

AGENDA
Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

January 24, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Tulare County Human Resources & Development
2500 W. Burrel Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

NOTE: This meeting will allow Board Members and the public to participate in the meeting via Teleconference, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, available at:

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB361

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.

- I. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND ROLL CALL**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. 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.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Technical Advisory Committee
- b. 2022 Board Workshop Review

V. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Request Approval of the Consent Calendar Action Items V-A through V-B.

- A. Action: Approve Minutes of November 15, 2021 (Pages 01-04)
- B. Action: Reaffirm Resolution No. 2021-11 to Approve Remote Attendance at Public Meetings Pursuant to State Assembly Bill 361 (Pages 05-06)
- C. Action: Approve 2022 TCRTA Board and TAC Meeting Calendar (Pages 07-08)

VI. ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

- A. Action: Authorize a Public Hearing for 2022 Fare Changes (Pages 09-12)
- B. Action: Authorize a Public Hearing for 2022 Service Changes (Pages 13-14)
- C. Action: Allocation Request for Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2022 (Pages 15-16)
- D. Action: Authorize Fiscal Year 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Project Application (Pages 17-18)
- E. Action: Authorize Fiscal Year 2020-21 Federal Transit Agency (FTA) 5310 Project Application (Pages 19-20)

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

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

VIII. ADJOURN:

The next scheduled Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Board meeting date will be **February 28, 2022 and will take place at 3:00 p.m.** at the Tulare County Human Resources & Development, 2500 W. Burrell Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291. The Technical Advisory Committee meeting date will be **February 7, 2022 and will take place at 3:00 p.m.** at the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), 210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Sequoia Conference Room, Visalia, CA 93291.

TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALTERNATE

AGENCY

Kuldip Thusu	Armando Longoria	City of Dinuba
Steve Garver	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 Landecho, CalVans

TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY – TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Greg Gomez	City of Farmersville
Monte Reyes	City of Porterville
Jose Sigala	City of Tulare
Kuldip Thusu	City of Dinuba
Eddie Valero	County of Tulare

TCRTA STAFF

OFFICE INFORMATION

Rich Tree, Executive Director

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

TCAG
210 N. Church Street, Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: (559) 623-0450
Fax: (559) 733-6720
www.tularecog.org

This page intentionally left blank.

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

Minutes

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

Members Present: Thusu, Garver, Gomez, Reyes, Sigala, Mendoza
Members Absent: Caudillo, Valero
Alternates Present:
Staff Present: Rich Tree, Jennie Miller, Amie Kane, Holly Gallo, Servando Quintanilla, Brideget Moore, and Elizabeth Forte
Counsel Present: Jeff Kuhn

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Sigala called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Tree reviewed details from items that had been discussed at the TAC meeting and stated that some of the items would be discussed later on this agenda.

B. 2021 CalAct Autumn Conference & Expo

Mr. Sigala provided an update regarding the CalACT conference that he and Mr. Tree attended and shared that he learned a lot as a result of attending. Discussion ensued regarding items that were beneficial from the conference.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Request Approval of the Consent Calendar Action Items V-A through V-C

A. Action: Approve Minutes of October 18, 2021

B. Action: Reaffirm Resolution No. 2021-11 to Continue Remote Attendance at Public Meetings Pursuant to State Assembly Bill 361

C. Action: Approve Fare Free 4 All Program Expiration Date of February 28, 2022

Upon motion by Member Thusu and seconded by Member Garver the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approved the Consent Calendar Action Items V-A through V-C.

VI. ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Action: Reschedule of the December 2021 Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

Mr. Tree described the typical meeting schedule and shared that there would be a meeting conflict with the change in schedule for the TCAG Board meeting which conflicts with the TCRTA TAC. He stated that one supervisor attends both meetings and TCRTA is scheduled to provide an update at the TCAG Board. Discussion ensued and the suggestion from staff was made to cancel the December Board meeting, hold TAC on December 13th, and resume a normal schedule in January 2022.

Upon motion by Member Gomez and seconded by Member Mendoza the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approve the schedule recommendations.

