

**Tulare County Regional Transit Agency  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

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**Members Present:** Reynosa, Riddle, Gomez, Serna, Sigala, Martinez, Micari  
**Members Absent:**  
**Non-Voting Alternates:**  
**Ex Officio Present:** Liz Wynn  
**Staff Present:** Abul Hassan, Melissa Cashen, Teresa Ortega, Clayton Landis,  
Olivia Forte, Ashlee Compton  
**Counsel Present:** Thomas Degn

\*Board member attended online or due to emergency or just cause.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Sigala called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Led by Chair Sigala

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Lollis: Assistant City Manager for city of Visalia. City of Visalia would reiterate its objection to intracity Microtransit service within the city of Visalia city limits, as noted to the board at its June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. TCRTA Executive Director has stated both publicly and privately in writing that it was his recommendation to discontinue interests of Microtransit service in the city of Visalia due to low ridership, was less than ten per day and normally not more than five. TCRTA has violated its own bylaws, typically Article 1 section 3 boundaries and Article 1 Section 4 Powers, by performing the transit services inside the territory if incorporated city within Tulare County that is not a member of the TCRTA and without an agreement to do so. TCRTA has also violated federal transit regulations and attempted to utilize federal funds inside the jurisdiction that is a federally recognized transit.

Mr. Maurer: I'm not going to restate the same comments because mine are the same. I'll just indicate to you all that Porterville has the same comments and the same beliefs, thank you.

**I. PRELIMINARY ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. Action:** Pursuant to Gov. Code, § 54953(c)(3) the Board will vote to approve the salary and contract terms as presented on 08-19-2024 during closed session. The annual salary of \$180,250.00 along with the additional contract terms to be retroactive to 8-25-2024.

Motion: Martinez

Second: Gomez

Ayes: Gomez, Serna, Sigala, Martinez

Noes: Riddle, Micari

Abstains: Reynosa

**II. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:**

It is the intention of the Board of Directors to meet in closed session concerning:

Item IV-A

**A. § 54956.9(d) (1) – Pending Litigation (Settlement)**

Report: Nothing to report

**B. § 54957.6 – Labor Negotiations for TCRTA Executive Director**

**Purpose:** To discuss and negotiate the terms of a mutual severance agreement with the Executive Director

Report: There was a recommendation that came out of closed session to have the Chair of the board sign to approve the separation agreement with Mr. Hassan. Essentially paying 1 year severance with some additional amounts included that now total \$211,972.82. The remainder of the terms will be available upon request for the public to view.

Motion: Micari

Second: Serna

Ayes: Reynosa, Riddle, Gomez, Serna, Sigala, Martinez, Micari

Adopted 7 to 0

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

All Consent Calendar Items are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these matters unless a request is made, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar. All items removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion will be heard at the end of Action / Discussion Items.

**Request Approval of the Consent Calendar Items**

- A.** Approve Minutes of August 19, 2024
- B.** Information: Vehicle Asset Worksheet
- C.** Information: Operational KPI Report
- D.** Information: Monthly Ridership Summary
- E.** Information: Microtransit Update (Public Notice)

Motion: Sigala

Second: Micari

- F.** Information: Marketing Update
- G.** Information: Financial Statement
- H.** Information: Grant Management Update
- I.** Information: Fare Media Update
- J.** Information: HR Update
- K. Action:** Zone 3 continuation: ADA & Title VI Requirements

- a. Discussion: Director Riddle's request for discussion on improved relationships

Notes: Pulled for Discussion. Ms. Wynn reiterated that the City of Visalia is its own area. We just received approval for \$700,00 to start our Micro Transit van purchases at the TAC meeting this afternoon. And that while it's great to bring those outlying areas into Visalia, the inner service within Visalia will be handled by the city of Visalia's Micro Transit program.

Item IV-A

Mr. Maurer commented: He wanted to add; that the staff report, and the report here makes some notes about the federal law, and I would just indicate that nothing in this particular FTA circular has anything to do with micro transit And so I am concerned that the board isn't getting an accurate representation of what the law is. You know, obviously make this comment on behalf of the City of Porterville, not Visalia, but we don't want to see similar things happening with the city of Porterville. And there is nothing in any FTA circular that indicates that agencies can ignore boundary lines that are otherwise legally applicable, and in fact it's the opposite. The FTA says you're not obligated to provide services outside your territory, and Visalia and Porterville are clearly outside of TCRTA's territory. So, I just want to emphasize that I don't believe you're being given a correct assessment of the law. Thank you, chair.

Counsel Mr. Degn advised to table item for another time.

Motion: Martinez

Second: Riddle

Notes: Consent calendar approved 7-0 minus items E and K.

**VIII. ACTION ITEM & PRESENTATION:**

**A.** Angelly Tovar – CallTP Presentation

**B.** CALITP - Request to Award

Motion: Sigala

Second: Gomez

Ayes: Reynosa, Riddle, Gomez, Serna, Sigala, Martinez, Micari

Noes: None

Approve going into agreement with CallTP and the vendors necessary.

Notes: Mr. Tree commented urging the board to delay decision so the Region can further its conversations on how best to move forward with a regional fare collection system.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A.** Requests from Board Members for Future Agenda Items

None

**X. ADJOURN:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 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, October 21, 2024, and will take place at 4:00 pm.** at the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA), 200 E. Center Avenue, Visalia, CA 9329.1