

**CITY OF FRESNO  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**APPROVED - MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2010 MEETING**

DAC Commission Members Present: Michelle Bronson, Robert Hand (Chair), Mary Beth Randall, Ron Sheppard, Rachelle Taylor

Staff Present: Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary, Sylvia Shelton, Public Works Services Aide

Call to Order and Self Introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Member Randall, seconded by Member Bronson, duly carried, the minutes of March 8, 2010 were approved.

**PRESENTATION: NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES (NEV) – PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Director Patrick Wiemiller responded to the DAC's request for information regarding Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) in the Fresno area. He reported that there are no immediate plans to incorporate NEV lane planning in Fresno's major street corridors and that input from the DAC Commission would be requested before any implementation of these lanes. Member Randall expressed concern for the quietness of the NEVs as well as the new hybrid/quiet cars to persons who are visually and/or hearing impaired.

Steven Frazier, speaking as a citizen, suggested cities that have implemented NEVs be contacted regarding their codes and ordinances, and indicated the California Council of the Blind (CCB) will oppose NEVs.

Vidal Medina asked what the benefit to the City would be implementing NEVs. Mr. Wiemiller responded there is no plan to

implement NEV lanes on major streets; on residential streets, the benefits would be cleaner air and pavement preservation.

## **UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATION**

None

### **PRESENTATION: SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC)**

Bill Hyatt, Chairman of the Council of Fresno County Governments (COG), Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), described the role of the SSTAC in evaluating unmet transportation needs for seniors and persons with disabilities in Fresno County.

### **PRESENTATION: FRESNO YOSEMITE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES - AIRPORTS**

Kevin Meikle, Planning Manager for Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FYI), gave a brief description of the improvements made as part of FYI's renovation, including: an independent family restroom, information center, way-finding improvements, ticket counters modifications, and a dedicated security checkpoint.

Vikkie Calderon, FYI Public Relations Officer, gave a brief overview of services that the airlines provide for passengers with disabilities. These include assistance with curbside loading, check-in and reaching the boarding gate areas. She also stated that a service animal relief area has also been added to the secure area of the airport.

Member Bronson would like to see all of the airlines' safety videos captioned for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Ms. Calderon responded that she will pass this information on to the airlines that fly in and out of FYI that use safety videos.

Member Sheppard asked if international airlines have the same ADA requirements as the U.S. Mr. Meikle indicated that he does not believe that international airlines have to follow ADA guidelines in all

their activities, but FYI requires them to adhere to U.S. accessibility requirements while operating in Fresno.

**PRESENTATION: MEASURE C PROGRAMS –COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (COG)**

Brenda Lauchner, of COG, gave a brief description of the following Measure-C funded programs: Carpool, Vanpool, and Taxi Scrip for seniors 70 years and older.

Chuck Krugman, representative of the National Federation of the Blind, Central Valley Chapter, expressed his concern that the eligibility for the Taxi Scrip Program not include financial need, and sometimes serves seniors of means. Ms. Lauchner responded that the Measure C plan would need to be amended by the voters or by the Fresno County Transportation Authority and the Fresno COG Policy Board.

**PRESENTATION: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN – FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Clark Thompson, of COG, described Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as a planning document that identifies existing transportation needs and looks into future needs; the current plan covers through 2035. Mr. Thompson mentioned some of the transportation technologies on the horizon, including high speed rail, bus rapid transit, personal rapid transit, and possibly older technology like street cars.

**PRESENTATION: FRESNO AREA EXPRESS (FAX) – FIXED ROUTE AND HANDY RIDE**

Dean Huss, FAX Transit Operations Manager, gave a quick overview of FAX fixed route services. Greg Eisner, FAX Transit Operations Manager, described the origin of Handy Ride, its eligibility criteria and area of operation. Mr. Eisner introduced Steven Frazier, of his staff, and asked him to describe his duties. Mr. Frazier explained that his duties include orienting people on how to use Handy Ride and promoting open communication with riders to increase productivity and reduce no-shows.

Paul Kwiatkowski, Manager with MV Transportation/Handy Ride, reported that they have maximized possible the improvements to productivity and customer service standards from training and streamlining internal systems, communication systems as far as productivity and customer service standards. He described the next steps for service improvement would come from updating equipment, and enlarging office facilities.

Chuck Krugman stated he has noticed improvement in FAX drivers, but there are still some problems with drivers forgetting to announce stops, forget to use the automated system, or the automated system is inoperative. Mr. Krugman asked whether conditional Handyride eligibility would be granted to people with visual impairments using the fixed route system if they were going to locations where there are roundabouts or no sidewalks.

Dean Huss responded that there are plans to significantly improve bus stops to make them ADA accessible. Greg Eisner explained that the provision of sidewalks was the purview of Public Works.

**ACTION ITEM: APPEAL PROCESS FOR HANDY RIDE ELIGIBILITY AND/OR SUSPENSION OF SERVICE**

Greg Eisner explained that the FAX ADA Eligibility Review Committee previously included two members from the now defunct ADA Advisory Committee and those two members need to be replaced. Member Randall volunteered to sit on the committee. Chair Hand stated that another volunteer or appointee will be added to the committee at a later time.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Hand announced that Resources for Independence is sponsoring a Legislative Panel April 22, 2010, at the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center at 2:00 p.m.

Chair Hand also reported that they are starting a Community Leadership Academy, specifically for people with disabilities who

want to learn how to be on a Board of Directors of a non-profit or government council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the hour of 7:20 pm having arrived and hearing no objection, Member Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Randall seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.