



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of March 22, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 4-A

PREPARED BY: Nicholas Dybas, Associate Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Unmet Transit Needs Update

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The State Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires that the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) Policy Board determine that public transportation needs within Madera County will be reasonably met in FY 2023-24, prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for streets and roads. The MCTC's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs. Each year, the SSTAC begins the process of soliciting comments from the public by sending letters to agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within the Madera County region. The request for comment letter was mailed in February 2023.

The SSTAC normally meets prior to the Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) hearing held annually by the Madera County Transportation Commission. This year, the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing will be held on **April 19, 2023, at 3:00 PM**, during MCTC's regularly scheduled Policy Board meeting. Zoom and in-person testimony will be available during MCTC's Policy Board Meeting. After the Public Hearing, the SSTAC will meet again to review comments and forward a recommendation to the MCTC Policy Board.

PUBLIC HEARING: April 19, 2023, at 3:00 PM

Zoom: [Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing](#)

Comments can be submitted via email publiccomment@maderactc.org or by calling 559-675-0721 ext. 6.

In Person: Madera County Transportation Commission, 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, California 93637.

SSTAC MEETINGS:

Since the beginning of the 2022/23 UTN cycle, there have been three SSTAC meetings. The first meeting was held on August 2, 2022, the second was held on November 17, 2022, and the third was held on January 30, 2023.

The first SSTAC meeting of 2023, held on January 30, defined the roles and responsibilities of the SSTAC, elected officers for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, and Unmet Transit Needs comments were presented. In subsequent meetings, the comments were analyzed by the SSTAC.

The last SSTAC meeting will: review and evaluate comments received by the MCTC during the annual "Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing"; appoint representatives from the SSTAC to attend the May 17, 2023, MCTC Policy Board Meeting; recommend action by the MCTC Policy Board for the Madera County region 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; and advise the MCTC on any other major transit issues.

On March 23, 2023, a memorandum will be sent to the SSTAC membership detailing the dates, locations, and times for the UTN Public Workshop and following SSTAC meeting.

The SSTAC recommendations will be presented to the MCTC Policy Board at the May 17, 2023, meeting. The MCTC Policy Board will adopt by resolution a finding for Madera County.

MCTC staff encourages the public to submit their unmet transit needs comments via the unmet transit needs survey, email, mail, by phone, or in person. MCTC staff will present each comment to the Board of Commissioners during the April public hearing so that all comments are heard during this process. The link to the unmet transit needs survey can be found [here](#) and on the MCTC [website](#), social media pages, the public hearing notice, and informational flyers.

A Spanish language interpreter will also be available for those who wish to testify in Spanish. A public notice has been printed in the local newspapers, and fliers will be distributed via social media, buses, and throughout the community publicizing the hearing. The flyer has been included in the agenda packet.

WORKSHOPS:

In-person workshops and outreach events were planned and held to inform the community. During the workshops, staff educated the public on the Unmet Transit Needs Process and collected comments. The dates and locations were posted on our website, social media, and sent through email. An online workshop was held, and the link to the recording was posted on social media and can be viewed [here](#).

The dates and locations for the workshops were as followed:

1. November 5, 2022: Outreach event at the Madera Pomegranate, Fruit & Nut Festival at the Madera Fairgrounds in Madera
2. February 16, 2023: Hybrid workshop at MCTC Office in Madera
3. February 17, 2023: In-person workshop at Sierra Senior Center in Oakhurst

4. February 17, 2023: In-person workshop at Madera Main Library in Madera
5. March 3, 2023: In-person workshop at Chowchilla Library in Chowchilla.
6. There was a workshop scheduled at the North Fork Library in North Fork that was cancelled by the library due to heavy snowfall.

Staff is working on scheduling additional workshops. Updates will be available on the MCTC [website](#).

VACANCY:

There is a vacancy on the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) for the Representative of Potential Transit Users Who is 60 Years of Age or Older. SSTAC members are appointed to serve a three-year term and may be renewed. The application is available on the MCTC website [here](#).

ATTACHMENTS:

The Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing flyer, the memorandum for the SSTAC with important dates, and the SSTAC application are attached to this staff report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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