



**STAFF REPORT**  
Board Meeting of May 17, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM:** 5-A

**PREPARED BY:** Nicholas Dybas, Associate Regional Planner

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**SUBJECT:**

Social Service Transportation Advisory Council's (SSTAC) FY 2023-24 Unmet Transit Needs Recommendations – Resolution No. 23-05

**Enclosure:** Yes

**Action:** MCTC Staff recommends the MCTC Policy Board approve the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council's (SSTAC) 2023-24 Unmet Transit Needs finding by Resolution No. 23-05

**SUMMARY:**

Pursuant to Section 99401.5 of the California Public Utilities Code, the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, must make a finding after holding a Public Hearing that there are no unmet public transportation needs within the jurisdiction of claimants which can be reasonably met before it may approve Local Transportation Fund claims for streets and roads.

The MCTC Policy Board adopted the following definitions by Resolution No. 22-01 for its Unmet Transit Needs process:

- A. **UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS:** An unmet transit need is an expressed or identified need that is not currently being met through existing public transportation services. An unmet transit need also is a need required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- B. **REASONABLE TO MEET:** The term “reasonable to meet” shall apply to public or specialized transportation services that meet the following minimum criteria:
  1. **Feasibility**
    - The proposed service can be provided with available Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding and/or other funding sources (per state law, the lack of available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet per PUC Section 99401.5(c).
    - Sufficient ridership potential exists for new, expanded, or revised transit services.

- The proposed transit service will be safe and comply with local, state, and federal law.
- 2. Community Acceptance
  - The proposed transit service has community support from the general public, community groups, and/or community leaders.
- 3. Benefit to Population
  - The proposed transit service serves a significant number of residents where it is needed and would benefit the general public and/or senior and disabled persons as a whole.
- 4. Cost Effective
  - The proposed transit service will not affect the ability of the overall system of the implementing agency or agencies to meet applicable transit system performance objectives or the State TDA farebox ratio requirement after any exemption(s) period(s) if the service is eligible for exemption(s) per CCR 6633.2.
  - The proposed transit service, if implemented or funded, would not cause the responsible operator to incur expenditures in excess of the maximum amount of LTF, STA, FTA funds, and fare revenues and local support.
- 5. Consistent with Intent of Existing Transit Service(s)
  - Once established, the proposed transit service will not abuse or obscure the intent of existing transit service(s).
  - The proposed transit need should be in conformance with the goals included in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and consistent with the intent of the goals of the adopted Short Range Transit Plan.

The role of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is to aid the MCTC Policy Board in its review of transit issues with emphasis on the annual identification of transit needs within Madera County. The establishment of the Madera County SSTAC is consistent with State Law (SB 498, Chapter 673, 1987) which mandates both the purpose and minimum membership of this body. The purpose of the SSTAC is to:

- A. Annually participate in identification of transit needs (Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Process).
- B. Review and recommend appropriate action by the MCTC Policy Board which finds, by resolution, that:
  1. There are no unmet transit needs,
  2. There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet,
  3. There are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.
- C. Advise the MCTC on any other major transit issues, including the coordination and consolidation of specialized transportation services.

At the “Unmet Transit Needs” Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, the MCTC Policy Board opened the hearing to receive public testimony. The following staff evaluation was prepared in cooperation with the SSTAC. MCTC Staff, on behalf of the SSTAC, will submit that body’s findings to the MCTC Policy Board under separate correspondence.

## **NARRATIVE OF EVALUATION**

### **County of Madera**

There are unmet transit needs that are not reasonable to meet at this time in the County of Madera.

Testimony about service expansion was received. The County indicated that it has already expanded service in the La Vina area. Monday was added as an extra day of service by the County. The County also indicated that service expansion in Fairmead was contingent upon the finalization of a location of the planned Fairmead Community Center.

Testimony about the need for microtransit options was received. The County is evaluating the use of microtransit and is considering options to roll out microtransit in the near future, once the appropriate studies have been conducted.

Comments were also received about street improvements, safety, lighting, speeding on the streets, and safety around parks and schools. These notable comments will be shared by MCTC staff with the appropriate County of Madera Departments.

### **City of Madera**

There are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet at this time in the City of Madera.

Testimony has been received regarding the City of Madera's transit services. The recommendation from the SSTAC is that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet at this time.

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.

Testimony was received about the need for improved on-time performance, increased frequency, and other operational issues. The City of Madera intends to address these and other issues by implementing the new Madera Transit Plan, which was approved on April 19, 2023, and will be going into effect July 1, 2023.

Comments were also received about street improvements, safety, lighting, speeding on the streets, and safety around parks and schools. These notable comments will be shared by MCTC staff with the appropriate City of Madera Departments.

### **City of Chowchilla**

There are no unmet transit needs in the City of Chowchilla.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact to the approved 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget.