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**FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY (FCRTA)
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: Thursday, November 21, 2024
TIME: 5:30pm, **BEFORE** the *Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) Meeting*
PLACE: FCOG / FCRTA Offices
Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721
*(Corner of Tulare and Van Ness Ave. - above Club One
Park in Underground Garage - Entrance off Tulare & Van Ness Ave.
Exit Elevator on Tulare St., Turn Left, Enter Lobby Door,
Up Elevator to Second Floor, Left to Sequoia Conference Room)*

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodation

The Fresno COG / FCRTA offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Individuals with disabilities may call (559-233-4148) / FCRTA (559-233-6789) at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG / FCRTA are unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

AB 23 Requirement: In accordance with the Brown Act and AB23 the amount of stipend paid to members of the Board of Directors for attending this meeting of the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, is \$50.00.

THE FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN PERSON AT THE FRESNO COG SEQUOIA ROOM.

1. ROLL CALL

Public Presentations - This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the FCRTA Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this Agenda. NOTE: The public may also comment on any Agenda item, as they are presented, prior to action by the FCRTA Board.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approve Minutes of October 24, 2024 [ATTACHMENT]

B. Temporary Maintenance Facility Lease Agreement Extension [APPROVE]

Summary: The Board approved in January 2024, the lease agreement extension (12/31/2023-12/31/2024) for a temporary maintenance facility while the permanent maintenance facility is being built. The temporary site in Selma is located at 1870 Dockery Ave in the City of Selma across from the City yard and around the corner from the new maintenance facility site. FCRTA maintenance services will remain at this location and renew the lease up to an additional six months while the new maintenance facility is being constructed. The monthly rent will be \$6,200 per month. The agreement extension is available on the website www.ruraltransit.org.

Action: Staff recommends Board approval of the agreement extension for the maintenance facility lease not to exceed six months (12/31/2024-6/30/2025).

C. Amendment I New Technology Grant Program Kingsburg Resiliency Hub Project [APPROVE]

Summary: FCRTA was awarded a project through the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) Measure C New Technology Reserve Grant Program. FCRTA was also previously awarded \$538,200 for Phase 1 partial funding of this project which included the solar and level 2 plug-in charging units. FCRTA's project includes funding for Phase 2 to complete this project which consists of construction of the resiliency hub including inductive chargers, battery storage, energy management system, and concrete in a public parking lot in downtown Kingsburg. The resiliency hub will include electric vehicle charging infrastructure that will enable FCRTA to transition to a fully electric vehicle fleet. The hub will also allow FCRTA to expand its innovative on-demand EV Micro Transit service to bring more riders to the system and better connect rural communities to jobs, healthcare, social services, and other quality-of-life locations. The solar chargers would also further reduce reliance on the electrical grid, bringing FCRTA's fleet closer to zero emissions. For increased resiliency, FCRTA plans to install a battery energy storage system (powered-microgrid) to store energy generated by the solar infrastructure. This energy will provide critical backup power when solar generation rates are low. FCRTA was awarded \$986,936 in funding for this project. FCRTA will enter into an amendment with FCTA as the administrator of the grant funding. The Amendment I includes Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project. The Amendment I is available on the website at www.ruraltransit.org

Action: Staff recommends Board authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with FCTA for the New Technology Reserve Grant Program in the amount of \$1,525,136.

D. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit [ACCEPT]

Summary: The CPA firm Price Paige and Co. have completed the 2023-24 Financial and Compliance audit for FCRTA. The report details that FCRTA managed its operations according to funding covenants, within budget and has no findings of non-compliance. This report satisfies requirements of local, federal, and state funding agencies.

FCRTA's operating revenues were \$171,226 and operating expenses were \$10,666,858, which includes \$2,507,707 for depreciation. Non-operating revenues were \$7,987,925; however, when depreciation is netted out, revenues and expenses are in balance. Capital contributions net of depreciation were \$8,265,141, resulting in an ending net position of \$19,782,001. Copies of the audit will be available at the meeting to interested parties and available on FCRTA's website www.ruraltransit.org.

Action: Staff recommends Board acceptance of the 2023-24 FCRTA Financial and Compliance Audit.

