



TURLOCK CITY COUNCIL
156 SOUTH BROADWAY
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA 95380-5456

GARY SOISETH, MAYOR

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Marie Sovey Silveira, Presiding Judge
Stanislaus County Superior Court of California, Stanislaus County
Post Office Box 3488
Modesto, California 95353

Re: Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Case No. 15-02C

Your Honor:

The Turlock City Council submits to you the following responses to the findings and recommendations received from the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury on June 17, 2015, regarding the above-reference case number:

STANISLAUS COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS

FINDINGS AND POTENTIAL RESPONSES TO FINDINGS

F1: The four transit authorities within Stanislaus County have differing policies, contracts, operating procedures, and ridership needs. These differences have a negative impact, which is affecting ridership.

The City of Turlock partially agrees with the finding. All four transit authorities do indeed have differing policies, contracts, operating procedures and ridership needs. However, there has been no documented evidence that we are aware of that specifies any negative impacts caused by these differences nor any evidence that this is affecting BLAST ridership.

F2: Transit authorities have previously discussed consolidation strategies, and some authorities have completed both ridership and comprehensive reports with an emphasis toward partial or total consolidation of public transit needs.

The City of Turlock partially agrees with the finding. Very early discussions on consolidating with the County of Stanislaus (START) occurred in 2014 and the County had a Comprehensive Operation Analysis report completed that provided "high-level assessment for integration." The document identified several benefits and an equal number of challenges. The City of Turlock would be open to studying the concept of consolidation but would like to retain a say in how TDA funds are budgeted and spent should consolidation occur as well as ensuring service levels improve for the citizens of Turlock.

F3: All four transit authorities are deficient in current technological services.

The City of Turlock agrees with the finding.

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Civil Grand Jury

*Read by
J. Silveira*

RECOMMENDATIONS AND POTENTIAL RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors should direct StanCOG to complete Request for Proposals and hire an independent professional consultant to conduct an all-inclusive consolidation of transit services study within Stanislaus County.

The City of Turlock cannot implement this recommendation as this is a directive to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and StanCog. However, the City of Turlock would be available to partner on the development of the Request for Proposal and ranking the received proposals.

R2: The consolidation study should examine all public transportation systems within the county and include a cost/benefit analysis for a complete or partial consolidation. This study should take all operational and ridership matters into consideration and make specific recommendations to both StanCOG and the Board of Supervisors that will best serve the transit authorities, users, and taxpayers.

The City of Turlock cannot implement this recommendation as this is a directive to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and StanCog. However, the City of Turlock would be available to partner on the development of the Request for Proposal and ranking the received proposals.

R3: BLAST should begin inquiry into the implementation of technological advances in the areas of both transit management and rider services, such as automated fare boxes, auto-announce, Wi-Fi, GPS tracking, and phone app schedules.

The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Currently, funding has been identified for automated/electronic fare boxes. Purchase and installation of the devices should be completed in the next 12 to 18 months. There currently is no funding identified for auto-announce, Wi-Fi, GPS Tracking nor phone app schedules. The City of Turlock will try to identify funding and implement these technological improvements in the next 5 years.

Sincerely,



Gary Soiseth, Mayor
Amy Bublak, Vice Mayor
Bill DeHart, Council Member
Matthew Jacob, Council Member
Steven Nascimento, Council Member