

**Fresno Area Express Blackstone/Kings Canyon BRT**  
**Fresno, California**  
**Project Development**  
**(Based upon information received by FTA in November 2010)**

<b>Summary Description</b>	
<b>Proposed Project:</b>	Bus Rapid Transit 13.8 Miles, 26 Stations
<b>Total Capital Cost (\$YOE):</b>	\$48.19 Million
<b>Section 5309 Small Starts Share (\$YOE):</b>	\$38.55 Million (80.0%)
<b>Annual Forecast Year Operating Cost:</b>	\$3.79 Million
<b>Opening Year Ridership Forecast (2014):</b>	7,200 Average Weekday Boardings
<b>Overall Project Rating:</b>	Medium
<b>Project Justification Rating:</b>	Medium
<b>Local Financial Commitment Rating:</b>	Medium

**Project Description:** Fresno Area Express (FAX) plans to implement street-running BRT between North Fresno, Downtown Fresno and the Southeast Growth Area. The Blackstone/Kings Canyon BRT project includes transit signal priority, real-time bus arrival displays and proof-of-payment fare collection; service would be operated using low-floor, low emission compressed natural gas (CNG) or CNG-hybrid buses, including eight articulated buses that would be purchased as part of the project. Dedicated lanes for the BRT vehicles would be implemented along approximately 20 percent of the alignment. BRT service would replace existing local service in the corridor and offer decreased travel times through fewer stops, more frequent service and the aforementioned priority treatments.

**Project Purpose:** The Blackstone/Kings Canyon BRT project would improve the speed and reliability of service in a commercial corridor with existing high transit demand. Much of FAX's ridership in the corridor is low-income or transit-dependent. BRT service would provide faster connections between the Southeast Growth Area, which is anticipated to add up to 55,000 new residents by 2025; downtown Fresno, a regional hub for civic and governmental institutions; and North Fresno, which houses significant education campuses, medical centers, and commercial centers.

**Project Development History, Status and Next Steps:** FTA approved the Blackstone/Kings Canyon BRT project into project development as a Very Small Start in December 2010. Over the next year, FAX expects to conduct engineering and design activities. FAX anticipates that the project will qualify as a documented Categorical Exclusion for NEPA purposes. Revenue operations are anticipated to commence in early 2014.

## Locally Proposed Financial Plan

<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds (\$million)</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
<b>Federal:</b> Section 5309 Small Starts	\$38.55	80.0%
<b>State:</b> Proposition 1B (General Obligation Bonds)	\$9.64	20.0%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$48.19</b>	100.0%

**NOTE:** The financial plan reflected in this table has been developed by the project sponsor and does not reflect a commitment by DOT or FTA. The sum of the figures may differ from the total as listed due to rounding.



# FRESNO AREA EXPRESS

Blackstone/Kings Canyon Bus Rapid Transit  
Request to Enter Project Development, September 2010

**Figure 2 Blackstone Avenue/Kings Canyon Road Bus Rapid Transit Alignment and Proposed BRT Stations**