E. Biola Microtransit Program [ACTION]

Summary: FCRTA deployed a rural microtransit program in the community of Biola. This service is operated by FCRTA's subcontractor MV transportation with an electric chevy bolt vehicle. The driver is a local resident of Biola and an employee of MV transportation, FCRTA also installed a charging unit to charge the vehicle at the Biola Community Services District (BCSD) to eliminate the deadhead time. The League of Women Voters have donated \$12,000 that are being used as a 50% subsidy for fares for passengers.

This microtransit program has been on a demonstration basis and staff has been monitoring ridership and costs. The ridership for this program continues to be low and costs are high, for the period of 7/1/23 to 6/30/24 the cost per passenger is \$72.00 and cost per hour is \$52.00. The MOU with the BCSD will be ending in February 2025 and FCRTA will not be renewing this MOU. FCRTA will be terminating the service in February 2025 due to the high costs. FCRTA has met with the League of Women Voters and they support ending the service. Staff will continue to explore other transportation options for Biola.

Action: Staff recommends Board approval of terminating the Biola Microtransit Program in February 2025.

F. Current FCRTA/FCOG Office Conditions [INFORMATION]

Summary: Last month, the Board was informed of the current conditions of the FCRTA/COG office and that the space has been infested with pests. FCRTA General Manager has met with the FCOG Executive Director on this subject and will continue to discuss options or alternatives. FCRTA will return to the Board with possible options. At this time, staff recommends assembling a Committee to discuss options that are presented by staff. Between now and when the lease is up for renewal in 2025, FCRTA will continue to confer with FCOG about possible relocation options for both offices with emphasis to stay in the downtown area depending on availability.

Action: Information only. The Board may provide direction at its discretion.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from staff.

B. Items from members.

4. ADJOURNMENT

FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY (FCRTA)

ITEM 2A

Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 5:30 P.M FCRTA Meeting
COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Attending:

Mayor Brandon Pursell, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Alma Beltran, City of Parlier
Mayor Scott Robertson, City of Selma
Mayor Pro Tem Freddy Valdez, City of Firebaugh
Councilmember Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Pro Tem Gilbert Garcia, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Julia Hernandez, City of San Joaquin
Mayor Rey Leon, City of Huron
Mayor James Horn, City of Coalinga
Mayor Maria Pacheco, City of Kerman
Mayor Victor Martinez, City of Mendota
Supervisor Sal Quintero, Fresno County

Moses Stites, General Manager
Janelle Del Campo, Deputy Director
Bryan Rome, County Counsel
Denise Flores, FCOG

Absent:

Mayor Frank Gonzalez, City of Sanger
Mayor Daniel Parra, City of Fowler

1. **ROLL CALL** — Meeting called to order 5:31 p.m.

Public Presentations - This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the FCRTA Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this Agenda.

NOTE: The public may also comment on any Agenda item, as they are presented, prior to action by the FCRTA Board.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **Approve Minutes of July 25, 2024 [ATTACHMENT]**
- B. **Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant Award [APPROVE]**
- C. **FCRTA Transportation Development Act Claim [APPROVE]**
- D. **State of Good Repair Application [APPROVE]**
- E. **Biola Microtransit Program [INFORMATION]**

Mayor (Horn) Coalinga pulled Item 2E. Discussion ensued. The Board requested more information and to return with options for relocation.

A motion was made by Mayor Martinez (Mendota) and second by Mayor Horn (Coalinga). A vote was called, and motion carried.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO PROVIDE A COORDINATED TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR RURAL FRESNO COUNTY

The Cities of: Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, Selma & Fresno County

A. Items from staff.

1. Janelle Del Campo informed the Board of an upcoming FTA Farmworker meeting, Biola Microtransit Update, and recent maintenance facility tours.

B. Items from members.

1. Mayor Roberston (Selma) informed the Board that Moses was a moderator at a debate.
2. Mayor Beltran (Parlier) informed the Board that there would be a grand opening for Fig Tree Park.

4. ADJOURNMENT 5:55PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Moses Stites". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Moses Stites
General Manager