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## What's New at FAX, February 2023

*February 28, 2023*

### FAX BRT Route 1 Celebrates its 5-Year Anniversary

On February 18, 2018, FAX's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Route 1 began service. Also known as the "Q," this route has transformed transit service in the City of Fresno.

Designed to link neighborhoods, jobs, schools, and shopping centers throughout the City, the Q spans 15.7 miles on Blackstone Avenue and Ventura Street / Kings Canyon Road. The route contains 25 station pairs and two terminal stations. Since its deployment, the BRT has helped increase annual FAX ridership to over 10.5 million trips (pre-COVID).



A big thanks to everyone that continues to make the FAX BRT a success, including the bus drivers and mechanics that operate and maintain the route, and our passengers that use it regularly. Happy 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to the Q!

# Unmet Transit Needs Workshops in the City of Fresno

Every January, the Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) starts its unmet transit needs (UTN) assessment to identify any transit needs that may exist in Fresno County that are reasonable to meet. Public feedback is at the heart of the process.

Public outreach consists of an online survey and in-person and virtual meetings. Two of the seven in-person meetings took place in the City of Fresno. The location information is below:

<b>IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS</b>	<b>VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS</b>
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – Pinedale Community Center, 7170 N. San Pablo	Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. – via Zoom
Saturday, February 25, 2023 9:00 a.m. – Offices of Fresno COG, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201.	Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. via YouTube

If you missed the in-person and virtual meetings, you can still participate. An [online survey is available in English](#) and [Spanish](#) through the end of March. Click on the link to learn more about the FY2023 [Unmet Transit Needs Assessment](#), including virtual meeting links, dates, and times.

## Reminder: Student Fares in Effect

In January 2023, State Center Community College District and Fresno Unified School District started subsidizing transit fares for college and high school students. They join Fresno State University in providing a valuable benefit to students and the community, at large, including free transit.

Fares have been reduced for all other students. The new single-ride student fare is now 75 cents, and a 31-Day student pass is now \$22. For students and children 12 years old and younger, FAX is FREE!

### **Here's how to use the student fare program:**

Students, faculty, and staff from Fresno State University, Fresno City College, and Clovis Community College should swipe their student or staff ID for a free ride.

High school students from Fresno Unified School District should request a 31-Day Student Pass from their schools and simply swipe the pass and show their valid student ID.

All other students can purchase single fares for 75 cents or purchase a 31-Day Student pass for \$22 at Manchester Transit Center or any Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) along the BRT Route 1. Students will need to show the driver a valid student Identification card to board the bus.

For more fare information go to: [www.fresno.gov/fares](http://www.fresno.gov/fares)

## **More FAX Electric Buses on the Road**

The State of California has a requirement that transit agencies fully transition their transit vehicles to zero-emission by 2040. FAX continues to make progress toward this goal with nine electric buses currently in service.

Before buses could be added to the FAX fleet, charging infrastructure was needed to keep the current and future electric buses charged and on the road. Next month, 23 high-capacity electric bus chargers with the ability to charge 46 buses at a time will go into service. Each bus can be fully charged in six hours.

This project required PG&E to make significant improvements to the surrounding grid infrastructure to accommodate the charging needs of the

FAX electric bus fleet. When it goes into operation, the 3 megawatt FAX Electric Bus Charging Station will be one of the largest electric bus charging facilities in the region.

## “How to Ride the Bus” Presentation Now Available in Ukrainian

With the arrival of recent immigrants from war-torn Ukraine, FAX has been working with Ukrainian community members to make the [How to Ride the Bus presentation available in Ukrainian](#). Assimilating into a new community, culture, and language can be very stressful. We’re here to make it easier for recent arrivals to learn their way around.



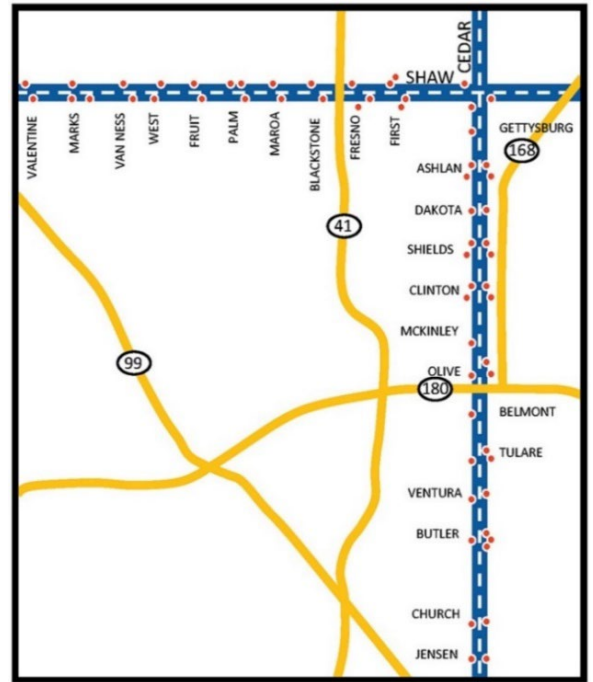
Currently available in English, Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi, and Farsi, the presentations are available on the [Bus Riding Basics](#) page of the Fresno.gov website. We hope the presentations are helpful to our passengers and the general public.

## Update on the Shaw-Cedar Bus Stop Improvement Project

FAX continues working on completing upgrades to bus stops on both Cedar and Shaw Avenues in the Shaw-Cedar Bus Stop Improvement Project.



The project includes upgrades to 63 bus stops along the FAX fixed-route system on Shaw from Valentine to Cedar, and on Cedar from Jensen to Shaw. It will provide accessible locations to wait for the bus and accessible pathways for passengers to reach the bus stops. Improvements include adding new bus stop amenities such as shelters, benches, and trash receptacles; enlarging concrete bus stop landings; and improving curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and security lighting.



The next phase of the Shaw-Cedar project will start at the end of February. All four directional stops at the Shaw and First intersection will receive improvements. Once completed, the contractor has only one remaining cluster of stops. The final group of stops to be improved will be at Shaw and Sixth, Shaw and Ninth, and Shaw and Cedar.

Work continues to resolve final punch list items along Cedar Avenue to safely reopen the stops between Gettysburg and Jensen. Announcements will be posted as these stops are officially returned to service. In the meantime, we ask that passengers please use the temporary stops along the entire project corridor for boarding the buses.



The Shaw Cedar Bus Stop Improvement project started in the Summer of 2022 and is expected to be completed in the Summer of 2023.

This project is part of FAX's effort to improve the transit rider's experience. Ultimately, this project benefits 10 additional bus routes which intersect Routes 9 and 38, including Routes 20, 22, 26, 32, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, and 45.

We appreciate your patience with the ongoing construction process. If you have any questions, please dial 311.

**@fresnofax**

