

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE TRANSIT SHUTTLE SERVICE TO SPECIAL EVENTS

SOURCE: Public Works Department - Transit

COMMENT: In 2011, the Porterville Fair and the Porterville Freedom Fest opened in their new locations on Teapot Dome and Scranton Avenue. Porterville Transit does not operate in this area, and in an effort to improve mobility options and reduce congestion, Council authorized staff in 2011, 2012 and 2013 to operate a shuttle route from the downtown Transit Center to the Porterville Fairgrounds and the City's Sports Complex.

This year, staff received a request for an estimate, from the Porterville Fair Board to operate a parking lot shuttle on the following dates and duration:

Friday, May 16, 2014, 5:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 17, 2014, 3:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 18, 2014, 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Staff feels that parking lot shuttles can best be handled through private "for-profit" chartered services and the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Charter Bus Service Rule, 49 U.S.C. 5323(d). This rule protects private charter operators from unauthorized competition from FTA grant recipients.

However, the regulation states that the transit agency may provide the service to a third party free of charge, with no third party subsidy, as it will not be considered chartered bus service. Should the Council authorize the parking lot service, Staff estimates the parking lot shuttle would cost approximately \$720 to operate during the requested times.

In 2013, Porterville Transit operated a shuttle route from the downtown Transit Center to the Porterville Fair during normal transit hours. Service was provided to 117 passengers, approximately 30 of those passengers were disabled students for kid's day, generating \$31 in total passenger fares. The cost to operate the Porterville Fair Shuttle in 2013 was \$1,320.

It is staff's recommendation, in an effort to increase mobility options for City residents, to operate a shuttle route from the downtown Transit Center to the Porterville Fair from May 15-18, 2014, during normal operating hours at normal passenger fares. The estimated

cost to operate a Porterville Fair Shuttle for 2014 is approximately \$1,500.

In 2013, Porterville Transit transported 285 passengers to the Porterville Freedom Fest. Transit service was free to those passengers and the total cost of the expanded transit service was \$1,200.

It is staff's recommendation, in an effort to increase mobility options for City residents, to operate a shuttle route from the downtown Transit Center to the Porterville Freedom Fest on June 28, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and authorize all other routes and services to extend service hours to 10:00 p.m. as well. The estimated cost to operate a Porterville Freedom Fest shuttle and extend all routes and services is approximately \$1,500.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Provide direction for operating a parking lot shuttle during the 2014 Porterville Fair as requested;
2. Provide direction for expanded transit service, operating hours and passenger fares for the 2014 Porterville Fair; and
3. Provide direction for expanded transit service, operating hours and passenger fares to the 2014 Porterville Freedom Fest on June 28, 2014.

ATTACHMENT: Request for Transit Service to the Porterville Fair



TULARE COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW AND COMMUNITY FAIR, INC.
PORTERVILLE FAIR
2700 W. Teapot Dome Ave.
Porterville, CA 93258

Phone: 559-781-6582

Fax: 559-781-4233

April 14, 2014

Richard Tree, Transit Manager
City of Porterville
291 N. Main Street
Porterville, CA 93257

Dear Richard;

On behalf of the Porterville Fair Board of Directors; I am requesting the services of the City Trolley and operator. The Trolley would be utilized as a shuttle to and from the east general parking lot to the front gate (south). Please forward a financial quote at your earliest convenience.

Hours of services requested:

Friday, May 16, 2014, 5:00 PM – Midnight

Saturday, May 17, 2014, 3:00 PM – Midnight

Sunday, May 18, 2014, 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susie Godfrey, Manager

Cc: BOD