

Social Service Transportation Advisory Council

MCTC Policy Board Members

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May 17, 2023

Waseem Ahmed, Chairman
Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

SUBJECT: SSTAC FY 2023/24 “Unmet Transit Needs” Recommendation

Dear Chairman Ahmed:

It is with great pleasure that the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) again makes a recommendation to the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) concerning potential Unmet Transit Needs in Madera County. The SSTAC has met prior to the public hearing to review comments received since the conclusion of the last Unmet Transit Needs process and to 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 19, 2023. The SSTAC met again the week following the public hearing to discuss comments that were received. Based on the testimony and written comments received, our recommendations to the MCTC Policy Board are as follows:

The SSTAC considered the hearing testimony and written comments and recommend the MCTC Policy Board make the following findings:

- 1. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2023/24 within the jurisdiction of the City of Madera, that there are no unmet transit needs within the jurisdiction of the City of Chowchilla and that there are unmet transit needs that are not reasonable to meet within the jurisdiction of the County of Madera.**

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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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.

- 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.**

The SSTAC recommends 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 Madera Region.

The existing systems are:

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

The SSTAC recommends that the unmet transit needs which were found reasonable to meet be addressed as recommended by the SSTAC during its meeting of May 1, 2023.

- Testimony was received regarding the need for shelters and benches at bus stops. These were found to be unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. The City of Madera is intending to add both shelters and benches to most stops within the next year.

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