



Meeting of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

LOCATION

Madera County Transportation Commission
Board Room
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

SPECIAL NOTICE: Precautions to address COVID-19 (a.k.a the “Coronavirus”) will apply to this meeting. See below Special Notice for additional details.

DATE

May 3, 2021

TIME

11:00 AM

SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pamela Mashack	Potential Transit User 60 Years or Older
Rosalind Esqueda	Representative of a Transit Provider
Ellen Moy	Representative of a Transit Provider
Anabel Miranda	Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Frank Simonis	Potential Transit User Who Is Disabled
Annie Self	Representative of the Local Social Service Provider for Disabled
Vacant	Representative of the Local Social Service Providers for Seniors
Vacant	Representative of the Local Social Service Providers for Seniors
Vacant	Representative of the Local Social Service Provider for Disabled

Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact MCTC at (559) 675-0721 at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting to request auxiliary aids or other accommodations necessary to participate in the public meeting.

SPECIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20, the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) Board Room will be closed, and the Policy Board Members and staff will be participating in this meeting via GoToMeeting. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing measures, members of the public may participate in the meeting electronically and shall have the right to observe and offer public comment during the meeting.

You are strongly encouraged to participate by joining the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Please register for the GoToMeeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/MaderaCTC/sstac-meeting---may-3-2021>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (872) 240-3212

Access Code: 217-420-277

For participation by teleconference only, please use the above phone number and access code. If you participate by teleconference only, you will be in listen-only mode.

If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item during the meeting, please use the “Raise Hand” feature in GoToWebinar and you will be called on by the chair during the meeting. If you are participating via telephone only, you can submit your comments via email to publiccomment@maderactc.org or by calling 559-675-0721 **no later than 4:00 pm on April 30, 2021**. Comments will be shared with the Social Services Transportation Advisory Board Council and placed into the record at the meeting. Every effort will be made to read comments received during the meeting into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

AGENDA

At least 72 hours prior to each regular MCTC Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the MCTC website at <http://www.maderactc.org> or at the MCTC office, 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, California 93637. All public records relating to an open session item and copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to items of business referred to on the agenda are on file at MCTC. Persons with questions concerning agenda items may call MCTC at (559) 675-0721 to make an inquiry regarding the nature of items described in the agenda.

INTERPRETING SERVICES

Interpreting services are not provided at MCTC's public meeting unless requested at least three (3) business days in advance. Please contact MCTC at (559) 675-0721 during regular business hours to request interpreting services.

Servicios de interprete no son ofrecidos en las juntas públicas de MCTC al menos de que se soliciten con tres (3) días de anticipación. Para solicitar éstos servicios por favor contacte a Evelyn Espinosa at (559) 675-0721 x 18 durante horas de oficina.

MEETING CONDUCT

If this meeting is willfully interrupted or disrupted by one or more persons rendering orderly conduct of the meeting unfeasible, the Chair may order the removal of individuals who are willfully disrupting the meeting. Such individuals may be arrested. If order cannot be restored by such removal, the members of the Board may direct that the meeting room be cleared (except for representatives of the press or other news media not participating in the disturbance), and the session may continue.

RECORD OF THE MEETING

SSTAC meetings are recorded. Copies of recordings are available upon request, or recordings may be listened to at the MCTC offices by appointment.

Agenda

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action
1.	Call to order		
2.	Public Comment		
3.	New Member Orientation Roles and responsibilities Handout SSTAC Bylaws	Yes	Discussion
4.	Election of Officers	No	Action
5.	Re-affirm April 1, 2021 agenda items	No	Action
6.	Minutes of the April 1, 2021 SSTAC Meeting	Yes	Action
7.	SSTAC Member Vacancies	No	Discussion
8.	Unmet Transit Needs Definition	Yes	Discussion
9.	Comment Review and Recommendation to the MCTC Policy Board	Yes	Action
10.	Discuss Future Meetings Appoint representative to attend MCTC's Board Meeting, May 19, 3 pm Future Meeting date	No	Discussion
11.	Adjournment		

“UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS”

The “Unmet Transit Needs” process is required by State law to be conducted annually. The process is intended to identify those transit needs in the City of Madera, City of Chowchilla, and the County of Madera that are reasonable to meet. Where an unmet transit need is identified by the MCTC Policy Board to be reasonable to meet, the responsible jurisdiction(s) must develop a plan to provide transit service to meet the need within the following year.

Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC):

Role:

To forward a recommendation to the MCTC Policy Board regarding transit needs and issues.

Responsibilities:

1. Annually participate in the identification of transit needs in Madera County, including unmet transit needs that may exist within Madera County and that may be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public transportation or specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services.
2. Annually review and recommend action by MCTC Policy Board for the area within Madera County which finds by resolution, that (A) there are no unmet transit needs, (B) there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet, or (C) there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.
3. Advise the MCTC on any other major transit issues, including the coordination and consolidation of specialized transportation services.

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Rules

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was established under the requirements of the Transportation Development Act. The SSTAC serves as an advisory body to the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) regarding the transit needs of residents of the Madera Region, including, but not limited to, transit dependent and transit disadvantaged persons such as the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means.

The SSTAC shall be governed by the following rules.

A. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Advise MCTC on the following:
 - a. Transit needs of the general public (e.g. hours of service, new bus routes, shorter headways, etc.) including, but not limited to, transit dependent and transit disadvantaged persons such as the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means.
 - b. Coordination between transit service providers in the region.
 - c. Other issues the membership believes are relevant to transit in the Madera Region (i.e. potential review of transit grant applications, coordination/consolidation of specialized transit services, connections to interregional transit services, etc.)
2. Annually participate in the identification of transit needs in the Madera Region, including unmet transit needs that may exist and that may be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public transportation or specialized transportation services.
3. Annually review and recommend action by MCTC which finds, by resolution, that:
 - a. there are no unmet transit needs;
 - b. there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet; and/or
 - c. there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

B. PARTICIPANTS

1. SSTAC meeting participation shall include seven members per statutory guidelines (see Public Utilities Code Section 99238 below):
 - (a) One representative of potential transit users who is 60 years of age or older.
 - (b) One representative of potential transit users who is disabled.
 - (c) Two representatives of local social service providers for seniors, including one

representative of a social service transportation provider, if one exists.

(d) Two representatives of local social service providers for the disabled, including one representative of a social service transportation provider, if one exists.

(e) One representative of a local social service provider for persons of limited means.

(f) Two representatives from the local consolidated transportation service agency, designated pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 15975 of the Government Code, if one exists, including one representative from an operator, if one exists.

(g) The MCTC Board of Commissioners may appoint additional members in accordance with the procedure in subdivision (b) of Section 99238 of the Government Code.

2. In appointing council members, MCTC shall strive to attain geographic and minority representation among council members.

C. TERM OF OFFICE

1. The term of appointment shall be for three years and may be renewed.

D. VACANCIES

1. A vacancy shall be created when a member: resigns; completes their term of appointment and does not wish to be reappointed; misses three consecutive regular meetings without good cause; or when a member can no longer carry out their responsibilities as a council member.

2. If a member resigns during his/her term, MCTC's Executive Director may fill vacancies, in consultation with the SSTAC or SSTAC Chair, for the remainder of the original term.

3. The MCTC Board of Commissioners approves three-year appointments.

4. All SSTAC positions shall be advertised every three years to either extend the tenure of current positions or appoint new members.

E. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. During the first meeting of the calendar year, the council shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve for one year. Upon resignation of an officer, a special election shall be held.

F. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. **Chair:** The Chair shall preside at all SSTAC meetings. The Chair may appoint committees, conduct elections to fill the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, prepare and sign correspondence reflecting SSTAC votes or input provided, and may delegate his/her responsibility to sign correspondence. The Chair or his/her designee should report to the MCTC Board of Commissioners on recommendations of the SSTAC.
2. **Vice Chair:** In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair.
3. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall be a staff member of MCTC. The Secretary shall provide information and general assistance; take meeting notes for all SSTAC meetings; prepare agendas, SSTAC letters and other correspondence, as requested by the Chair; and prepare and distribute special notices, agenda announcements, staff reports and other materials.

G. ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

1. **Meetings:** The SSTAC shall meet at least twice per year, typically in April. Additional meetings may be held as needed. Alternate times and dates to those scheduled must be agreed upon by a majority of the members in order to carry out the responsibilities described above. The meetings shall be open to the public in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 et seq.) and shall be held at the Madera County Transportation Commission office. If an alternate location is required, it must be an accessible location in order to facilitate the attendance of physically disabled members of the SSTAC and the community in general. In the event both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent, the majority of a quorum may appoint a presiding officer for that meeting.
2. **Quorum:** A quorum shall constitute one-half (1/2) plus one (1) of the current membership.
3. **Voting:** Actions are generally taken by consensus of all participants. If a vote is required, it shall be by a voice vote unless any member requests a roll call vote. Where a vote is taken, passage requires four votes.
4. **Limitation of Discussion:** Discussion on any matter by council members or the general public may be limited to such length of time as the Chair may deem reasonable under the circumstances.
5. **Conduct of Meetings:** Meetings are generally to be conducted in accordance with the principles of Robert's Rules of Order.

