

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, March 26, 2019, commencing at 7:02 a.m.

Present: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Nakanishi, and Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne

Absent: Council Member Mounce, and Mayor Chandler

Also Present: City Manager Schwabauer, Deputy City Attorney Fukasawa, and Deputy City Clerk Farris

NOTE: Council Member Johnson participated in the meeting via teleconference.

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Presentation on Draft Lodi Short Range Transit Plan Update (CM)

Transit Manager Georgia Lantsberger gave a brief introduction on the draft Short Range Transit Plan update and introduced Transit staff present: Transportation Planner Julia Tyack, MV General Manager Julius La Rosa, and MV Safety and Training Manager Carol Lindsay.

Selena McKinney, of LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the City of Lodi Short Range Transit Plan update. Specific topics of discussion included the purpose and process of the Short Range Transit Plan, Lodi demographics, GrapelLine weekday Fixed and Express routes, GrapelLine weekend routes, GrapelLine Dial-a-Ride (DAR) and VineLine Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit services, GrapelLine fixed route ridership by year, DAR and VineLine ridership by year, passenger survey highlights, GrapelLine service and fare alternatives, development and evaluation of alternatives, Capital Plan, plan features, and next steps.

In response to Council questions, Ms. McKinney replied that the City does not receive a subsidy from Lodi Unified School District (LUSD) for transporting students and the majority of the students ride the Express routes. City Manager Schwabauer clarified that LUSD has very limited school bus services and students rely on public transportation.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne requested information regarding the number of students riding on each route to school.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne, Ms. McKinney stated that Lodi has not seen a huge impact from expanded Regional Transit District (RTD) routes. Ms. Lantsberger clarified that RTD routes are taking riders to Stockton, rather than local trips within Lodi.

In response to Council questions regarding farebox recovery, Ms. Lantsberger explained that Lodi has a 7.8% farebox recovery; a 10% recovery is the federal requirement but Lodi is excused, as are all San Joaquin Council of Government agencies, as they are subject to alternative performance areas; Lodi has ancillary income, such as advertising, solar, and interest; and Lodi is second in the county in terms of funding.

Council Member Johnson requested information regarding farebox recovery compared to other local agencies.

Discussion ensued regarding conversion to zero-emission buses. The price to run electric buses on the routes is about double, as compared to CNG buses. The price difference includes the higher cost of the buses, improved infrastructure, and the need for a larger fleet due to recharging requirements. Ms. Lantsberger stated staff plans to use consultants to guide the City through the conversion process before 2026 and that the City is observing RTD's current use of electric buses. Public Works Director Charlie Swimley further added that the City will need time to train mechanics and plan charging stations, and that it was premature to begin consideration of shared maintenance facilities with RTD.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Mr. La Rosa stated MV has sensitivity and customer service training for all of the drivers. Ms. Lantsberger further stated that driver courtesy was the highest ranked factor in the recent rider survey, being rated 4.8 out of 5.

Myrna Wetzel, member of the public, stated that she has a friend who rides the bus due to vision problems and that she has commented on the courteous drivers and how enjoyable the experience is. Ms. Wetzel further stated that she dislikes the advertisements on the buses and would like to see them removed.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne, Ms. Lantsberger stated last year the City received \$45,000 in proceeds from the Transit advertising program; the program has expanded in some areas; advertising has been discontinued on some bus shelters due to vandalism and graffiti; the original estimate on income was \$30,000; and the consultant expects higher proceeds in the current year. Ms. Lantsberger further stated that Transit has not received complaints about the advertising, and staff's only concern is the placement is not always aesthetically pleasing.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne requested a copy of the draft update.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 a.m.

ATTEST:

Pamela M. Farris
Deputy City Clerk