B. Action: Approve Fare Simplification Categories

Mr. Tree discussed the current fare structure and discussed how they differ from agency to agency and desire to move to a one bus one fare concept. The committee approved fare structure concept and Mr. Tree described details of the fare categories and FTA guidance for offering reduced fares for non-peak hours for ADA riders.

Discussion ensued regarding fare structure for particular routes and the option to modify in the future and funding sources. Mr. Tree outlined the recommended fare simplification category changes such as one fare for commuter routes.

Upon motion by Member Mendoza and seconded by Member Thusu the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approve the fare simplifications recommended.

C. Action: Approve Advertisement of a Request for Proposals for Third Party Contractor for Transit Operations

Mr. Tree discussed outsourcing and regulatory compliance and the amount of work for staff. He further discussed challenges and taking a leadership role with providing customer service. Mr. tree discussed that agencies have expressed interest in maintaining their fleet. He further discussed the difficulties with the cost of insuring bus fleets. Mr. Tree outlined the recommendations to authorize staff to advertise a request for proposals for a third-party contractor that would consolidate operations; allow staff to submit a member application to the California Transit Indemnity Pool for automobile insurance, risk management, and safety services; and lastly to work with the HR department to identify positions, job descriptions, and rates.

Upon motion by Member Garver and seconded by Member Thusu the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approve the recommendations as presented.

D. Action: Approve TCRTA Board Workshop

Mr. Tree explained plans to hold a TCRTA Board Workshop to discuss the midyear budget, leadership, and effective communication, and other potential topics as well as disseminating board handbooks. The recommendation was to hold the workshop on January 10th as a four-hour session and allow for virtual or in person participation.

Upon motion by Member Garver and seconded by Member Thusu the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approved to hold the TCRTA Board Workshop on January 10, 2022.

E. Action: Approve Support for the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Tree provided an overview of the RTP concepts and benefits to the TCRTA and requested approval to draft letter of support for the 2022 RTP, widening of State Route 99 in Tulare County, and authorize the Board Chair to sign letters of support.

Upon motion by Member Gomez and seconded by Member Garver the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approved the recommendations as presented.

F. Action: Approve FY 2021-2022 Work Plan

Mr. Tree discussed timelines and tasks from the work plan to prioritize development of the agency. He went on to describe projects going on in different cities and shared that it was a snapshot of the next six months.

Upon motion by Member Sigala and seconded by Member Thusu the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency unanimously approved the FY 2021-2022 Work Plan as presented.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Information: Directors Report

Mr. tree discussed a 45% increase in ridership with the free fares program. He discussed the why I ride program and connecting with Board members to take photos riding transit. He reported having Google, IG and FB account and working with rethought reborn to assist with the campaign. Mr. Tree discussed the first priority of customer service and improving the rider experience, information accessibility, and leverage technology like contactless fair payment with Cal ITP. For the second priority, he further discussed quality of services and performance measures from the agency perspective and rider perspective. As the third priority he discussed the Environmental Scan and that it would be a topic of the workshop. He discussed financial stability, finding efficiencies, and not duplicating services, bringing maintenance in house as well as responding quickly to the changing environment.

Mr. Tree discussed challenges such as being understaffed, meeting standards, and contractor oversight. He discussed finding from the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) which helped identify some opportunities for improvement.

Lastly, Mr. Tree discussed the 1 trillion-dollar infrastructure plan that was recently signed stating the increase to annual funding could expand transportation systems.

B. Information: Items from Staff.

Mr. Tree shared his experience at the CalACT Conference noting that it was very educational, and that the agenda was full of various transit topics, innovations, and potential challenges for transit.

C. Information: Items from Board Members.

D. Request from Board Members for Future Agenda Items.

Chair Sigala requested that items C and D be discussed together and invited Members to share any information or requests for future agenda items.

Chair Sigala requested that Board Members get bus passes and try riding so that they could come back and share their experiences. Mr. Tree reminded everyone that the Free Fare program had been extended to 2022 so they would not even need to pay for bus fare at this time. No other comments from Members were provided.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 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, January 24, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tulare County Association of Governments 210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Sequoia Conference Room, Visalia, CA 93291.

This page intentionally left blank.

