

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Madera County Transportation Commission Members

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January 21, 2026

Jose Rodriguez, Chair
Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

SUBJECT: SSTAC FY 2026/27 “Unmet Transit Needs” Recommendation

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

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 met in September 2025 to review last year’s findings and to prepare for this cycle’s unmet transit needs process. Comments regarding transit needs in Madera County were received at the “Unmet Transit Needs” Public Hearing on October 22, 2025. The SSTAC met again on December 9, 2025, following the public hearing to review all comments received and evaluate them based on the MCTC Policy Board adopted definitions of “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet”. After thorough evaluation, we recommend the Commission adopt by resolution the following findings:

- 1. For FY 2026-27 there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet within the jurisdiction of the County of Madera.**

Additionally, the SSTAC requests the following to be addressed during the upcoming fiscal year:

- The SSTAC formally recommends that the County of Madera identify and present a defined fiscal strategy to advance the implementation of a microtransit pilot project. With the County’s microtransit feasibility study already completed, the SSTAC believes that additional planning should be accompanied by a clearer path toward implementation. The SSTAC recognizes microtransit as a viable solution to address the unique transportation needs of the county’s rural and mountain communities and urges the County of Madera to take concrete steps toward implementation.
- 2. For FY 2026-27 there are no unmet transit needs within the jurisdiction of the City of Chowchilla.**
 - 3. For FY 2026-27 there are no unmet transit needs within the jurisdiction of the City of Madera.**
 - 4. 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.**

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The 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

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 Viña, 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 provide transportation to the Eastern Madera County communities including service to Raymond. This service is provided on Wednesdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Sincerely,

Frank Simonis, SSTAC Chair