

AGENDA
Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

April 19, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers
2800 West Burrel Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

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://bit.ly/2Zt4BQY>

Toll Free Call in: (888) 475-4499 | **Meeting ID:** 744 710 0343 | **Passcode:** 82243742

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.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND ROLL CALL**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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 TCRTA 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.

4. **ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW DIRECTORS** by Interim Executive Director (No page)

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. **ACTION: APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2021** (Pages 01-03)

6. **INFORMATION: TCRTA GRANT MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACCOUNTS** (Page 04)

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

7. **INFORMATION: DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR TRANSIT SERVICE AND SERVICE TRANSFER UPDATE** (Pages 05-06)

8. **INFORMATION: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE** (Page 07)

9. **INFORMATION: IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE** (Pages 08-09)

10. **INFORMATION: REGIONAL FARE SYSTEM DEPLOYMENT UPDATE** (Page 10)

11. **INFORMATION: FREE FARE DISCUSSION** (Pages 11-13)

12. **INFORMATION: TRANSIT PLANNING UPDATE** (Pages 14-15)

13. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** (No Page)

- a. Executive Director Search Ad Hoc Committee
- b. Policy Committee
- c. Finance Committee
- d. Technical Operations Committee

14. **INFORMATION: ALL ABOUT TRANSIT: COLLECTED CLIPPINGS** (Page 16)

15. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Information: Items from Staff
- b. Information: Items from Board Members
- c. Request from Board Members for Future Agenda Items

16. ADJOURN

The next scheduled meeting of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Board of Directors will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291.

TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	ALTERNATE	AGENCY
Kuldip Thusu	Armando Longoria	City of Dinuba
Vacant	Dave Hails	City of Exeter
Greg Gomez – Vice Chair	Tina Hernandez	City of Farmersville
Ramona Caudillo	Hipolito Cerros	City of Lindsay
Monte Reyes	Milt Stowe	City of Porterville
Jose Sigala – Chair	Terry Sayre	City of Tulare
Rudy Mendoza	Florencio Guerra Jr	City of Woodlake
Eddie Valero	Amy Shuklian	County of Tulare

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Georgina Cardenas, CalVans

AD HOC & SUBCOMMITTEES

AD HOC –EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH	POLICY COMMITTEE
Greg Gomez	Jose Sigala
Eddie Valero	Monte Reyes
Jose Sigala	Eddie Valero

TECHNICAL OPERATION COMMITTEE	FINANCE COMMITTEE
Greg Gomez	Kuldip Thusu
Armando Longoria	Monte Reyes
Eddie Valero	Rudy Mendoza

TCRTA STAFF

OFFICE INFORMATION

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

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**Tulare County Regional Transit Agency
Minutes**

March 15, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Thusu, Gomez, Reyes, Sigala, Valero, Cardenas
Members Absent:	Waterman-Philpot, Caudillo, Mendoza
Alternates Present:	
Staff Present:	Ted Smalley, Elizabeth Forte, and Rich Tree
Counsel Present:	Jeff Kuhn

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sigala called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments opened/closed at 3:04 p.m. No public comments received.

4. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO DIRECTORS

Mr. Smalley led Member Cardenas in taking the oath of office.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

5. APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2021

6. ACTION: APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 INTERIM BUDGET

**7. ACTION: APPROVE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**8. ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH
THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION**

**9. ACTION: AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SIGN A LETTER OF INTENT TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED MOBILITY PROGRAM**

**10. ACTION: APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS
PROGRAM (LCTOP) PROJECT**

Upon motion by Member Thusu and seconded by Member Reyes the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approved the Consent Calendar Action Items 5-10.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

11. ACTION: APPROVE FREE FARES TO VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Tree reported that over the past several months, transit providers across the nation have begun offering free transit rides for everyone who needs to get to their COVID-19 vaccination appointments and the Tulare County Health and Human Services had asked Tulare County transit providers to provide similar assistance. Mr. Tree stated that earlier in the month transit providers had met to discuss the challenges people may face when seeking transportation to vaccine appointments and possible remedies. Mr. Tree stated that the transit providers determined that free fares to and from vaccination locations would be offered on all fixed route services with Tulare County for passengers that could

show confirmation of their vaccination appointment. It is staff's recommendation that the Board approve the Free Fares for Vaccination Appointments on all fixed routes within Tulare County, starting March 16, 2021. Funding for this program would be provided by transit providers operating budgets.

Upon motion by Member Gomez and seconded by Member Valero the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approved the free fare program for Covid-19 vaccinations.

12. INFORMATION: UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Ms. Forte provided a history of the annual process of collecting unmet transit need comments and the review of these comments by the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), along with the responses from transit providers. Ms. Forte explained that SSTAC makes recommendations to the TCAG Board regarding which requests are "reasonable to meet" and ultimately the TCAG Board determines the needs reasonable to meet in which the transit agencies must fulfill.

13. INFORMATION: CALVANS PRESENTATION

Ms. Cardenas provided an update on Calvans and provided an overview of the program services. The largest position of the fleet is for agriculture transportation however Ms. Cardenas noted that ag is seasonal. Ms. Cardenas discussed the reduction of use due to Covid-19 and many working from home but despite these challenges they are beginning to see use increase.

14. INFORMATION: DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR TRANSIT SERVICE

Mr. Tree provided an update on progress with regards to the MOU. Mr. Tree stated that he had been in discussion with the city of Woodlake, Dinuba, and Tulare with hopes of assuming service by July 1, 2021. Mr. Tree outlined the draft MOU for transit services and highlighted the service topics such as retention of employees, working groups, operating performance measures, and compliance with FTA requirements.

15. INFORMATION: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE:

Ms. Forte stated that the Executive Director position had been posted, advertised, and well circulated to the Central Valley Transit Managers Group as well as various planning-related job networks. Deadline for applicants to apply would be March 17th after which the ad hoc director search committee would meet to discuss next steps. Ms. Forte announced that a special meeting may be held to review applications.

16. INFORMATION: IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Mr. Tree reported that much work had been underway to conduct a free fare analysis and that SBLB had submitted a draft scope of work for a free fare analysis to be completed. Mr. Tree stated that it is the intent that the free fare analysis would include both TCRTA member agencies as well as the City of Visalia. Mr. Tree outlined the discussions with Uber in regard to an opportunity to expand the services they are offering with the City of Porterville throughout the region and thus possibly expanding on-demand micro transit.

17. INFORMATION: REGIONAL FARE SYSTEM DEPLOYMENT UPDATE

Mr. Tree provided an update on staff's efforts to create a regional fare system. Highlighting the consent item that would approve a letter of intent to participate in the Cal-ITP project. Mr. Tree stated that staff would continue working on developing an RFP for regional fare systems as a backup to the Cal-ITP project and included a copy of the RFP draft for review.

18. INFORMATION: FREE FARE DISCUSSION

Mr. Tree reminded the Board that during the February meeting staff had presented information on free fares and the rationale for providing free fares. Mr. Tree stated that currently the TCRTA had a proposal from a consultant to provide a free fare analysis to help the Board make an informed decision on if free fares are the way to move forward. Staff would expect that a draft of the free fare analysis would be completed and ready to be presented at next month's meeting.

19. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Executive Director Search Ad Hoc Committee**
- b. Policy Committee**
- c. Finance Committee**
- d. Technical Operations Committee**

No updates were provided by the individual sub-committees. However, staff noted that the three standing subcommittees for Policy, Finance, and Technical Operations would begin to be scheduled on the same date each month to make it easier for Members to participate.

20. ACTION: APPOINT DIRECTORS TO COMMITTEES

No further comments regarding this item were noted.

21. INFORMATION: ALL ABOUT TRANSIT: COLLECTED CLIPPINGS

Chair Sigala appreciated the information provided. Mr. Tree noted that Supervisor Valero had previously shared the article regarding the City of Fresno's decision to suspend fares during the Covid-19 pandemic.

22. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Information: Items from Staff.
None
- b. Information: Items from Board Members.
None
- c. Request from Board Members for Future Agenda Items.
None

23. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m. Chair Sigala confirmed the next scheduled meeting of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Board of Directors will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291.

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AGENDA ITEM 6

April 19, 2021

Prepared by Elizabeth Forte, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Information: TCRTA Grant Management and Related Accounts

DISCUSSION:

There are a number of accounts to be established and state and federal systems that TCRTA must access in order to act as a transit agency and receive funding. Staff is working on the following items:

DUNS Number (Data Universal Number System) – identifies the TCRTA as an organization.

SAM Account (System for Award Management) – required to perform transactions with the federal government.

FACES (FTA Access Control and Entry System) – for establishing users, securing identification numbers, etc. Authorization in FACES is required to access federal programs and set up accounts.

TrAMS (Transit Award Management System) – for managing all aspects of transit awards, primarily urban area funding, and uploading agency documentation.

ECHO – (Electronic Clearing House Operation) – allows agencies to request the transfer of FTA funding to the agency.

BlackCat – Caltrans' grant management system. Similar to TrAMS but focused on rural funding.

TCRTA staff, and counsel as needed, will be moving forward with setting up these required accounts per the prior resolution by the Board that declared the TCRTA an authorized transit agency and funding grantee; this is an informational item for the Board.

ATTACHMENT:

None

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AGENDA ITEM 7

April 19, 2021

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Information: Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Transit Service and Service Transfer Update

DISCUSSION:

In accordance with the Joint Powers Agreement by and among the County of Tulare and the Cities of Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare, and Woodlake, staff has completed the member agencies draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Public Transportation Services.

An MOU for the City of Woodlake, which self operates, has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by both parties. Staff is currently developing an operational plan to assume transit services. The operational plan will identify which member agency will operate the Woodlake services for the TCRTA during the interim period.

For member agencies that have existing Third Party Contracting Agreements, County of Tulare and Cities of Dinuba, Porterville, and Tulare, staff drafted MOUs that incorporate existing Service Agreements between the member agency and its Third Party Contractor.

Each draft MOU stipulates that the assignment of transit services pertains to the following activities:

1. Activities listed in the Joint Powers Agreement; and
2. Activities currently being provided by the member agency (self-operated); and
3. Activities listed in the Service Agreement between the member agency and its Third Party Contractor; and
4. Lease of Transit Center; and
5. Lease of Maintenance Facility.

In exchange, TCRTA will be the direct recipient of all transit-specific Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds allocated to the member agencies and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds to partially fund local transit services on behalf of the member agencies. For example, annual apportionments of FTA Section 5311 (rural) and Section 5307 (urban) funds.

The draft MOU also covers the following topics:

- Transfer of Assets
- Annual Report to Member Agency
- Working Group
- Operating Performance Measures
- Federal and State Reporting
- Marketing
- Term
- Amendments
- Termination

Staff and member agencies will work collectively to review the MOUs and provide any comments. County Counsel will also review the MOUs as to legal form and effect. Additionally, staff will submit the draft MOUs to Caltrans, who provides oversight of FTA rural funds through its Division of Rail and Mass Transportation, to provide any comments, recommendation and approval. Once endorsed by the appropriate parties, the MOUs will be presented to the Board for approval.

Contingent on Caltrans approval, it is staff's expectation that TCRTA assume transit services for member agency's City of Dinuba, Tulare, and Woodlake on July 1, 2021.

For the County of Tulare and the City of Porterville, because each member agency has existing FTA grants which cannot be transferred to the TCRTA, staff is preparing to assume transit services in July 2022. This will also align with their existing Third Party Contractor Agreements that are set to expire on June 30, 2022.