6. **Meeting Notes:** Meeting notes recording the members and visitors present, motions entertained, and actions taken at each meeting shall be prepared by MCTC staff and posted on the MCTC website.
7. **Rules:** These rules may be amended by a majority vote of the SSTAC members and subsequent approval by the MCTC Board of Commissioners.
8. **Communications:** Official communications shall be in writing and shall be approved by the SSTAC or SSTAC Chair. Official communications approved by the SSTAC Chair shall be shared with the SSTAC as soon as reasonably practical. The Chair, or his/her designee, should make presentations to the MCTC Board for unmet transit needs findings.

Approved by MCTC Policy Board on March 18, 2020.

Social Service Transportation Advisory Council

MINUTES

DATE

Thursday, April 1, 2021

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council held Thursday, April 1, 2021 via GoToWebinar and was called to order by MCTC Staff Evelyn Espinosa at 1:35 .

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ellen Moy, Representative of the Local Social Service Providers for Seniors, Madera County
Annie Self, Representative of the Local Social Service Provider for Disabled, City of Madera
Pamela Mashack, Potential Transit User 60 Years or Older

STAFF PRESENT:

Dylan Stone, Madera County Transportation Commission
Troy McNeil, Madera County Transportation Commission
Jeff Findley, Madera County Transportation Commission
Evelyn Espinosa, Madera County Transportation Commission
Nicholas, Dybas, Madera County Transportation Commission

VISITORS PRESENT:

Anabelle Miranda, Madera County Workforce Development
Robin Roman, Public transportation Representative, City of Chowchilla
David Huff, Public transportation Representative, City of Madera

I: Introductions

Evelyn Espinosa called the meeting to order and led introductions.

II: Public Comment

No public comment received.

III. Minutes of the May 27, 2020 SSTAC Meeting

The minutes were approved.

IV: New Member Orientation

The roles and responsibilities Handout was read out to the council members.

V: Election of Officers

The representative for the Potential Transit User 60 Years or Older was elected Chairwoman.

V: SSTAC Member Vacancies

The flier for the SSTAC Member vacancies was included in the packet. An update about the interested individual/agency in the vacancies was shared with the council. Conversation to place current representatives of the Local Social Service Providers for Seniors to a new category for Local Transit Providers took place.

VII: Unmet Transit Needs Definition Review

The Council decided to continue using the same definition for this cycle while reconvening the SSTAC as many times as necessary to reassess the definition and reasonable to meet standards.

VIII: Quarterly Meetings for FY 2021-2022

The proposed schedule was shared with the council. This is a new quarterly schedule which expanded from two meetings per year to four meetings per year.

IX: Anticipated Comments

Comments received from the FY 2020-21 Unmet Transit Needs cycle were shared with the council for their information and the two comments received for this Unmet Transit Needs cycle were also shared.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED
AT 2:45 PM

Madera County Transportation Commission

Definition of “Unmet Transit Needs”

The Madera County Transportation Commission has determined that its definition of the term **“unmet transit needs”** includes all essential trip requests by transit-dependent persons for which there is no other convenient means of transportation, and the Commission has determined that its definition of the term **“reasonable to meet”** shall apply to all related public or specialized transportation services that:

- (1) are feasible;
- (2) have community acceptance;
- (3) serve a significant number of the population;
- (4) are economical; and
- (5) can demonstrate cost effectiveness

by having a ratio of fare revenues to operating cost at least equal to 10 percent, and the Commission has determined that its definition of the term “reasonable to meet” shall also apply to all service requests which do not abuse or obscure the intent of such transportation services once they are established.

Tulare County

Unmet Transit Need Definition and Criteria

“Unmet Transit Need”: An unmet transit need, as identified during Tulare County Association of Governments annual Unmet Transit Needs Process, exists where public transit services are not currently provided for persons who rely on public transit to conduct daily activities. At a minimum, an unmet need must be identified by substantial community input through the public outreach process or identified in a Short Range Transit Plan, Coordinated Transportation Plan, or the Regional Transportation Plan and has not yet been implemented or funded.

