

# *Tuolumne County Transit Agency*

## *April 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes*

The April 8, 2020 meeting of the Tuolumne County Transit Agency (TCTA) Technical/Citizen's was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Chairman Michael Ayala. Also, in attendance were: Councilmember John Gray; Councilmember Ryan Campbell; Councilmember Jim Garaventa; Executive Director Darin Grossi; Sr. Transportation Planner, Tyler Summersett; Laura Shinn, Senior Administrative Analyst; and Assistant to the Executive Director, Denise Bergamaschi.

Absent from today's meeting was Councilmember Matt Hawkins.

Gregoria Ponce' and Dan McElhinney were present at today's meeting representing Caltrans District 10.

Also present was Rob Williams with the California Bicycle Coalition.

**1. Oral communication (15 minutes) to allow the public to speak on any item not on the printed agenda.**

There was no Oral Communication at today's meeting.

**Consent Calendar:**

**2. Approval of the March 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes.**

*Councilmember Garaventa moved to approve the March 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented.*

*Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion.*

*Motion approved with a 4-0 vote.*

**Regular Agenda:**

**3. Recommend approval of purchasing one new bus, a Type C Glaval 16 + 2, in the amount of \$106,100.17, from the California Association of Coordinated Transit (CalACT) piggy-back contract available e to all CalACT members.**

Executive Director Grossi informed Council Members that several transit buses are nearing their "useful" life expectancies. He added that every year funds are set aside for this reason. He stated that initially staff was anticipating purchasing two buses but, given the financial impacts of COVID 19, only one will be purchased to maintain a higher fund balance at this time should other emergencies arise. He stated that staff is looking for approval to purchase just one bus for now.

Sr. Transportation Planner, Tyler Summersett, informed Council Members that this is a chance to purchase a 2019 model on the State Contract at a lower cost, also adding that in the 2020 models, the engines are different. He stated that we are trying to grab one of the final 2019 models that are available.

*Councilmember Gray moved to approve purchasing one new bus, a Type C Glaval 16 + 2, in the amount of \$106,100.17, from the California Association of Coordinated Transit (CalACT) piggy-back contract available e to all CalACT members.*

*Councilmember Garaventa seconded the motion.*

*Motion approved with a 4-0 vote.*

*There was No Public Comment for this item.*

#### **4. Reports**

Executive Director Grossi reported that COVID19 has wreaked havoc on ridership. He stated that currently, Dial a Ride is running 8 buses per day with less than 100 riders adding that only essential transportation is being honored at this time and that all rides are free of charge until further notice. He added that normally, there are over 300 Route riders and over 100 Dial a Ride and that during the first week of March the ridership began to decline, which was the beginning of the outbreak. Mr. Grossi stated that during the second week, not only did ridership decline, but that WATCH closed its services. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> week ridership was way down – only 100 riders, including 15 Dial a Ride on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Executive Director Grossi stated that this is when staff and Transit Management began looking at making changes. Unfortunately, with these changes came laying off 10 of the drivers. These were all voluntary lay-offs as these drivers were older and concerned about their health and others wanted to stay home to take care of family members. He reminded Committee Members that a Stay at Home Order was issued on March 19 and took effect March 20. He stated that the drivers are only allowing 1-2 riders per trip to maintain adequate social distancing. The buses are also sanitized after every trip and washed thoroughly twice per day.

Executive Director Grossi also informed Council Members that the Meals on Wheels service has closed and that Sr. Transportation Planner, Tyler Summersett reached out to them. He found out that the demand for meal delivery has increased due to the stay at home order. Executive Director Grossi stated that this is will be presented to Council for authorizing to use the transit buses as backup for delivery.

Sr. Transportation Planner, Tyler Summersett reported that YARTS had a JPA meeting a few days which was attended by Councilmember Gray, regarding a re-branding effort. He also stated that the board was looking for direction with regards to the closure of Yosemite and reduced service that could be offered. He added that as of now, the only area providing service is the 140 corridor and that the 120 corridor has no reservations as of today and that the season is suspended for now.

Discussion ensued.

*There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Denise A. Bergamaschi  
Assistant to the Executive Director*