

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Application Package

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) was established by California statute in California in 1998 under California Public Utilities Code 99238. Its creation resulted from state efforts to address the civil rights and mobility of transit-advantaged residents.

The committee's history and core functions are defined by a few key elements:

- **Origins:** The SSTAC was mandated by state legislation to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations-specifically the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents-were accurately represented in local transit planning.
- **The TDA Connection:** Its creation was tied to the Transportation Development Act (TDA). The TDA provides funding for public transit, but mandates that a portion be used for specialized services if "unmet transit needs" exist and are "reasonable to meet".
- **The Unmet Transit Needs Process:** The primary historical and ongoing function of the SSTAC is to solicit citizen input, annually, review transit needs in the region, and make formal recommendations to local transportation planning agencies (e.g., Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and Councils of Governments) regarding unmet transit needs.
- **Committee Composition:** By law, the SSTAC is comprised of a cross-section of the community, including transit users over 60, users with disabilities, representatives from local social service providers, and local transit operators.

Membership Composition

To ensure adequate civil rights representation, California Public Utilities Code 99238 requires a minimum of nine (9) members appointed by the local planning agency. Fresno Council of Governments is the local planning agency for Fresno County. The group must be composed of the following demographics and service providers:

- **Elderly Representatives:** One potential transit user who is 60 years of age or older.
- **Disabled Representatives:** One potential transit user who is disabled.
- **Senior Service Providers:** Two representatives from local service agencies providing specialized care or transportation for seniors.
- **Disabled Service Providers:** Two representatives from local social service agencies serving individuals with disabilities.
- **Low-income Service Providers:** One representative from a local social service organization assisting people of limited means.
- **Consolidated Transportation Agencies:** Two representatives from a local Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA), typically including one operator and one customer.

Membership Requirements

Prospective members of the SSTAC should reside and/or work in Fresno County, be part of demographic group addressed by the SSTAC or represent a service provider meeting the criteria of the SSTAC. meeting the criteria of the target service provider.

Appointment Terms

Members are appointed to serve a two-year term with re-appointments for two-year terms.

Please submit completed applications to the following staff:

Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee
(SSTAC) c/o Brenda Thomas
Fresno COG
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721
Email: bthomas@fresnocog.org

Should applicants have any questions, please call Brenda Thomas at 559-233-4148.

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

-- APPLICATION FORM

(Please print legibly or type)

Name of Applicant: _____

Residential Information

Street Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Zip Code: _____ (Optional)

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

Employment Information

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Work Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ Fax: _____

Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Eligibility Requirements

By signing this application form I hereby certify that:

1. I am a U.S. citizen 18 years of age or older and reside within Fresno County.
2. I am not an elected official at any level of government

Area or Community Represented

I wish to be considered for to represent the following demographic or service provider(s) - *Check one or more box(es) below to affirm your interest:*

- ☐ Elderly
- ☐ Disabled
- ☐ Senior Service Provider
- ☐ Disabled Service Provider
- ☐ Low-Income Service Provider
- ☐ Consolidated Transportation Agency
- ☐ General Public

Briefly explain the capacity by which you will represent the demographic or service provider you selected above.

Required Signature

I declare under penalty of perjury the above information is true and correct.

Date: _____ Applicant: _____
Signature

RETURN COMPLETED, SIGNED APPLICATION and other required documentation to:

SSTAC COC c/o
Brenda Thomas
Fresno COG
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Email: bthomas@fresnocog.org

Telephone: 559.233-4148, ext. 219

APPLICATIONS WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR TWO YEARS.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE STAMP OR DATE RECEIVED:

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Purpose and Function

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) is a regional advisory body mandated by California state law. Its primary purpose is to ensure that the transit needs of an under-represented population specifically older adults, individuals, with disabilities, and low-income residents, are met.

Legislatively, the primary role of the SSTAC is to ensure that the transit and mobility needs of vulnerable populations are integrated into regional transportation planning. It fulfills this role through several specific mechanisms:

- **Unmet Transit Needs Process:** The SSTAC annually identifies, reviews, and solicits public feedback on public transit gaps. They evaluate whether these needs are “reasonable to meet” and make formal recommendations to local transit planning commissions.
- **Service Coordination:** The committee advises on coordinating specialized transportation services, paratransit, and social service agency transportation to prevent duplication of services and maximize the efficient use of public funds.
- **Accessibility & Policy:** It advises on federal funding programs and ensures regional plans address accessibility for disabled and elderly populations.

Who Makes Up the Committee?

The SSTAC, created by the California Public Utilities Code (Section 99238) advises the Fresno COG Policy Board on transit related issues for traditionally under-represented and underserved populations such as the elderly, disabled, low-income, and minority (i.e. Black, Hispanic, Asian American, Native American/Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander) community groups.

- One potential transit user 60 years of age or older (minimum of 1)
- Representatives of the Local Social Service Providers for Seniors (minimum of 2)
- Potential Transit User who is disabled (minimum of 1)
- Representative of the Local Social Service provider for the Disabled (minimum of 1)
- Representative of a Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means (minimum of 1)
- Representatives from the local Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) (minimum of 2)
- Representatives of General Public, who use public transit

By becoming an SSTAC member, you will help improve transit for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and underserved communities in Fresno County. The SSTAC meets to identify local transit needs and advises the Fresno COG Board on Transportation improvements.

Membership of this committee is comprised of representatives from member jurisdictions and residents or people who work in Fresno County who are seniors, social service providers, transit users, and disabled. Members of SSTAC are appointed by the Fresno COG Board to serve two-year terms, with members eligible for re-appointment at the discretion of the Board.

Selection and Duties of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

The Committee shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from the members, each of whom shall serve a two (2) year term. The duties of the Chair will be to call meetings, set agendas, and preside over meetings. The

duties of the Vice chair will be to perform the same duties described above in the absence of the Chair.

Scheduled Committee Meetings

SSTAC meetings are scheduled to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM at the offices of Fresno COG, located at 2035 Tulare Street, Suite. 201, Fresno, California 93721, in the Ash Room. Please note that SSTAC meets on an as-needed basis so please check the Fresno COG calendar for planned meetings. All Committee meetings must be held in compliance with the Brown Act. All meetings will be conducted as per "Robert's Rules of Order."

Quorum

A Quorum will be no less than seven (7) members of the Committee. An action item of the Committee may be approved by a simple majority of the quorum present.