Because the Third Party Contract's will expire at the end Fiscal Year 2021-2022, staff is preparing to draft a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Third Party Contractor administered by the TCRTA. Opportunities may be available to consolidate transit services under this RFP.

ATTACHMENT:

None

AGENDA ITEM 8

April 19, 2021

Prepared by Elizabeth Forte, TCAG Staff

SUBJECT:

Information: Executive Director Search Update

DISCUSSION:

On November 16, 2020 the TCRTA Board approved a job description and salary for the agency's Executive Director. The TCRTA also elected to have that position housed at TCAG and recruited by Tulare County.

The Executive Director position was posted on February 14th and applications were due March 17th. The first screening interviews are scheduled for the last week of April. The hiring process is outlined as follows: Member agency executives will recommend a number of candidates to the Ad Hoc Executive Director Committee for their interview process, and then finalists will be presented by the Ad Hoc Committee to be interviewed by the full TCRTA Board. Full Board interviews could occur at the regularly scheduled TCRTA meeting on May 17th or a special meeting may be required.

ATTACHMENT:

None

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AGENDA ITEM 9

April 19, 2021

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Information: Implementation Update

DISCUSSION:

At the Board meeting of October 19, 2020, the Board directed staff to continue working on the Implementation Plan. Since that time, staff has been working with SBLB, TCRTA's consultant, on various aspects of the Implementation Plan.

Staff presents the following items as informational:

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget & Work Plan

Staff is preparing the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget and Work Plan, which will identify the estimated revenues and expenditures expected during the next year. Staff is working collectively with TCAG to present the Budget and Work Plan at the board meeting in May.

Free Fare Analysis

On February 24, 2021, SBLB submitted a draft scope of work for a Free Fare Analysis. The scope of work evaluates the following areas: Free Fare Strategies Identified, Regional Fare Strategies, Fare Collection Costs, Post COVID-19 Impacts, Fare Modification Equity, and Comparable Transit System Strategies.

On April 9, 2021, SBLB submitted a draft of the Free Fare Analysis document for staff to review and provide comment. Staff is working with SBLB to prepare a presentation of its analysis to the Board at its meeting in May.

On-Demand (Microtransit)

In preparation of the upcoming On-Demand (Microtransit) project. Staff has been in discussion with Uber on an opportunity to expand the services they are offering with the City of Porterville throughout Region.

On February 16, 2021, Uber submitted a draft Agreement for staff's evaluation and comment.

On April 5, 2021, the Finance and Technical Operations Committees were presented the draft Uber agreement and also received a presentation from Uber on how its Software-as-a-Service can be deployed by TCRTA.

Staff is currently receiving comments from Committees, regarding the Uber Agreement, as well as, preparing an operational plan that will be presented to the Committees at its meeting in May.

TCRTA Staffing Plan

Staff is continuing to develop a staffing plan that aligns with assuming transit services from member agencies. The following positions are being evaluated:

- 1. Operations**

Operations staff will be needed to provide day-to-day management of the transit services, as well as, perform contractor oversight. As the TCRTA assumes additional transit services, additional staff will be evaluated.

- 2. Finance/Grant Management**

Financial staff will be needed to manage the day-to-day financial and reporting duties of the TCRTA. Staff will continue to rely on services, through the existing MOU, from the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG). As the TCRTA matures, a TCRTA finance position will be evaluated.

- 3. Regional Transit Planner**

Currently, regional transit planning has been provided by TCAG and in coordination with member agencies. As TCRTA develops, a Regional Transit Planner will assist with developing the agency's Short- and Long-Range Transit Plans, as well as, provide grant management responsibilities. Staff is evaluating the potential opportunity to develop MOUs with member agencies that have staff experienced with the Caltrans BlackCats and FTA FACES grant management systems.

ATTACHMENT:

None

AGENDA ITEM 10

April 19, 2021

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Information: Regional Fare System Deployment Update

DISCUSSION:

At the Board meeting of March 15, 2021, the Board authorized the Executive Director to execute a non-binding agreement between the TCRTA and Cal-ITP, in which the TCRTA agrees to begin updating its trip planning information system to real time General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS-RT) and upgrading its fare system to allow for acceptance of EMV contactless payments.