“Reasonable to Meet”: Following is the TCAG definition of "Reasonable to Meet" including the recommended benchmarks for the passenger farebox recovery ratio for new transit services in Tulare County. An unmet transit need shall be considered “reasonable to meet” if the proposed service is in compliance with of the following criteria, as each are applicable:

Equity

1. The new, expanded, or revised transit service is needed by, and will benefit, either the general public or the elderly and disabled population as a whole. Transit service cannot be provided for a specific subset of either of these groups.
2. The proposed service will not require reductions in existing transit services that have an equal or higher priority.
3. The proposed service will require a subsidy generally equivalent to other similar services.

Timing

1. The proposed service is in response to an existing rather than future transit need.

Feasibility

1. The proposed service can be provided with available TDA funding (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.)
2. Sufficient ridership potential exists for the new, expanded, or revised transit service.
3. The proposed service can be provided with the existing fleet or under contract to a private provider.

Performance

1. The proposed service will not unduly affect the operator's ability to maintain the required passenger fare ratio for its system as a whole.
2. The proposed service can meet the scheduled passenger fare ratio standards as described in the recommended benchmarks for the passenger farebox recovery ratio for new transit services in Tulare County.
3. The estimated number of passengers to be carried will be in the range of similar services, and/or, the proposed service provides a "link" or connection that contributes to the effectiveness of the overall transit system.
4. The proposed service must have potential providers that are available to implement the service.

Community Acceptance

1. The proposed service has community acceptance and/or support as determined by the unmet needs public outreach process, inclusion in adopted programs and plans, adopted governing board positions and/or other existing information.

ADA Conformity

1. The new, expanded, or revised transit service, in conforming with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, will not impose an undue financial burden on the transit operator if complementary paratransit services are subsequently required.

Operational Feasibility

1. The new, expanded, or revised transit service must be safe to operate and there must be adequate roadways and turnouts for transit vehicles.

Notes:

1. 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.

RECOMMENDED BENCHMARKS FOR PASSENGER FAREBOX RECOVERY RATIO FOR NEW TRANSIT SERVICES IN TULARE COUNTY.

The state has established a basic requirement in Section 99268 of the Public Utility Code for all proposed transit services in urban areas (the Visalia, Tulare, and Porterville Urbanized Areas). This requirement is to achieve a 20% passenger fare ratio by the end of the third year of operation. A passenger fare ratio of 10% exists for special services (i.e. elderly and disabled, demand-response) and rural area services. Transit serving both urban and rural areas, per state law, may obtain a blended passenger fare ratio. If a provider is granted a blended farebox recovery, performance levels should be adjusted accordingly.

TCAG has established more detailed interim passenger fare ratio standards, which will be used to evaluate new services as a result of the unmet needs process as they are proposed and implemented, which are described below. Transit serving both urban and rural areas, per state law, may obtain an "intermediate" passenger fare ratio.

END OF TWELVE MONTHS OF SERVICE

Performance Level

<i>Urban Service</i>	<i>Special/Rural Service</i>	<i>Recommended Action</i>
Less than 6%	Less than 3%	Provider may discontinue service
6% or more	3% or more	Provider will continue service, with modifications if needed

END OF TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS

Performance Level

<i>Urban Service</i>	<i>Special/Rural Service</i>	<i>Recommended Action</i>
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Less than 10%	Less than 5%	Provider may discontinue service
10% or more	5% or more	Provider will continue service, with modifications, if needed.

END OF THIRTY-SIX MONTHS

Performance Level

<u><i>Urban Service</i></u>	<u><i>Special/Rural Service</i></u>	<u><i>Recommended Action</i></u>
Less than 15%	Less than 7%	Provider may discontinue service
15-20%	7-10%	Provider will continue service, with Modifications if needed
20% or more	10% or more	Provider will continue service, with Modifications if needed

MERCED COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEED AND REASONABLE TO MEET DEFINITIONS

Unmet Transit Need:

An **unmet transit need** is an inadequacy in the existing public transit services for persons recognized as transit-dependent in Merced County.

