



Improving Mass Transit in Fresno

Mass transit is an important part of every major city's transportation system, and Fresno should be no different. Fast, convenient, and comfortable transit can not only provide people with an affordable way to get around our city, but can also help up reduce traffic congestion, clean up our air quality, and stimulate attractive, walkable development. My administration will aggressively seek to improve this vital service.

Short Range Plans

- **Get the Most out of our Current Transit System**
 - Ensure quality with existing routes - on-time, clean, safe vehicles;
 - Increase services to primarily transit dependent neighborhoods;
 - Add more bike racks to buses to better accommodate the many transit users who combine their commute on the bus with their bicycles.
 - Develop express routes to the City's activity centers (e.g. Downtown, Fashion Fair, River Park, Fig Garden Village, Fresno City College, Fresno State, etc.);
 - Increase "Park and Ride" locations - Work with various agencies and private property owners to locate numerous Park and Ride locations coinciding with FAX bus routes. Park and Ride locations provide people who don't live within walking distance to a bus stop an opportunity to drive a short distance to the Park and Ride lot and then ride the bus the rest of the way to their destination.
 - Increase ridership among non-transit dependent groups through special promotional efforts.
- **Implement Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Service Within Two Years** - BRT combines enhanced buses, greater distances between stops, dedicated

traffic lanes, and/or prioritized traffic signals to create a lower-cost way to move people longer distances at greater speeds than conventional bus service.

- Provide (BRT) service on Kings Canyon and Blackstone corridors within two years;
- Negotiate with Federal Transit Administration to make sure Federal dollars can be used as flexibly as possible to implement BRT service in Fresno; and
- Build ridership with BRT service to prepare the way for eventual light rail in Fresno metro area.

Long Range Plans - Expand the Transit System

- **Bold, Long Range Plan for Transit in Fresno** - The sixth largest city in California needs a bold, long range plan for transit. Most major metropolitan areas have a hierarchy of transit to accommodate travel needs. San Francisco has buses, streetcars, cable cars, and heavy rail. Sacramento has neighborhood ride shuttles, buses, BRT, and light rail. These transit systems have a hierarchy of transit options, with a menu of options to fit a range of needs. I will work closely with our transit planners at FAX to obtain a long range plan that provides Fresno with such a hierarchy of transit options.

Transit in Fresno could include increasing our bus system, providing streetcars along key routes, and/or investing in light rail to quickly and comfortably bring commuters longer distances to job centers along the busiest corridors.

- **Couple Land Use and Transportation Planning** - Transportation planning and land use planning must go hand in hand. As mayor, I will also work closely with the City of Fresno's Development Department to implement the General Plan and to coordinate future services with planned concentrations of housing, jobs, and shopping. Also, certain high-end transit modes are known to stimulate walkable urban development near their stops, and could therefore be used to help realize certain land use goals, in addition to helping people get from point A to point B.
- **Pursue Regional Solutions** - The Metro-Rural Loop, the Blueprint Planning Process, and the Public Transportation Infrastructure Study are beginning to chart a course for long-range land use and transportation

planning. Initial feasibility studies for each will be completed in the next 12 to 18 months. The next Mayor of Fresno must ensure that these plans do not just sit on a shelf but that the groundwork is laid for their complete implementation. Rights of way must be preserved. Agreements must be reached with surrounding jurisdictions. The City's plans must be modified to support implementation of these efforts.