



# What's New At FAX - June 2019

*June 19, 2019*

## **The Upcoming "Buffer Median Island Improvements" Project**

Fresno Area Express (FAX) received \$2.2 million in federal, state, and local grant funding to upgrade 18 bus stops throughout the FAX fixed route system. The funding will provide an accessible location for passengers to wait for the bus and accessible pathways for passengers to get to and from the sidewalk to bus stops located on median islands.

Improvements include: adding or enlarging concrete bus stop landings; building curb cuts; and adding new bus stop amenities such as shelters, benches, and trash receptacles.

The bus stop improvements associated with this project will result in a better transit experience for riders who will be using the enhanced stops. The 18 bus stops that will be upgraded as a result of this project are located throughout the City of Fresno. Construction will take place over the Summer and Fall. Notices will be sent soon to property owners in the vicinity of the particular bus stops.



## **Extended Saturday Night Service is Coming**

FAX transit riders have been asking for extended service on Saturday nights for a long time, and now it's finally coming in November.

Starting on Saturday, November 16, 2019, Saturday night service on routes 1 and 9 and selected segments of routes 28, 32, and 38 are being extended from 7:00 p.m. to approximately 12:00 a.m. midnight. In other words, starting Saturday, November 16, 2019, FAX fixed-route late night service will run six days a week, Monday through Saturday, up from the current five days a week.

To facilitate extended Saturday night service, bus service will end at midnight instead of 1 a.m. Monday through Friday, starting on Monday, November 11, 2019. This one-hour reduction in service will enable the five hours of additional service on Saturday nights.

## **Electric Buses are Coming to FAX!**

FAX is helping to clean up the valley's air. FAX has over 100 vehicles within the fixed route fleet that run on compressed natural gas. In an effort to comply with new statewide regulations regarding zero emission vehicle requirements, FAX is beginning to purchase electric buses, and will take delivery of our first electric buses soon. Two fully-electric 40-foot buses have been ordered and will be joining the FAX fleet in the very near future. The [buses are built by Proterra](#), can carry up to 40 passengers, and will have a range of

between 150 and 200 miles per charge.



By switching to electric buses, benefits to the environment are more than just clean air. The electric buses do not use liquid fuels, so motor oil changes will be relegated to a thing of the past, resulting in fewer waste byproducts to dispose of. Additionally, electric buses use 30% fewer parts and require 75% fewer brake repairs. The result is more time in service and reduced operating costs, resulting in more cost-effective service for transit riders.

The California Air Resources Board requires transit agencies to transition to a zero-emission public bus fleet by 2040. Starting in 2023, a quarter of all new buses purchased in California's bus fleets must be zero-emission, and by 2026, that requirement will rise to half of all new buses purchased. By 2040, 100 percent of bus purchases will need to consist of zero-emission buses. It is estimated that the rule would cut emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases by 19 million metric tons from 2020 to 2050, the equivalent of taking four million cars off the road.

Keep your eyes open for the first FAX electric buses on the streets of Fresno in the coming year. How will you identify them? They will be the silent buses.



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