

Consent Calendar:

2. Approval of the June 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

Regular Agenda:

3. Progress report on the construction of the Tuolumne Transit Center.

The Transit Center is nearing 95% completion! The project focus has turned to Justice Center Drive. The contractor is preparing to dig two trenches, one to extend water, power and fiber optics to the transit center, the other to extend ATT, Comcast and County related infrastructure to the end of jail access road. Next steps include paving the road and finishing curb, gutter and sidewalk/landing area for the frontage of the Transit Center.

Final outstanding items for the Transit Center include installation of the roll up doors, keying the locks, installation of a TV, placement of vending machines, and finishing touches on the emergency 'blue' light phone being placed in the courtyard.

Additional items still to be provided under separate contract are furniture and polishing of the concrete floors in the building. The polishing contract still has needs to come to the Transit Agency for approval.

When the trenches have been dug, conduit run and water/power extended to site, final completion of the Transit Center can be performed. At this point, landscaping will go in, the electrical and mechanical systems tested, along with programming of wireless networks, security systems and blue light phone.



An updated budget spreadsheet is included for review. All of the Proposition 1B funds have been expended. This is also true of the California Office of Emergency Services grant funds. The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program dollars are depleted. At this time remaining project invoices will be paid out of the local transportation fund account.

Attachments:

Transit Center budget detail.

Recommendation:

Receive and file this report.

4. Consider a pilot project with Token Transit, a transit fare pay app, allowing Tuolumne County Transit passengers to pay public transportation fare(s) with their smart phones for a 10% retainage fee, which could result in reduced revenues.

There are barriers to using public transportation, this has been well established. These barriers which can include extended wait times, limited service areas, imperfect service hours and abridged services on the weekends to name a few. This can be especially poignant for small rural public transportation systems like Tuolumne County Transit.

In light of the barriers we know are present, staff does its best to address these items head on. We plan and oversee the most extensive public transit services that the budget can facilitate, offer consumer friendly technologies (Nextbus), work closely with our partners in the community and are currently engaged in constructing the first major transit specific capital investment in the County (Transit Center).

Fare payment presents a unique challenge for our riders. We currently require exact change of our passengers, a monthly pass, or some other pre-paid voucher that has been previously obtained. This is inconsistent with current practices such as debit and credit card use, online payments, and App use to secure commodities quickly and conveniently.

This agenda item is an attempt by staff to address this barrier to use of public transit. Consumer questions regarding how much the fare is, frustration with needing to carry exact change and not having a smart phone based option to pay their fare are all addressed in with Token Transit's App.

The App is free to download. Token Transit's revenue model is built on collecting a 10 percent fee of the fare collected. This means while Tuolumne County Transit does not explicitly pay out of pocket for the service, there is an impact on fare revenues collected. This is likely a minimal impact in the beginning, merely as a result of not many passengers being aware of this option. Potentially there is an offset to lost revenues by new passengers gained or additional trips taken. Staff estimates that if 15% of daily fare-paying passengers use the pay app, TCTC could lose \$15,500.00 in revenue annually. Conversely, a potential threat to farebox recovery ratio is robust use of the App by existing passengers. Although there is no change for them, in terms of cost of the service, there would be a net loss to the system as a result of Token Transit "cut".

Staff is preparing to print revised schedules and open the new transit center. This may be an ideal opportunity to also explore this passenger convenience item. General public fares are being raised slightly and efficiencies are expected to be gained by having the transit center transfer facility. Rolling out this payment option could be part of the “new and improved” look, feel and functionality of Tuolumne County Transit.

Attachments:

Token Transit Pilot Program Overview

Token Transit Agreement

Recommendation

Direct staff to enter into a pilot project with Token Transit, a transit fare pay app, allowing Tuolumne County Transit passengers to pay public transportation fare/s with their smart phones

5. Reports