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

AGENDA ITEM V-B

January 24, 2022

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Action: Reaffirm Resolution No. 2021-11 to Continue to Approve Remote Attendance at Public Meetings Pursuant to State Assembly Bill 361

BACKGROUND:

The Governor's suspension of these Brown Act provisions expired as of September 30 and was replaced by new AB 361, an urgency statute that became effective as of September 30. Under AB 361, Governing Boards can continue to allow remote Board members participation in Brown Act public meetings if the following conditions are met:

1. The meeting is held during a declared State of Emergency (Like the Governor's COVID-19 pandemic State of Emergency that's still in effect in California);
2. The Governing Board adopts findings to the effect that allowing remote meeting participation by Governing Board members promotes social distancing, which in turn helps prevent the spread of COVID-19;
3. The Governing Board confirms these conditions continue to be met every 30 days.

DISCUSSION:

At the meeting of October 18, 2021, the Board of Directors approved Resolution No. 2021-11 to allow remote meeting participation pursuant to AB 361.

At its meeting on November 1, 2021, the Technical Advisory Committee approved the findings from the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency to continue allowing remote meeting participation, out of an abundance of caution and the increasing COVID-19 positivity rate in Tulare County.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors reaffirm Resolution No. 2021-11 to continue to participate in its governing board meetings remotely through the use of the teleconferencing provisions of AB 361.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENT:

None

This page intentionally left blank.

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

AGENDA ITEM V-C

January 24, 2022

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Action: Approve 2022 TCRTA Board and TAC Meeting Calendar

BACKGROUND:

The Bylaws of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency states, "At its first meeting of each calendar year, the Board of Directors shall establish a schedule of regular meetings for that year, including date, time, and location for such meetings. Every regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at such date and time and at such location within the boundaries of the County of Tulare as so established and publicly noticed in the agenda for the meeting. Regular meetings of the Board may be cancelled or may be held on such other dates and/or at such other times and locations as may be approved by the Board or as directed by the Board's Chair.

DISCUSSION:

To accommodate Directors who also serve on Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) or Tulare County Transportation Authority (TCTA) Boards, the TCRTA has generally scheduled its Technical Advisory Committee meeting on the first Monday at 1:00 pm and the Board Meeting on the third Monday at 3:00 pm of each month.

At the Technical Advisory Committee meeting of January 3, 2022, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended that it meet on the first Monday at 3:00 p.m. of each month.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors:

1. Approve the draft 2022 TCRTA Board and TAC meeting calendar;
2. Approve the TCRTA Board meetings generally meet on the third Monday at 3:00 p.m. of each month; and
3. Approve the TAC meetings generally meet on the first Monday at 3:00 p.m. of each month.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENT:

Draft 2022 TCRTA and TAC Meeting Schedule and Location

2022 TCRTA and TAC Meeting Calendar with Meeting Locations

<u>TAC Meeting</u> <u>(1st Monday, 3:00 p.m.)</u>	<u>TCRTA Board Meeting</u> <u>(3rd Monday, 3:00 pm)</u>	<u>Location #</u>
January 3, 2022	January 24, 2022*	Tulare County Human Resources & Development 2500 W. Burrel Avenue Visalia, CA 93291
February 7, 2022	February 28, 2022*	Tulare County Human Resources & Development 2500 W. Burrel Avenue Visalia, CA 93291
March 7, 2022	March 21, 2022	Tulare County Human Resources & Development 2500 W. Burrel Avenue Visalia, CA 93291
April 4, 2022	April 18, 2022	Tulare Ag Auditorium 4437 S. Laspina Tulare CA 93274
May 2, 2022	May 16, 2022	Tulare County Human Resources & Development 2500 W. Burrel Avenue Visalia, CA 93291
June 6, 2022	June 27, 2022	Tulare County Human Resources & Development 2500 W. Burrel Avenue Visalia, CA 93291
July 11, 2022*	July 18, 2022*	TBD
August 1, 2022	August 15, 2022	Woodlake Community Center 145 N. Magnolia Street Woodlake, CA 93286
September 12, 2022*	September 19, 2022	Lindsay Wellness Center 860 N. Sequoia Lindsay, CA 93247
October 3, 2022	October 17, 2022	Porterville Fire Department Training Facility 500 N. Newcomb Street Porterville, CA 93257
November 7, 2022	November 21, 2022*	TBD
December 5, 2022*	December 19, 2022*	TBD

* Exception to standard board meeting dates is due to Holidays

Meeting locations are subject to change.