Cal-ITP agrees to provide technical assistance to support a successful implementation for both GTFS-RT and EMV contactless payments. Cal-ITP has established a procurement mechanism so that the TCRTA can procure up to three components necessary for enabling EMV contactless acceptance through cooperative purchases in the Cal-ITP Mobility Marketplace.

On April 14, 2021, TCRTA member agencies met with Cal-ITP staff to begin pursuing compliance with the California GTFS Guidelines. Assistance is being provided by TCAG to ensure member agencies GTFS files are up to date, accurate, and compliant.

Cal-ITP, TCAG, and TCRTA staff will work together to ensure member agencies have onboard Automatic Vehicle Locating (AVL) hardware and software on all fixed route vehicles required to deploy real time trip planning. Member agencies that already have existing AVL equipment and software, Cal-ITP will facilitate discussions with those vendors to ensure its equipment and software will support GTFS-RT.

Once all member agencies have updated its trip planning information system to real time. TCRTA will purchase the three components necessary for enabling EMV contactless acceptance through the Cal-ITP Mobility Marketplace. Funding for these components will be provided by Measure R Transit funds that will be budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget. Depending on Mobility Marketplace pricing, the project is estimated to cost \$100,000.

ATTACHMENT:

None

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AGENDA ITEM 11

April 19, 2021

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Information: Free Fare Discussion

DISCUSSION:

At the Board meeting of March 15, 2021, the Board authorized member agency, County of Tulare, to be the direct recipient of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding to expand the 18 and Younger Free Fare Program. The expanded project will provide free fares to youth 18 and younger, seniors 65 and older, ADA Certified passengers, and special transit days (Earth Day).

The total funding for the program is \$360,698, which will provided an estimated 230,000 free passenger trips. Starting on July 1, 2021, this program will be utilized as a ridership recovery strategy and the duration will be dependent on utilization.

Staff has identified an additional funding source to support TCRTA's Free Fare and Ridership Recovery Strategies. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is providing transit agencies up to \$30,000 in fare subsidies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Staff has identified this funding program as a potential opportunity to subsidies passenger trips on the new on-demand (microtransit) service in the Cities of Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, and Woodlake.

Currently, staff has been identifying grant funding opportunities to support the TCRTA Free Fare and Ridership Recovery Strategies. However, relying on grant funding, as the sole source, the TCRTA may only be able to accommodate these programs for a limited duration. Additional funding sources, other than local transportation funds (LTF) should be considered to extend the programs long term.

The Board challenged staff to identify potential partnerships (sponsors) to subsidize the passenger fare. Historically, Tulare County has developed several partnerships that have been very successful.

The College of the Sequoias (COS) student pass program is a successful partnership where student fees and COS pay for students to receive unlimited fixed route trips on all fixed routes. This program should be considered to be expanded to Porterville College and Reedley College to support regional mobility.

The Tulare County Health and Human Services (HHS) is another partnership which has also been very successful. Each year, the Tulare County (HHS) purchases thousands of fixed route passes to support their clients who are in need of transportation. Retaining this partnership is critical to support the Free Fare Strategy.

Although these two partnerships have been successful, staff has identified additional opportunities to pursue.

To eliminate obstacles for youth getting to and from school, internships, libraries, and other enrichment activities, a partnership with Tulare County school districts should be considered. A TK through 12 Free Fare Program, subsidized by school districts, offers benefits such as an equitable investment in receiving a good education, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion, improves school attendance, and expands awareness and value of public transit.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of providing critical transportation services to essential workers, elderly, and those in other vulnerable categories. Partnering with the healthcare industry, such as hospitals and other healthcare providers, can provide subsidized and direct trips utilizing on-demand (microtransit) and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) services. Additional funding for these types of trips can be provided by foundations, donations, and health insurance companies.