Reasonable to Meet:

An unmet transit need that meets the definition above and meets **all** the following criteria shall be considered reasonable to meet:

Minimum requirements:

1. **Feasibility** - The proposed transit service can be achieved safely and will not violate local, state, and federal law.
2. **Funding** - The proposed transit service will not cause the transit operator to incur expenses greater than the maximum allocation of Transportation Development Act Local Transportation Funds.
3. **Equity** - The proposed transit service will benefit the general public, with particular consideration for those who rely on public transportation, seniors, and disabled persons, within the meaning of Title VI or other similar assessments.

Other areas for consideration:

4. **Community Acceptance** - There needs to be demonstrated interest of citizens in the proposed transit service such as multiple comments or petitions.
5. **Potential Ridership** – The proposed transit service will not reduce the existing level of transit service and will comply with safety, security and maintenance requirements. The proposed transit service will meet “new service” ridership performance standards established for the transit operator in its agency planning documents. Measurement of ridership performance may include assessing passengers per hour and passengers per mile.
6. **Cost Effectiveness** – Unless the proposed transit service is eligible for a two-year exemption period, it must not reduce the ability of the overall transit system service to meet minimum fare box return requirements as stated in the Transportation Development Act statutes or established by Merced County Association of Governments.

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Action

SUMMARY:

Each year, pursuant to state law, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) must identify any unmet transit needs that may exist in San Joaquin County. If needs are found, SJCOG must determine whether those needs are reasonable to meet. State law requires SJCOG to ensure that reasonable needs are met before Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds are allocated to local jurisdictions for non-transit purposes.

The unmet transit needs assessment requires SJCOG to meet the following requirements:

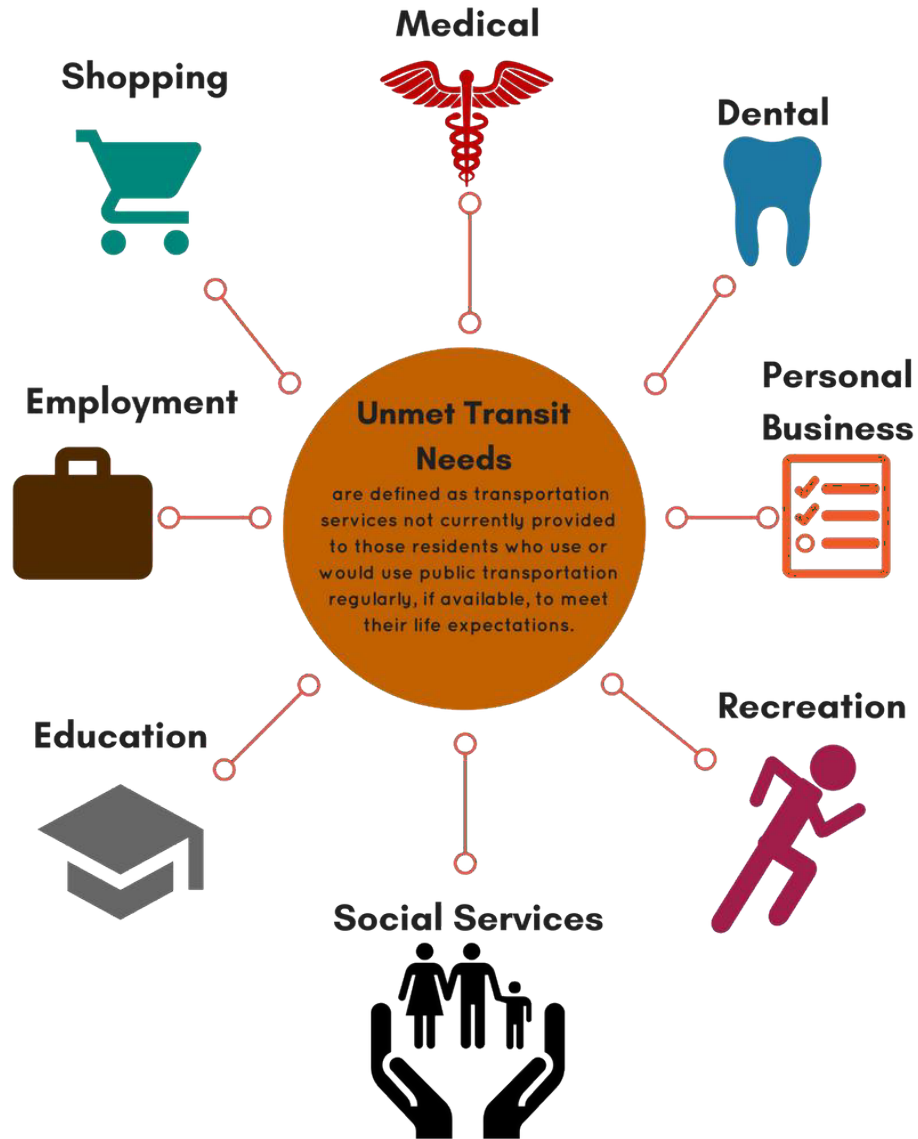
1. Ensure that several factors have been considered in the planning process, including:
 - a. Size and location of groups likely to be dependent on transit,
 - b. Adequacy of existing services and potential alternative services
 - c. Service improvements that could meet all or part of the travel demand.
2. Hold a public hearing to receive testimony on unmet needs.
3. Define the terms "unmet transit needs" and "reasonable to meet."
4. Adopt a finding regarding unmet transit needs and allocate funds to address those needs, if necessary, before street and road TDA allocations.