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

AGENDA ITEM VI-A

January 24, 2022

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Action: Authorize a Public Hearing for 2022 Fare Changes

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Transit Administration's Office of Civil Rights works with transit providers to ensure that the impacts of service and fare changes are not discriminatory and are distributed equitably to minority and low-income populations. The FTA also seeks to ensure that minority, low-income, and limited English proficient communities have an equal opportunity to participate in the public involvement process that often precedes a decision to change service and fares.

DISCUSSION:

The current fare structure, from each member agency, is listed below in the following tables:

Fixed Route					
Member Agency	General	Senior/ADA	Day Pass	7-Day Pass	Regional Pass
Dinuba	\$1.00	\$1.00/\$.50	N/A	N/A	\$55.00
Exeter (VT)	\$1.75	\$.85	\$3.50/\$2.50	\$14.00/\$7.50	\$55.00
Farmersville (VT)	\$1.75	\$.85	\$3.50/\$2.50	\$14.00/\$7.50	\$55.00
Lindsay (TCaT)	\$2.00	\$1.00	N/A	N/A	\$55.00
Porterville	\$1.50	\$.75	\$3.00/\$1.50	N/A	\$55.00
Tulare	\$1.50	\$.75	N/A	N/A	\$55.00
Woodlake	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
County	\$2.00	\$1.00	N/A	N/A	\$55.00

Demand Response				
Member Agency	General	Senior/ADA	Youth	Local Monthly Pass
Dinuba	\$2.00	\$1.25/\$.75	\$1.75	\$35.00 (Student/Senior)
Exeter (VT)	\$4.00	\$2.25	\$4.00/\$2.25	\$75.00
Farmersville (VT)	\$4.00	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$75.00
Lindsay (TCaT)	\$3.00	\$2.00/\$1.00	\$3.00	N/A
Porterville	\$5.00	\$2.50		N/A
Tulare	\$3.25	\$2.00	\$2.50/\$1.25	N/A
Woodlake	\$1.00	\$.25	\$1.00	N/A
County	\$3.00	\$2.00/\$1.00	\$3.00	N/A

At the Board meeting held on November 15, 2021, the Board of Directors approved the action of simplifying the fare structure to make riding the bus less complex and easier to use.

At the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held on January 3, 2022, the TAC recommended the following definitions of fare categories and identification and the attached draft 2022 TCRTA Fares.

Definitions of Fare Categories and Identification

General

All customers except those who meet the qualifications for youth, senior, disabled or veteran. No identification is required for General fares.

Youth

Anyone 12 and under. Appropriate ID must be shown each time you board a bus to receive the free fare. School-issued picture ID cards are appropriate identification.

Senior / Disabled / Medicare

Any person who meets TCRTA disability requirements, presents a valid Medicare card, or seniors aged 65 or above are eligible for a discounted fare on all TCRTA bus services. Medi-Cal cards will not be accepted. Customers must show appropriate ID each time they board a bus to receive the discounted fare.

TCRTA issued photo ID cards are available for senior and disabled customers. To receive a Disabled ID card, individuals must present a disabled ID card application form completed by a doctor or licensed health care professional or one of the following as proof of disability: Medicare Identification Card, Department of Motor Vehicles Disabled Person Placard Identification Card receipt, Braille Institute Identification Card, Disabled Veteran Service-Connected Identification Card, or a Social Security Income Award Letter. Medi-Cal cards will not be accepted.

Military, Police and Fire Personnel

Sponsored by Measure R, active-duty military, veterans, and military dependents receive the discounted fare. Passengers must present one of the following identifications: a valid U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs issued ID card or a U.S. Uniformed Services ID card indicating retired status; Active-duty military personnel must wear appropriate uniform at the time of boarding or present to the driver a valid U.S. Uniformed Services ID card indicating active service or a Common Access card indicating uniformed services or active duty; Police and Fire personnel must be in full uniform at the time of boarding.