According to the America's Labor Market Information System (ALMIS) Employer Database there are 25 major employers located in Tulare County. Tulare County is also expecting additional major employers locating in Tulare County in the future, such as Amazon. Developing a Large Employer Pass Program can generate additional revenue as well as provide benefits for the employer, employee and community.

Benefits to employers include meeting Transportation Demand Management requirements, reducing on-site parking and demand, and strengthening employee recruitment and retention.

Benefits to employees include saving money on transportation to and from work, a stress-free commute and feeling great by doing something good for the environment.

Benefits to the community include helping improve air quality and reducing traffic congestion.

Finally, the ongoing operating costs related to fare collection are significant. Recent industry surveys show that the cost to support fare collection are between 10-20% of the revenue collected. Providing Free Fare not only reduces the cost but also reduces

the time to board the bus. SBLB has estimated that reducing the time to board the bus will have TCRTA approximately \$89,000 annually.

ATTACHMENT:

None

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AGENDA ITEM 12

April 19, 2021

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Information: Transit Planning Update

DISCUSSION:

On February 12, 2021, the Tulare County Association of Governments submitted a grant application to the Caltrans FY 2021-2022 Strategic Partnership Program on behalf of the TCRTA for the preparation of the TCRTA Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) covering the period of 2022-2027.

The inaugural SRTP incorporates innovative, high-value options for transit service; including on-demand microtransit, smart phone apps, regional fare system, Mobility-as-a-Service, autonomous transit vehicles, coordination with private transportation companies, non-emergency medical transportation, and integration with walking and biking. In addition to the standard elements of an SRTP, TCRTA will also develop a zero-emission bus rollout plan that will satisfy the California Air Resources Board Innovative Clean Transit regulation.

Project Management will be conducted by TCAG, which also be assisting the TCRTA in determining SRTP goals and objectives, visioning workshops, and public engagement. SRTP consultants will also provide the following SRTP elements:

1. Quantitative evaluation of fixed route and demand response services;
2. Qualitative evaluation of service coverage, effectiveness, and optimization;
3. Evaluation of the transit fleet and facilities;
4. Equity Analysis and Unmet Needs;
5. Travel Demand, Future Conditions and Multimodal Assessment;
6. Development of improved Transit System Design and Plan;
7. Operating, Financial, Marketing, and Capital Plans;

The TCRTA SRTP is estimated to cost \$300,000, of which, \$266,850 will be funded by the Caltrans planning grant. Contingent of project award, the project will start in July 2021 and is anticipated to be completed no later than June 2023.

Staff is also preparing to submit an application for the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP) Community Riders Grant Program. This program provides up to \$100,000 in funding to support rural and tribal transit providers.

Program goals include improving access to critical needs like employment, healthcare, and education; increase awareness of transit's important role in the health of individuals and communities; fill gaps in service and reduce duplication to build transit services that are responsive to the needs of the community; and increase access to non-transit funding and enhance sustainability.

Potential project applications include: new or enhanced routes to improve access to health-supportive destinations; feeder route for intercity connectivity to jobs and healthcare; rural transportation management or employment vanpool; improving transportation information and trip planning to increase awareness; and implementing new technology to improve operations efficiency to increase or improve service.

The application deadline is May 10, 2021 and no local match is required.

ATTACHMENT:

None

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

AGENDA ITEM 14

April 19, 2021

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Informational: All About Transit: Collected Clippings

DISCUSSION:

In an effort to inform the Board of recent news in the public transportation industry, staff has compiled some recent news articles across the country. Staff has prepared the following articles:

1. [Supervisors Preston and Haney to introduce legislation to pilot Free Muni](#)
2. [COVID reinvention: Caltrain, ferries slashing prices to lure riders back](#)
3. [Need a COVID-19 Vaccine? Visit Your Local Transit Center](#)
4. [Vegas to LA high-speed rail line still on track to break ground in 2021](#)

ATTACHMENT:

None