

PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF ROUTE 17

Visalia Industrial Park

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INTRODUCTION

Need for Proposed Route 17 Elimination

The significant ongoing operational expense to maintain the route serving the Visalia Industrial Park after the exhaustion of initial federal grant funding combined with continued exceedingly low ridership prompts the proposal.

- ✓ Exhaustion of grant funds
- ✓ Exceedingly low ridership
- ✓ Significant operational costs
- ✓ Alternative public transportation



BACKGROUND DISCUSSION



October 2021

Route 17 developed and launched to serve the growing Visalia Industrial Park

TCAG CMAQ Grant Funding

TCAG provides \$1,385,983 in federal CMAQ funds to initially support the new route

CMAQ Funding Exhausted

CMAQ funding exhausted after two (2) years, now funded by FTA and LTF funds

Limited Ridership

Since its inception, Route 17 has been the City's least utilized route



FEDERAL PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

01

Major Service Reduction

Defined as a 25% or more reduction of transit route miles

02

30-Day Public Comment Period

FTA requires notice in newspaper of general circulation in urbanized area

03

Additional Public Notices

Public notice on buses, City website, and social media channels.

04

Public Comment Received

City will receive comments in person, via telephone, online and email.

Federal Transit Administration

FTA guidelines and regulations must be followed when considering transit route elimination or modifications that constitute a major service reduction.

ROUTE EXPENDITURES

	Hours	Miles	Total
FY 21	\$86,717.74	\$33,710.10	\$120,427.84
FY 22	\$364,000.21	\$139,492.62	\$503,492.83
FY 23	\$334,555.08	\$130,359.36	\$464,914.44
FY 24	\$460,042.94	\$151,786.95	\$611,829.89
FY 25	\$634,614.09	\$148,914.82	\$783,528.91
FY 26*	\$648,855.89	\$153,912.57	\$802,738.46
*estimated		TOTAL	\$3,286,932.37



ROUTE RIDERSHIP



Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2021										138	162	202	502
2022	224	223	272	268	254	305	215	196	226	274	322	278	3057
2023	316	518	374	421	X	X	X	25	430	323	316	257	2980
2024	275	190	152	531	314	338	231	340	213	206	170	238	3198
2025	227	226	254	303	282	267	251	302	241	224	188	241	3006
2026	241	241	142	184									808



ROUTE 17 CHALLENGES

Alternative Transportation Options

Ridership data, direct field observations and rider feedback suggest that the workforce have alternative transportation options more convenient to scheduling and travel time

**Personal
Vehicles**

Carpools

**Ridesharing
Services**



FUTURE INDUSTRIAL PARK OPPORTUNITIES

01

Reimagine Transit Study

Development of new 5-Year Short-Range Transit Plan

02

Visalia Connect Microtransit

Current pilot project that provides “door-to-door” public transit service

03

Cross Valley Corridor

Express transit service being developed between Visalia and Hanford, including Visalia Industrial Park

04

Doe Complex Employment Center

Development of Employment Resource Center at former TCOE Doe Complex



PROPOSED TIMELINE



July 20, 2026

Public comment period opened

August 21, 2026

Public comment period closed

September 7, 2026

City Council Public Hearing

October 1, 2026

Route 17 elimination

RECOMMENDATION

Route 17 Elimination

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize staff to open a 30-day public comment period to receive feedback on the proposed elimination of Transit Fixed Route 17 that services the Visalia Industrial Park and schedule a Public Hearing for the City Council meeting of September 7, 2026.



Questions?