RECOMMENDATION:

SJCOG staff recommend that the SSTAC Chair open the public hearing to receive unmet transit needs comments, and then close the public hearing with no further action necessary at this time.

BACKGROUND:

At the request of the SSTAC, SJCOG formed a subcommittee to review the adopted definitions of "unmet transit need" and "reasonable to meet" in September 2017. The updated definitions as proposed by the subcommittee and adopted by the Board in February 2018, are as follows:



An unmet transit need that meets the definition above, and meets all the following criteria, shall be considered **reasonable to meet**:



Within the definition, an unmet transit need cannot be found unreasonable solely based upon economic feasibility.

DISCUSSION:

The COVID 19 pandemic has caused a lot of uncertainty among transit riders, therefore, to ensure San Joaquin County residents are provided an opportunity to voice their transit needs, SJCOG has increased the modes in which residents can participate in the Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) assessment. SJCOG staff have laid out the following tasks to ensure widespread input is gathered:

- Extended the public comment period from December 31st, 2020 to January 31st, 2021.
- Created a new email address, UTN@SJCOG.ORG to receive UTN comments year-round.
- Published the December 3rd, 2020 UTN Public Hearing notice in 6 local newspapers, including a Spanish newspaper.
- Made available both an online and printable (English and Spanish) UTN Survey.
- Conducted informational UTN PowerPoint presentations to various community groups.
- Held a Public Hearing at the December 2020 SJCOG Board Meeting.

NEXT STEPS:

- SJCOG will collect comments until January 31, 2021
- SJCOG and SSTAC members will analyze all comments to determine if any are considered unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet
- Board adoption of UTN findings in Spring 2021

KINGS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

From KCAG's SSTAC 1.28.2021 Agenda

Before the KCAG Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) may allocate any portion of the LTF claimed for streets and roads, it must make certain specific findings concerning unmet transit needs, and whether the needs can be reasonably met. The TPC's decision will be based on the committee's evaluation of the services now provided, the testimony given at the public hearing, and whether proposed expenditures of the LTF comply with the policies of the Kings County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The TPC conducts public hearings annually to determine if any "unmet public transit needs" which are "reasonable to meet" exist in Kings County or the cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford, and Lemoore. State law requires that KCAG determine its definitions of the following terms:

- A. "Unmet transit need"
- B. "Reasonable to meet".

KCAG has defined these terms in the RTP as follows:

- A) "Unmet transit need", at a minimum, exists where local residents do not have access to private vehicles or other forms of transportation, due to age, income, or disability, for the purpose of traveling to medical care, shopping, social/recreational activities, education/training and employment.
- B) It is "reasonable to meet" the above needs if the proposed or planned service can be operated while maintaining, on a system wide basis, the adopted service goals for that type of service and meet the following criteria:
 - 1) New, expanded, or revised transit service, if implemented or funded, would not cause the operator to incur expenditures in excess of the maximum amount of Transportation Development Act funds available to Kings County.
 - 2) The proposed transit service does not duplicate transit services currently provided by either public or private operators.
 - 3) The proposed transit service has community support from the general public, community groups, and community leaders.
 - 4) New, expanded, or revised transit service, if implemented or funded, would allow the responsible operator to meet the TDA required applicable farebox revenue ratio.
 - 5) There is supporting data to indicate sufficient ridership potential for the new, expanded, or revised service.
 - 6) Implementation of the new, expanded, or revised transit service should achieve or be moving toward the goals outlined in the Kings County Transit Development Plan for a comparable type of service. Services not meeting the goals should be evaluated on a yearly basis to determine if modifications or cancellation of service should be implemented.
 - 7) The proposed transit service shall have a reasonable expectation of future demand and available funding on a long term basis to maintain the service.

