



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
OF THE BUTTE COUNTY
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

The following minutes are a summary of actions taken by the Board of Directors. A digital recording of the actual meeting is available at BCAG’s office located at 326 Huss Drive, Suite 150, Chico, CA.

Board Member Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the BCAG Board Room, 326 Huss Drive, Suite 100, Chico, CA.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Jody Jones	Councilmember	Town of Paradise
Tod Kimmelshue	Supervisor	District 4
J Angel Calderon	Councilmember	City of Gridley
Chuck Nuchols	Councilmember	City of Bigg
Tami Ritter	Supervisor	District 3
Kasey Reynolds	Vice Mayor	City of Chico
Doug Teeter	Supervisor	District 5
Bill Connelly	Supervisor	District 1

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY

Debra Lucero	Supervisor	District 2
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MEMBERS ABSENT

Chuck Reynolds	Mayor	City of Oroville
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STAFF PRESENT

Jon Clark	Executive Director
Andy Newsum	Deputy Director
Sara Cain	Associate Senior Planner
Cheryl Massae	Human Resources Manager
Ivan Garcia	Programming Specialist
Victoria Proctor	Assistant Planner
Ashley Carriere	Administrative Assistant
Amy White	Assistant Planner
Julie Quinn	Chief Financial Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

- Lance Atencio, Transdev
- Ingrid Sheipline, Richardson & Company
- Jared Geiser
- Maggie Scarpa
- Bill LaGrone, City of Oroville

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Tony Bruzzone

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**

CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2022 BCAG Board of Directors Meeting**
- 4. Approval of Resolution 2021/22-09 Authorizing the Federal Funding Under FTA Section 5310 (49 U.S.C. Section 5310) with the California Department of Transportation**
- 5. Approval of Resolution 2021/22-11 to Implement Teleconferencing Requirements During a Proclaimed State of Emergency**
- 6. Approval of Resolution 2021/22-12 Adopting 2022 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave**

On motion by Board Member Lucerro and seconded by Board Member K. Reynolds, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

7: Acceptance of BCAG Fiscal Audit and Transportation Development Act (TDA) Audits for the Cities, Towns & County ending June 30, 2021.

Staff informed the Board that in accordance with State and Federal regulations, BCAG's financial statements and supplemental information have been audited by independent auditors, Richardson & Company, certified public accountants. All Board members received physical copies of the BCAG audit.

Staff informed Board that BCAG annually budgets for the preparation of the required TDA audits for each of the claimants. The audits cover receipt and use of TDA funds used for streets and roads projects for each of the cities, town and county, and the Gridley Senior Taxi Fund. Each board member received a PDF copy of their jurisdictions TDA audit. The Gridley Senior Taxi audit will be completed before the March 31st deadline. There was general discussion regarding transit funding and the breakdown for the year.

On motion by Board Member Ritter and seconded by Board Member Kimmelshue, the acceptance of BCAG's fiscal and TDA audits were unanimously approved.

8: Public Hearing for BCAG’s FTA Section 5310 Grant Application to Determine if There Are Local Non-Profit Agencies Able to Provide ADA Complementary Paratransit Service.

Staff informed the Board that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations require that a public hearing be held to determine if there are other nonprofit agencies that are readily available to provide paratransit service to the elderly and disabled in Butte County. If an agency identifies itself as a potential transit provider eligible for FTA Section 5310 Program Funds, BCAG cannot pursue these funds. Upon completion of the hearing, if there are no agencies available, BCAG may continue providing transit service and solicit federal funding.

Staff requested approval of Resolution No. 2021/22-10, authorizing the Executive Director to file and execute the FTA section 5310 program on behalf of BCAG with the applicable state and federal agencies.

A Public Hearing was opened, no comments were received, and it was closed at 9:36 am.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9: Butte Regional Transit (B-Line) 2nd Quarter 2021/22 Report

Staff presented a summary of the key financial and operational results for Butte Regional Transit to the Board Members. The financial data presentation compares second quarter results to the annual budget and to the prior year. The comparisons being made in this memo are to the previous fiscal year, which was fully impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. AB 90 was passed by the California Assembly in June 2020 and extended the farebox requirement exemption through FY 2021/22. In July 2021 A 149 was passed and extended the farebox requirement exemption through FY 2022/23. Funding from the federal CARES act helps to cover lost fare revenues during this time.

This item was presented to the Board for information.

