

## **Background Information:**

### **Consent Calendar:**

- 2. Approval of the June 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes.**
- 3. Report on the Fiscal Year 2018/19 Transportation Development Act Financial Audits.**

The purpose of this agenda item is to report on the status of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Financial Audits for Fiscal Year 2018/19 for the TCTC, TCTA, County and City.

#### *Background*

The TCTC is responsible to administer the Transportation Development Act funding program for the Tuolumne County Region. The Transportation Development Act governs two major transportation funding sources, the Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance Funds (STAF). Local Transportation Funds may be utilized for administration of the TDA, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, the public transit system (operations and capital) and for streets and roads projects. State Transit Assistance Funds may be utilized for public transit services only.

The Transportation Development Act requires the TCTC to hire an outside auditor to annually conduct financial audits of the TDA funds. TDA audits are conducted for the County of Tuolumne, City of Sonora, TCTC and TCTA since TDA funds are allocated to those agencies. These Audit Reports also include the TCTC's State Highway Account Reserves, which consists of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Transportation Enhancement (TE) Exchange funds. The audits are due to the State by December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

The TDA Financial Audits for Fiscal Year 2018/19 are currently being prepared by Macias, Gini and O'Connell LLP. Typically, the audits would be presented to the TCTC for acceptance prior to the submittal and presented at our December meeting. However, the TCTC's Auditor/Controller, Debi Bautista, just recently provided the auditing firm with the final information need to complete our audits on July 17<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to present the audits at our September or October meeting.

#### **Attachments:**

*There are no attachments for this item.*

#### **Recommended Action:**

*Informational item, no action required.*

**Regular Agenda:**

**4. Presentation on the new Tuolumne Transit Tracker and new Tuolumne County Transit bus technologies.**

The Tuolumne County Transit Agency (TCTA) approved a contract agreement and work order in May with DoubleMap for the Real Time Passenger Information System. As part of the approved work order, the TCTA purchased new GPS tracking hardware for all 20 TCT buses going from 3G to 4G cellular network (3G hardware is being phased out of service). And TCT switched from AT&T Cellular Service to Verizon. We are noticing better cellular coverage throughout Tuolumne County especially noticeable in Columbia and in the high county communities of Long Barn, Pinecrest, and Strawberry.

The TCTA staff officially transitioned on July 10<sup>th</sup> from NextBus to the new Tuolumne Transit Tracker, powered by DoubleMap. As part of the transition away from our previous contractor, we decided to market our Real Times Passenger Information System into a new brand with the name Tuolumne Transit Tracker.

The TCTA staff ensured that that there was a smooth transition to our new Tuolumne Transit Tracker which included updating our TCT website, created new Tuolumne Transit Tracker flyers and placing them on all the buses, and promoting the new service on our social media accounts. We are currently updated our schedules and bus stop signs with the new Tuolumne Transit Tracker information.

The Tuolumne Transit Tracker uses GPS technology to track historical bus travel data and the Tracker uses algorithms to predict accurate vehicle arrival times. By considering the actual position of the buses, their intended stops, and typical traffic patterns, Tuolumne Transit Tracker can estimate vehicle arrivals with a high degree of accuracy. The Tuolumne Transit Tracker provides real-time arrival predictions through:

- **DoubleMap Tracker APP** - Bus riders need to download the DoubleMap application from the Google Play Store or iPhone Store.
- **SMS/Text** – Bus riders need to text their three-digit bus stop number to 209-287-3233.
- **IVR-Interactive Voice Response** (Soon to be released). Dial the appropriate phone number and use the three-digit bus stop number.

Bus riders who use the text messaging system or voice (IVR) system will need to know their bus stop number to access these arrival predictions. TCT is using the same three-digit bus numbers for all the bus stops from NextBus. Some examples include:

- 001 - Crossroads Shopping Center (Walmart)
- 002 - Junction Shopping Center (TJ Maxx)
- 003 - Courthouse Park (Jackson St)

These bus stop numbers can be found on the TCT schedule brochures, individual bus stop signs, <https://www.tuolumnecountytransit.com/tuolumnetransittracker> and the rotating kiosks.

The Tuolumne Transit Tracker also includes a Live Bus Map that the public can see buses traveling in real time. The Live Bus Map is accessible on the front page of the Tuolumne County Transit website. [www.tuolumnecountytransit.com](http://www.tuolumnecountytransit.com)

The TCTA has just unveiled a new free WIFI internet service to bus riders. This new service will be offered on eight fixed route buses. Bus riders need to accept the TCT terms and conditions before they use this service. Each bus rider will be allowed a certain amount of data each month.

The TCTA is testing out our Automatic Vehicle Announcement (AVA) systems which provide automated voice announcements on when the bus is arriving at each bus stop and what the next stop will be. We will have this service available on five of our fixed route buses.

The TCTA is testing out our new Automatic Passenger Counters (APC) which keep track in real time the number of passengers that are riding the bus. APC's will also provide information on peak seating capacity utilization for right sizing buses during purchases.

Tuolumne County Transit staff is utilizing the new DoubleMap management website portal which must easier to use than its predecessor. The new portal provides access to the live Map, customizable routes and bus stops locations, create public announcements to riders through the application, ability to create bus stop alerts, and most important customizable reporting capabilities. The reports include on time performance of the routes, bus wait times, passenger counts, bus driver performance, vehicle speed, etc. The management portal is essential for the completion of TCT performance metrics, the analysis of the daily transit operation, and long-term transit planning and analysis.

The Contract Agreement with DoubleMap also allows TCTA to issue future task orders to implement some or all of the optional transit technologies items included in the RFP. These optional items include;

- Deploying a Mobile Fare Payment System,
- Deploying more automatic passenger counters on all the buses,
- Deploy WIFI service on all the buses,
- Linking our existing destination signs,
- Deploying the automatic vehicle announcement system on the buses,
- Adding LED Signs at our bus stops.

The TCTA might expand or add these new technologies in the future.

**Attachment:**

1. *Tuolumne Transit Tracker Flyer*
2. *Tuolumne County Transit – Free WIFI Flyer*

**Recommended Action:**

*No Action Required.*

## 5. Report on Watch/Storer collaboration

As you may recall, staff reported at the June meeting that WATCH Resources of East Sonora has decided to discontinue transportation of clients from their homes to the WATCH offices. Elimination of the service has the potential to overwhelm existing Dial-A-Ride services and leave parents very unsatisfied. WATCH clients are often located for outside of Tuolumne Transit services area and have special needs that are better served by a stand-alone service.

The Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) provides the funding for WATCH Transportation. VMRC contacted Storer Transportation to request they take over the services. VMRC already has a contract with Storer to operate WATCH transportation services in San Joaquin Valley. Storer agreed to take over the service and purchased four new buses. Initially, Storer has intended to operate the service separate from Tuolumne County Transit. However, Storer has requested permission to use the transit operations office on Sanguinetti Road at least for the short term until Storer can put in place a sustainable business model. Staff worked with the property owners to get tentative permission for an additional transit service to operate on our property. Subsequently, the Transit Manager approved the use of our facility, pending a proposal from Storer for cost reimbursement.

Staff has met with legal counsel on how existing agreements should be modified in consideration of the WATCH transportation use of our facility; staff resources and related infrastructure. Donald Storer will be meeting with staff in August to negotiate a fair funding agreement.

### **Attachments:**

*There are no attachments for this item.*

### **Recommended Action:**

*There is no action required at this time.*

## 6. Reports

- *Report on Common Ground*