ADA

The TCRTA Americans with Disabilities (ADA) ID card is for persons who have been specially certified through the TCRTA ADA Certification process. This ID may qualify you for priority service on any TCRTA Dial-A-Ride. To become ADA certified, you are required to complete an application and provide a Healthcare Professional Verification form.

Local Fixed and Circulator Routes

Routes E1, F2, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, and T6 are local fixed routes. Routes 60, 70, 80, and 90 are circulator routes.

Commuter Routes

Routes 10, 11x, 20, 30, and 40 are commuter routes.

Transfers

TCRTA has transfer agreements with Visalia Transit at transfer locations only.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors:

1. Set a Public Hearing for the 2022 Fare Changes to be conducted at Board meeting of February 28, 2022; and
2. Authorize staff to notice the public hearing on all TCRTA buses, Transit Centers, TCRTA website, and in various media outlets.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENT:

Draft 2022 TCRTA Fares

2022 TCRTA FARES & PASSES TCRTA Tarifas y Pases

Local Fixed and Circulator Routes (per passenger / Por pasajero)

Fare Categories Categoría de tarifa	Base Fares Tarifas base	Day Pass Pase de un día	7-Day Pass Pase de 7 días	31-Day Pass Pase de 31 días
General	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$10.00	\$55.00
Senior / Disabled / Medicare Card Holder <i>Mayor / Discapacidad / Titular de la tarjeta de Medicare</i>	\$.75	\$1.50	\$5.00	\$25.00
Military / Veteran <i>Militar / Veterano</i>	\$.75	\$1.50	\$5.00	\$25.00
Youth age 12 and younger <i>Jóvenes de 12 años o menos</i>	FREE	N/A	N/A	N/A

Commuter Routes (per passenger / Por pasajero)

Fare Categories Categoría de tarifa	Base Fares Tarifas base	Day Pass Pase de un día	7-Day Pass Pase de 7 días	31-Day Pass Pase de 31 días
General	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$15.00	\$55.00
Senior / Disabled / Medicare Card Holder <i>Mayor / Discapacidad / Titular de la tarjeta de Medicare</i>	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$7.50	N/A
Military / Veteran <i>Militar / Veterano</i>	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$7.50	N/A
Youth age 12 and younger <i>Jóvenes de 12 años o menos</i>	FREE	N/A	N/A	N/A

ADA Paratransit (per passenger / Por pasajero)

Fare Categories Categoría de tarifa	Base Fares Tarifas base	
Senior / Disabled / Medicare Card Holder <i>Mayor / Discapacidad / Titular de la tarjeta de Medicare</i>	\$3.00	
Personal Care Attendant <i>Asistente de cuidado personal</i>	FREE	

On-Demand (per passenger / Por pasajero)

Fare Categories Categoría de tarifa	Base Fares Tarifas base	
General	\$5.00	
Senior / Disabled / Medicare Card Holder <i>Mayor / Discapacidad / Titular de la tarjeta de Medicare</i>	\$2.50	
Military / Veteran <i>Militar / Veterano</i>	\$2.50	

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

AGENDA ITEM VI-B

January 24, 2022

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Action: Authorize a Public Hearing for 2022 Service Changes

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Transit Administration's Office of Civil Rights works with transit providers to ensure that the impacts of service and fare changes are not discriminatory and are distributed equitably to minority and low-income populations. The FTA also seeks to ensure that minority, low-income, and limited English proficient communities have an equal opportunity to participate in the public involvement process that often precedes a decision to change service and fares.

DISCUSSION:

The region's growth and the need to meet mobility and environmental objectives place tremendous demands on public transit providers. Current systems, some of which are old and in need of upgrading and innovation, expand service area, increase service frequency, and improve efficiency to serve these demands. There is urgency from transit providers to adapt to appropriate new technologies, introduce innovations, and create efficiency in the transit system.