10: 2023 Unmet Transit needs Process

Staff informed the Board regarding the UTN process in Butte County which entails a comprehensive public outreach program culminating in the public hearing before the BCAG Board of Directors. For thirty days before the public hearing, testimony is solicited regarding perceived unmet transit needs. The purpose of this process is to ensure that all unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet are met before funds are expended for non-transit users. The public hearing is set for March 24, 2022 before the BCAG Board of Directors. A notice was published in the local newspapers, posted in each of the B-Line buses in Hmong, English, and Spanish. Multiple outreach events will also be taking place throughout the county over the next month.

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There was general discussion regarding fliers being available to Board Member Calderon for members of the community in Gridley.

This item was presented for information.

11: Chico to Sacramento Strategic Plan Final Update

Staff updated the Board on the completion of the Chico to Sacramento Strategic Plan. The framework to integrate Butte Regional Transit and the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority's thruway bus Route 3 to a consolidated commuter bus service between Chico, Oroville, Marysville, downtown Sacramento, and Stockton was provided.

BCAG began working with its consultant, Arup, in January 2021 and has developed a Service Plan, Park and Ride Analysis, a Draft Final Report, conducted multiple outreach events, and developed a Marketing Plan.

The Draft Final Report is available on the BCAG website. The proposed service includes nine weekday and eight weekend trips in each direction. BCAG staff recently discussed possible next steps with the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, and due to delays on their Valley Rail Sacramento Extension Project to Natomas and uncertainties with ridership due to COVID, the Board regretfully informed that without support of San Joaquin we are unable to move forward with this project. Commuter bus service demand will be revisited in the next year or two in conjunction with the North Valley Rail Study.

BCAG received two public comments on this matter:

Hello BCAG board members and staff,

I would like to make a public comment regarding **Agenda Item 11** for your 2/24/2022 board meeting ***Chico to Sacramento Strategic Plan Final Update– (Attachment) – Sara***

I respectfully request that you do all in your power to make the **Chico to Sacramento Inter-City Transit implemented as soon as possible**. Please do not allow this project to be delayed for another year or two.

Improving inter-city transit in Butte County in the surrounding region is critically important to mitigate the threat of climate change.

Strategy 6h of the **Butte County Climate Action** plan is to "**Partner with BCAG and Butte Regional Transit to identify and implement needed regional transit improvements** to improve connectivity countywide." (page 28 of BC CAP 2021)

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The **Butte County General Plan calls for improving transit** in ways that the Chico to Sacramento Inter-City Transit would. See General Plan Policies:

CIR-P4.1, CIR-P4.2

We need transit systems like this one that can give commuters the opportunity to stop driving their SUV hundreds of miles a week and hop on the reliable, frequent, and reasonably priced inter-city transit instead.

The **Chico to Sacramento Inter-City Transit Strategic Plan draft Final Report** states on the first page that "VMT Reducton: Estimated annual reducton of 5.4 million vehicles mile traveled." This is a significant reduction in VMT.

We need to carry out a rapid expansion and improvement of transit systems. We need to do all we can to reduce VMT and GHGs to mitigate the most catastrophic impacts of climate change and to stay in line with Butte County's stated goals and policies.

Please consider expediting the implementation of this project. We need inter-city transit like this YESTERDAY. Please do not delay in the implementation of this project.

Thanks,

Jared Geiser

Hello BCAG Board members and staff,

I live in Chico, CA and commute to Marysville, CA 5 days a week. I have been following the Chico to Sacramento Strategic Plan and have been ecstatic to have the ability to take the bus in spring of 2024, to reduce my Single-Occupancy Vehicle miles and be able to take public transit for those 50 miles each way, and reduce my gas costs of \$500 per month. About once a week during my commute I would think about the fact that there could be a bus that would meet my transportation needs entirely in two years. I am someone who would benefit from this transit implemented, as well as the 900 other commuters identified in the plan that could benefit. Being in a more rural area with fewer jobs, this inter-city bus will assist others who want to live in Butte County but may want to get a job closer to Sacramento.

I urge you to not postpone the implementation of the Chico to Sacramento Inter-City Bus, it was already tabled in 2014, for 8 years.

Thank you,
Maggie Scarpa

This item was presented for information.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

12: Members of the public may present items to the BCAG Board of Directors, but no action will be taken other than placement on a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, the BCAG Board meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Attest:

Jon Clark, Executive Director

Ashley Carriere, Board Clerk

Butte County Association of Governments