

Social Service Transportation Advisory Council

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June 22, 2022

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

SUBJECT: SSTAC FY 2022/23 “Unmet Transit Needs” Recommendation

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

It is with great pleasure that the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) again makes a recommendation to the Madera County Transportation Commission concerning potential Unmet Transit Needs in Madera County. The SSTAC in weeks prior to the public hearing to review past actions and prepare for this year’s unmet transit needs process. Testimony regarding transit needs in Madera County was received at the “Unmet Transit Needs” Public Hearing on April 20, 2022. The SSTAC met again the week following the public hearing to discuss potential transit issues. Based on the testimony and written comments received our recommendations to the Commission are as follows:

The MCTC staff and SSTAC considered the hearing testimony and written comments and recommend the MCTC Policy Board find the following:

1. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2022/23 within the jurisdiction of the City of Madera, and that there are no unmet transit needs within the jurisdiction of the City of Chowchilla, and County of Madera.

The Madera Metro and the Madera Dial-A-Ride provide transportation services that cover the entire City of Madera.

The Chowchilla Area Transit Express (CATX) provides transportation services that cover the entire City of Chowchilla as well as Fairmead and Valley State Prison.

The Madera County Connection (MCC) provides inter-city transportation from Chowchilla, Fairmead, Madera, La Vina, Madera Ranchos and Eastern Madera County to Children’s Hospital Central California where a connection can be made to Fresno via the Fresno Area Express (FAX).

The Senior Bus Program and the Escort Service provides transportation to the Eastern Madera County communities including the newly developed Eastern Madera County Escort Program transit service to Raymond. This service is provided on Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

2. Maintain existing transit systems in Madera County: Madera Transit System (Madera Metro and Dial-A-Ride) in the City of Madera; Madera County Connection; Chowchilla Area Transit Express; Eastern Madera County Escort Service; and Eastern Madera County Senior Bus.

MCTC staff and SSTAC recommend that the current public transit systems continue to operate in Madera County. The existing transit systems meet an existing need for public transit services in the county.

The existing systems are:

- Madera Transit System – City of Madera (Dial-A-Ride and Madera Metro);
- Chowchilla Area Transit Express – City of Chowchilla;
- Eastern Madera County Escort Service; and Eastern Madera County Senior Bus;
- Madera County Connection

MCTC staff and SSTAC recommend that the unmet transit needs which were found reasonable to meet be addressed as recommended by the SSTAC during its meeting of May 16, 2022.

- Testimony was received regarding the Walmart stop. The City of Madera is currently evaluating all bus stops as part of its on-going transit plan study. This bus stop will be under evaluation as well.
- Testimony was received about the need for wastebaskets at bus stops in the City of Madera. The SSTAC recommended that there be waste baskets at each bus stop and that they are regularly maintained. Madera METRO is currently looking to improve sanitation around transit stops.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Espinosa

Evelyn Espinosa, MCTC Staff on behalf of
Social Service Transportation Advisory Council
which was approved by the SSTAC Chair, Frank Simonis