To introduce innovative mobility and improve efficiencies of the transit system, staff is proposing the following service changes:

1. Interchange local fixed routes with on-demand service in the City of Dinuba. This service change is designed to provide efficient, expanded, and innovative mobility to the community to address the low-productivity routes, ADA compliance, and community growth.
2. Interchange the local flex route with on-demand service in the City of Lindsay. This change is a neutral change in service and more of rebranding the service mode. The local flex route is a modified version of a demand response type of service.
3. Create uniformity in the local fixed route schedule across the TCRTA system. Currently, local fixed routes have unique service hours for each individual member agency. The uniform schedule will have all local fixed routes operating on the same service hours and on the same days. It is proposed that local fixed routes operate Monday – Saturday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, and limited Sunday service from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
4. Create uniformity in the ADA paratransit schedule across the TCRTA system. ADA regulations require that ADA paratransit operate on the same days and hours of the local fixed route system, therefore the current ADA paratransit schedule is unique to

each member agency's fixed route service. This service change will insure TCRTA is ADA compliant regarding paratransit service. It is proposed that ADA paratransit service operate Monday – Saturday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, and limited Sunday service from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

5. Create uniformity in the On-Demand schedule across the TCRTA system. On-Demand service is being planned to expand to all member agencies starting next fiscal year. It is proposed that On-Demand service operate Monday – Saturday from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, and limited Sunday service from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors:

1. Set a Public Hearing for the 2022 Service Changes to be conducted at Board meeting of February 28, 2022; and
2. Authorize staff to notice the public hearing on all TCRTA buses, Transit Centers, TCRTA website, and in various media outlets.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Service changes are designed to create efficiencies in the system and reduce operating costs. Expanded On-Demand service is funded by grant funding. Actual fiscal impact will be depending on the upcoming Agreement with the third-party contractor.

ATTACHMENT:

None

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

AGENDA ITEM VI-C

January 24, 2022

Prepared by Teresa Ortega, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Action: Allocation Request for Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Grant Funding Fiscal Year 2022

BACKGROUND:

TCRTA is committed to developing programs that can utilize State Low Carbon Transit Operation (LCTOP) funds which are restricted to funding transit improvements that reduce greenhouse gasses, promote ridership, and serve disadvantaged communities. TCRTA expects to be allocated an estimated \$400,000 in LCTOP funds for FY 2021/2022.

DISCUSSION:

On January 10, 2022, LCTOP announced the program update for FY 2022. Final applications must be submitted to Caltrans by March 25, 2022. Before staff can submit the application, they must identify a specific project(s).

Staff has discussed four options.

1. Continue the Fare Free 4 All program
2. Modernize the Fare Collection System
3. Expenditures related to the purchase of zero-emission buses
4. Expenditures related to the purchase of charging station infrastructure

To continue the TCRTA's ridership recovery strategies, Staff is recommending that the FY 2022 LCTOP funds be utilized to continue the Fare Free 4 All program. FY 2022 LCTOP funding is expected to cover passenger fares from January through June 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board authorize staff to prepare and submit a FY 2022 LCTOP project application to continue the Fare Free 4 All program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENT:

None

This page intentionally left blank.

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

AGENDA ITEM VI-D

January 24, 2022

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Action: Authorize Fiscal Year 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Project Application

BACKGROUND:

The Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) was created by Senate Bill (SB) 862 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014) and modified by Senate Bill 9 (Chapter 710, Statutes of 2015), to provide grants from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to fund transformative capital improvements that will modernize California's intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems, and bus and ferry transit systems, to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, vehicle miles traveled, and congestion. There have been four prior cycles of TIRCP funding, in which the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) has awarded \$5.8 billion in funding to 73 projects throughout the state.

The TIRCP was created to fund transformative capital improvements that modernize California's intercity rail, bus (including feeder buses to intercity rail services, as well as vanpool services that are eligible to report as public transit to the Federal Transit Administration), ferry, and rail transit systems (collectively referred to as transit services or systems inclusive of all aforementioned modes unless otherwise specified) to achieve all of the following policy objectives, as established in Section 75220(a) of the PRC:

1. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases
2. Expand and improve transit service to increase ridership
3. Integrate the rail service of the state's various rail operations, including integration with the high-speed rail system
4. Improve transit safety

Additionally, Section 75221(c) of the PRC establishes a programmatic goal to provide at least 25 percent of available funding to projects that provide a direct, meaningful, and assured benefit to disadvantaged communities.

