



Madera County Transportation Commission Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

LOCATION

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

or join via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86975908818?pwd=efDZaLbpZ04Rbr5hhpuZFa6pRO7hSb.1>

Meeting ID: 869 7590 8818

Passcode: 527175

Call in: +1 408 638 0968

DATE

August 06, 2024

TIME

12:00 PM

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Frank Simonis, Chair	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
Sabrina Garibay	Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
VACANT	Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Monty Cox	Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Bertha Vega	Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Vincent Parker	Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Mattie Mendez	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Franklina Bogan	Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Lynda Schafhauser	Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Cynthia Ortegon	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability

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.

AGENDA

At least 72 hours prior to each regular SSTAC meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the [MCTC website](#) 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.

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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

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

This time is made available for comments from the public on matters within the Council's jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes. Attention is called to the fact that the Council is prohibited by law from taking any substantive action on matters discussed that are not on the agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Council does not respond to the public comment at this time. It is requested that no comments be made during this period on items that are on today's agenda. Members of the public may comment on any item that is on today's agenda when the item is called and should notify the Chairman of their desire to address the Council when that agenda item is called.

4. **APPROVE MINUTES**

- [A.](#) **Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Minutes**

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Approve the minutes of the April 30, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- A. Appoint Chair and Vice Chair**

Enclosure: No

Action: Appoint Chair and Vice Chair of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

6. **PRESENTATION**

- A. Green Raiteros Presentation**

Enclosure: No

Action: Rey Leon from the Leap Institute will present information about the indigenous rural ridesharing service based in Huron.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

8. ADJOURNMENT



ITEM 4A

SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

DATE

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council was held Tuesday, April 30, 2024, and was called to order by Chair Frank Simonis, at 12:03 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Simonis, Chair, Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability – appeared via Zoom
Bertha Vega, Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means*
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Rosalind Esqueda, Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Franklina Bogan, Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Lynda Schafhauser, Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Monty Cox, Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Sabrina Garibay on behalf of Alycia Falley, Vice Chair, Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Vincent Parker, Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons With Disabilities

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michelle Hernandez, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors

MCTC STAFF PRESENT:

Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner
Evelyn Espinosa, Senior Regional Planner
Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner

VISITORS PRESENT:

Alycia Falley, Madera County Department of Social Services
Liliana Zapien, Madera County Public Works
Xochitl Villasenor, City of Madera Transit
Joann McClendon, City of Chowchilla
Cynthia Ortegon, Madera resident

*appeared after roll call

1. Roll Call

At 12:03 pm, Chair Frank Simonis called the meeting to order and instructed that the roll call for attendance be taken. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

Franklina Bogan, SSTAC member, shared that she was traveling out on Avenue 12 near the Ranchos and was pleased to see a shelter at a bus stop that was very well lit as a result of the solar lights. Would like to see more shelters like this within the city of Madera. Xochital, Transit Manager for the City of Madera, noted that she also saw the shelter and was happy to see it.

3. Approve Minutes of the February 6, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

Monty Cox moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting.

Seconded by Olga Saucedo-Garcia

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Frank Simonis, Olga Saucedo-Garcia, Franklina Bogan, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Sabrina Garibay, Rosalind Esqueda

Noes: None

Abstain: Vincent Parker

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Unmet Transit Needs Comment Analysis

The SSTAC reviewed twenty-seven comments. During the discussion, seventeen of the comments were identified as potential unmet transit needs and were evaluated using the “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet” definitions.

The potential unmet transit needs that have been evaluated and the recommendations made by the SSTAC for Madera County (MCC) are as follows:

- CONNECT TO MERCED, SPECIFICALLY TO THE MERCED AMTRAK STATION

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need

Discussion: There is not enough documented demand for a route to Merced. There was a route in the past that was discontinued due to low ridership. There are options to get to Merced Amtrak utilizing existing local transit service combined with rail service. The Madera Metro Blue Line serves the Madera Amtrak Station (MDR). Amtrak tickets from Madera to Merced cost \$9.00 for a direct one-way trip and have six different time options. The train ride takes less than 35 minutes.

- ADD LATER SERVICE TO/FROM THE COMMUNITY OF LA VINA, SO RIDERS CAN MAKE IT BACK HOME FROM APPOINTMENTS THAT RUN LATE.

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet

Discussion: There is not enough documented demand to provide later Fixed Route service to and from La Vina. The County is conducting a study to implement a microtransit service that could address the specific needs of the area and help document when increased fixed route service is warranted. A microtransit or demand-response type of service may provide the flexibility needed to serve the needs of this community better.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
Will be determined with microtransit study	Yes	Yes	Will be determined with microtransit study	Yes

- ADD MORE FREQUENT FIXED ROUTE SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY OF LA VINA

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet.

