

Fresno Area Express “Q” Blackstone/Kings Canyon Bus Rapid Transit (November 2015)

Fresno Area Express (FAX) is constructing a 15.7-mile BRT line that will connect North Fresno, downtown Fresno, and Fresno’s southeast growth area via Blackstone Avenue and Kings Canyon Road. The new BRT service will replace existing local bus service in the corridor and offer decreased travel times through fewer stops and more frequent service. The Project includes transit signal priority, queue jump lanes, 27 stations, 17 low-floor compressed natural gas low-emission BRT vehicles, boarding platforms, fare machines, real time passenger information, and special branding of the service to create a unique identity and image. The new BRT service will operate in mixed traffic for the entire alignment.

Hours of operation in the opening year will be 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on weekdays, and from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekends. Service will operate every 10 minutes during weekday peak periods, every 15 minutes during weekday off-peak periods, every 30 minutes during weekday late evenings between 9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and every 20 minutes on weekends. Average weekday trips are projected to be 7,200 in 2017.

The total project cost under the Small Starts Grant Agreement (SSGA) is \$49,361,163 million. The Section 5309 Small Starts funding share is \$16.97 million.

Status

FAX selected BRT as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the corridor in April 2009, and had the LPA adopted into the region’s fiscally constrained long range transportation plan in November 2009. FTA approved the project into project development in December 2010. FAX obtained a documented Categorical Exclusion (CE) for National Environmental Policy Act purposes in April 2013 and a supplemental CE to reflect project scope changes in September 2014. FAX and FTA entered into an SSGA in July 2015 and revenue operations is scheduled for January 30, 2017.

Section 20008 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. 112-141; July 6, 2012) (“MAP-21”) authorizes the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to award capital Small Starts funds for the construction of the Q Blackstone/Kings Canyon Bus Rapid Transit Project. Through FY 2015, Congress has appropriated \$5.98 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for the project.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
Source of Funds	Total Funds (\$million)	Appropriations to Date
Federal: Section 5309 Small Starts	\$38.82	\$5.98 million in total appropriations through FY 2015
State: Proposition 1B General Obligation Bond	\$9.64	
Local: FAX Capital Match Reserve Fund	\$0.07	
Total	\$48.53	

NOTE: The sum of the figures may differ from the total as listed due to rounding.

