



CITY OF FRESNO

MEDIA RELEASE

ASHLEY SWEARENGIN, MAYOR

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FAX Celebrates 50 Years of Service

Fresno, CA – On Thursday, December 8, 2011, Fresno Area Express (FAX) will celebrate 50 years of service to the citizens and visitors of Fresno. Please join Mayor Swearingin, Council President Lee Brand, and Director of Transportation Ken Hamm for the festivities that begin at Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street, in the Council Chambers at 8:30 a.m.

The City of Fresno began operating 48 buses on nine routes under the name of Fresno Municipal Lines on November 1, 1961. In September 1967, the name was changed to Fresno Transit. In September 1988, Fresno Transit became known as Fresno Area Express (FAX). FAX now operates 100 buses on 16 routes.

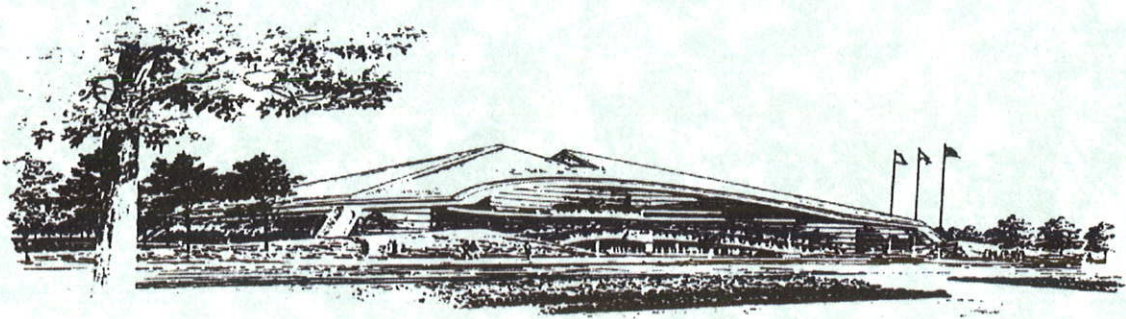
In 1968, Fresno Transit carried 2,146,752 passengers and has grown with the community over the years. FAX provided the citizens and visitors of Fresno with 17,828,132 total passenger trips on its fixed route and paratransit services in 2010.

Among the highlights of the 50 years, FAX is particularly proud of making improvements to our quality of life by investing in renewable energy with solar panels mounted to bus bays, purchasing clean-burning Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles, and operating a CNG fueling station for the City's CNG vehicles and other businesses in the community.

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City of
FRESNO

PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, November 1, 1961, under the name of **FRESNO MUNICIPAL LINES**, the City of Fresno began operating 48 buses on nine routes. Following a name change in 1967, **FRESNO TRANSIT** passenger usage hit 2,146,752 for the year ending December 31, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Many highlights were to follow, namely adding the first 40 foot bus in 1969; providing paratransit service in 1975; operating paratransit service under the name Handy Ride in 1977; a new maintenance facility on Divisadero and "G" Streets opened February, 1981, and another name change, this time to **FRESNO AREA EXPRESS (FAX)** in September, 1988; and

WHEREAS, In February, 1989, **FAX** opened a customer service office at Manchester Transit Center; and in March, 1996, **FAX** acquired clean-air diesel engine 40 foot buses, with passenger amenities, including front-mounted bicycle racks, bus stop announcement systems, and video surveillance systems. Automatic Vehicle Location systems, using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology followed in 1997, with the first electric hybrid buses arriving in February, 2001; and

WHEREAS, In June, 2003, the first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus arrived at **FAX** with 24 more following that same year. In January of 2006, the high-performance CNG fueling facility was completed; and

WHEREAS, During the 50 years of operation **FAX** has increased the annual number of passenger trips provided to the citizens and visitors of Fresno, as of fiscal year 2010, to 17,828,132 on its fixed route and paratransit services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, **MAYOR ASHLEY SWEARENGIN** and **COUNCIL PRESIDENT LEE BRAND**, on behalf of the City of Fresno, do hereby congratulate **FRESNO AREA EXPRESS** and proclaim Thursday, December 8, 2011, as:

“FRESNO AREA EXPRESS 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY”

in the City of Fresno.


ASHLEY SWEARENGIN, Mayor


LEE BRAND, Council President