In 2020, TIRCP awarded projects to several transit agencies, a sample of projects are as follows:

- Antelope Valley Transit Authority - \$6.5M to purchase 11 zero-emission buses and supporting infrastructure.
- Lake Transit Authority - \$12.9M to purchase 4 hydrogen fuel-cell buses and supporting infrastructure.
- Merced Transit - \$3.1 to purchase zero-emission buses.
- Santa Monica Transit - \$1.1M to purchase zero-emission buses.
- Solano Transportation Authority - \$10.4M to improve frequency, reliability, and access.

The 2022 TIRCP grant cycle will program projects starting with the 2022-23 fiscal year and ending with the 2026-27 fiscal year. The new program cycle will include previously awarded and active Cycle 3 and 4 projects that have not been fully allocated by the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year, and projects selected with the 2022 planning cycle.

On November 19, 2021, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) announced a call for projects for the 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. Submission of electronic versions of the project cover letter and project narrative document must be completed by March 3, 2022. CalSTA is estimating \$500-600 million for this cycle. Project applications are limited to \$100 million.

DISCUSSION:

Staff is recommending a joint application with Kings Area Regional Transit, Visalia Transit, San Joaquin JPA and CalStart that will include enhanced connectivity along the Cross Valley Corridor to the High Speed Rail – Hanford Station and the purchase of zero-emission buses and supporting infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board:

1. Authorize staff to partner with Kings Area Public Transit, Visalia Transit, San Joaquin JPA and CalStart on a FY 2022 TIRCP project application; and
2. Approve TCRTA as the project lead, prepare and submit a FY 2022 TIRCP project application.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENT:

None

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

AGENDA ITEM VI-E

January 24, 2022

Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff

SUBJECT:

Action: Authorize Fiscal Year 2020-21 Federal Transit Agency (FTA) 5310 Project Application

BACKGROUND:

The Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities – Section 5310 provides formula funding to states for the purpose of assisting private nonprofit groups in meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. Funds are apportioned based on each state's share of the population for these two groups.

Formula funds are apportioned to direct recipients; for rural and small urban areas, this is the state Department of Transportation, while in large urban areas, a designated recipient is chosen by the governor. Direct recipients have flexibility in how they select subrecipient projects for funding, but their decision process must be clearly noted in a state/program management plan. The selection process may be formula-based, competitive or discretionary, and subrecipients can include states or local government authorities, private non-profit organizations, and/or operators of public transportation.

For Federal Fiscal Year 2020-2021, approximately \$20 million are available for large urbanized areas and \$15 million are available for small urban and rural communities. At least 55% of funding must be used for traditional capital projects and not more than 45% of funding can be used for expanded projects.

DISCUSSION:

The Tulare County Regional Transit Agency is an eligible public transportation operator for the FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, program. Eligible projects include the following:

1. Capital Projects
 - a. New accessible vans and buses and related equipment.
 - b. Replacement vans and buses that meet or exceed their useful life.
2. Service Expansion – ADA Paratransit
 - a. Expanding service area or hours of service.
 - b. Increasing frequency of trips.
3. Mobility Management
 - a. Planning, development, implementation of coordinated transportation services.
 - b. Travel training or trip planning
 - c. One-Stop Call Center.
4. Operating Assistance

- a. Expansion of hours of service beyond ADA requirement
- b. Enhancement of services
- c. Volunteer Driver Programs.

FTA Section 5310 application must be submitted electronically in the Caltrans BlackCat system by March 2, 2022. TCAG, as the MPO, will score the application and the State Review Committee scores and verifies TCAG scores.

It is staff's recommendation that a project application be submitted for the Mobility Management category to assist with the development of TCRTA's Central Call Center. This project would be like what Visalia Transit has historically received funding for the Greenline Call Center but expand services to include a One-Stop Call Center (trip planning and trip reservations).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board authorize staff to prepare and submit a FY 2020-2021 5310 project application for the Mobility Management category.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENT:

None