- 8) Is needed by and would benefit either the general public or the elderly and disabled population as a whole.

Analysis of Comments Received During the FY 21/22 Unmet Transit Needs Process

Comment #	Agency Affiliation	Transit Service/Jurisdiction	Public Comments	Is it an "Unmet Transit Need"	If identified as an "Unmet Transit Need", is it "Reasonable to Meet"	Notes
Comments submitted via phone						
1	City of Madera	Madera Metro	A bus stop is needed at Roosevelt and Olive across from Sierra Vista Elementary.			
2	City of Madera	Madera Metro	There is currently a bus stop on Sunrise between A and Vineyard, a bus shelter is needed for shade and protection from inclement weather.			
3	City of Madera	Madera Metro	There is currently a bus stop at Olive and Martin near Planet Fitness, a bus shelter is needed for shade and protection from inclement weather.			
Comments submitted via public comment email						
4	County	MCC/Eastern Madera County	Why isn't YARTS year-round on HWY 41? We live in Coarsegold, near YLP. If you don't have a car, unable to get to Oakhurst or Fresno.			
Comments submitted via Unmet Transit Needs Online Survey						
5	ALL	Madera Metro, DAR, Chowchilla Area Transit, Madera County Connection	More on-time schedules.			
6	ALL	Madera Metro, DAR, Chowchilla Area Transit, Madera County Connection	Not being skipped by dial-a-ride			
Comments from Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability						
7	City of Madera	Madera Metro	Transit users in the City of Madera report up to one hour wait times for buses on occasion, and expressed the need for routes in the City of Madera to run more frequently.			

8	ALL	ALL	Residents and transit users report a need to expand rate assistance programs to provide free rides to people who are unable to pay their bus fare but who have transit needs nonetheless. This need was raised during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which many transit users have experienced additional financial hardships.
9	County	County	Residents and transit users report a need for street lighting in La Vina and Fairmead to ensure transit users' first and last miles are safely lit.
10	City of Madera	Madera Metro	Residents and transit users continue to elevate the need for wastebaskets at bus stops in the City of Madera.
11	County	County	<p>Residents and transit users in unincorporated communities have identified streets that need repavement and clean mobility infrastructure like sidewalks, crosswalks, and street lighting in order to facilitate their first and last miles, and thus, their use of public transit.</p> <p>A few examples that were elevated in our conversations were sidewalks and street lighting along Avenue 9 and within the subdivision of homes located in La Vina, and road repavement to Rd 26 in Madera Acres, Rd 29 in Parksdale, and Valerie Avenue in Madera Acres.</p>
12	ALL	ALL	Resident and transit users report the need for electronic bus signs on buses and at bus stops. At bus stops, an electronic sign should indicate the estimated time of arrival of the bus and its destination along its current route, and electronic signs on the buses should confirm the direction in which the bus is travelling along its route with its final destination. Residents report that this will greatly improve the user-friendliness of public transit in Madera County and encourage ridership.

13 Madera County Connection MCC/Eastin Arcola-Ripperdan-La Vina Residents and transit users in La Vina continue to elevate the need for more frequent routes between La Vina and the City of Madera. Currently, the bus only runs on Wednesdays and Fridays, leaving transit-dependent persons with no other means of transportation without access to basic amenities (including healthcare, food, and other emergency services) most days of the week.

14 Madera County Connection MCC/Chowchilla-Fairmead Lastly, residents and transit users in Fairmead have elevated the need to continue working towards installation of a second bus stop in Fairmead. As we understand it, the status of this project is pending collaboration between the Fresno EOC and Madera County Public Works. We ask that MCTC direct these agencies to continue their work on this project as soon as possible, and oversee progress to ensure this project stays on track.

15 Madera County Transportation Commission Madera County Transportation Commission Lastly, our organization requests a breakdown of transportation funding (whether from general fund dollars, local tax revenue, grant funding, or any other source of revenue) and expenditures on transportation and transit-related projects during the past two years in Madera County, the City of Madera, and the City of Chowchilla. This will be helpful in order for us to better understand the transportation and transit projects MCTC & other relevant agencies in Madera County have prioritized with the funding that has been available in the last few years.
