis  
**Others Present:** George Avila, Darlene Thompson

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**1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were heard.

**3. COMMITTEE TOPICS**

**A. FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET**

Mr. Tree thanked the member agency representatives for joining and providing input on the budget.

Ms. Forte described the main budget sheet and stated that she would review it with the group. She started by describing the revenues of the three agencies, advertising agencies, vending and concessions, and routine allocated funds for the upcoming year, and additional listed items. She further discussed Measure R revenues and lease revenue. Discussion ensued regarding the route to Reedley College and associated advertising costs.

Mr. Tree discussed expenditures describing salary, expenses, communications, outreach and advertising, office supplies, publication, association and membership dues and legal notices, utilities, software and licensing, rent/lease, and other line items. Discussion ensued regarding rent and leasing details and security for transit.

He further discussed bus purchases and having an equipment replacement schedule.

Discussion ensued regarding agency revenues and federal dollars being spent in allocated areas and reserve funds.

Further, Ms. Forte discussed the administrative distribution and the administrative costs to member agency details. Discussion was had regarding security for respective agencies, utilities, alarms, and delineating the items.

Mr. Tree provided an overview of Microtransit and informed that associated funding would be awarded the following fiscal year, so it was not reflected in the current budget.

**4. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:54pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Finance Committee would be held in conjunction with the other TCRTA subcommittees on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.



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TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY  
FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

**AGENDA ITEM IV-1**

**June 7, 2021**

**Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff**

**SUBJECT:**

**Discussion:** Mechanism to Finance Fare Policies

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff will be discussing the mechanism to finance either a regional “One Bus, One Fare” or Fare Free fare policy.

A “One Bus, One Fare” fare policy simplifies the regional fare structure and prepares the agency for a regional “Next Generation” fare system. Staff will be discussing estimated cost to deploy a “Next Generation” fare system, and possible mechanisms to finance the project.

As part of a ridership recovery strategy, a temporary “Fare Free” pilot will start later this year. The Fare Free pilot is being funded by Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP). Staff will be discussing possible mechanisms to finance a long-term “Fare Free” program.

**ATTACHMENT:**

None