Discussion: There is not enough documented demand for more frequent Fixed Route service in La Vina. The County is conducting a study to implement a microtransit service that could address the specific needs of the area and help document when increased fixed route service is warranted. A microtransit or demand-response type of service may provide the flexibility needed to serve the needs of this community better.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
Will be determined with microtransit study	Yes	Yes	Will be determined with microtransit study	Yes

- PROVIDE SERVICE TO VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT 8PM (EVENING) AND BACK TO YOSEMITE AVENUE IN MADERA AT 7AM (MORNING)

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet.

Discussion: There is not enough documented demand for transit service to Valley Children's Hospital in the evenings. The microtransit study will provide guidance on the amount of ridership needed to support this service if implemented.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
Will be determined with microtransit study	Unknown - There was only one comment regarding this need	Unknown - It is unclear how many people this will benefit	Will be determined with microtransit study	Yes

- PROVIDE MEDICAL TRANSIT SERVICE FROM THE MOUNTAINS (EASTERN MADERA COUNTY) TO HOSPITALS IN FRESNO, MADERA, OR MARIPOSA

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet.

Discussion: The County provides the Medical Escort Service for residents in the Eastern Madera County communities, including the mountain communities. The service runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Some residents are not healthy enough to utilize this service, since the ride and wait times can be long. In some instances, riders are dropped off in the morning for their appointments and then wait to get picked up, in some cases several hours later, after the rest of the riders are done with their appointments to head back home. The County believes that microtransit service will assist in making these medical trips more convenient, increasing the benefit to residents.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
Will be determined with microtransit study	Yes	Yes	Will be determined with microtransit study	Yes

- ADD A STOP CLOSER TO ROAD 200 IN NORTH FORK

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet

Discussion: There is not enough documented demand for a new stop that would add ten minutes or more to the route at this time.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
Will be determined with microtransit study	Unknown - There was only one comment regarding this need	Unknown - It is unclear how many people this will benefit	Will be determined with microtransit study	Yes

- ADD A BUS SHELTER AT THE STORE IN LA VINA

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet

Discussion: There is not sufficient room for a bus shelter at the store; however, the County will continue to work with the store owner to find a solution. There may be a stop added on the other side of the street where there are planned sidewalks. Most of the MCC stops are in the unincorporated area that lacks infrastructure like sidewalks to add an ADA compliant shelter.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
No – Existing infrastructure will not support a shelter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- ADD TRASH CANS AT THE STOPS IN LA VINA

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need

Discussion: The County transit administration will not allow trash cans at the stops because of the sustained maintenance that would be required.

- ADD MORE LIGHTING AT THE BUS STOPS AND ALONG THE ROUTES TO BUS STOPS IN LA VINA; ADD LIGHTED SCHEDULES TO SHOW IF THE BUS IS RUNNING ON TIME

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, reasonable to meet

Discussion: The Transit App (by Swiftly) provides the location of the bus in real-time. The schedules are also accessible on the app. However, the app may not perform well in areas with weak internet service. The County has plans to install new schedule holders that have a solar light at bus stops throughout the county, including in the community of La Vina. Together with the app and the lighted schedule holders, this unmet transit need will be met.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- ADD MORE SHELTERS AND BENCHES AT STOPS IN LA VINA

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet

Discussion: The residential areas of La Vina tend to lack the supporting infrastructure (sidewalks) for the installation of benches and shelters. The County continues to look for opportunities to add shelters where they can be installed safely and with adequate ADA access.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
No – lack of support infrastructure prevents installation in many locations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The potential unmet transit needs that have been evaluated and the recommendations made by the SSTAC for the City of Madera (Madera Metro) are as follows:

- TRAVEL TO ST. AGNES MEDICAL CENTER IN FRESNO BY MADERA METRO DIAL-A-RIDE

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need

Discussion: There are options to get to Fresno for medical appointments from Madera. Madera County provides fixed route service from Madera to Valley Children's Medical Center, where riders can connect to Fresno Area Express to get to destinations (including medical) in the City of Fresno. Madera County also provides the Medical Escort service on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday specifically for medical trips to the Fresno and Clovis Area.

- ADD SERVICE ON SUNDAYS IN THE CITY OF MADERA

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need

Discussion: Dial-a-ride service is available on Sundays. A greater need would have to be established (i.e. community acceptance, potential ridership) before amending the budget and contracting with MV Transit to add a fixed route service on Sundays. Even though utilizing Dial-a-ride requires an advance reservation, same-day service is available if there are cancellations. The City of Madera conducted a Transit Plan Services Assessment that was completed in July 2023. The newest route changes that have been implemented have been based on the results of the assessment.

- PROVIDE A STOP NEAR SHERWOOD WAY TO GET TO MADERA COLLEGE

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need

Discussion: To get to Madera City College from Sherwood Way, there are a couple of options. A rider can reserve Dial-a-Ride to get to the college, or they can use the fixed route system. To use the fixed route system, get on the bus at one of the three bus stops along Sherwood Way. Take the blue line to Walgreens, then transfer to the green line to get to the college.

- PROVIDE SERVICE AFTER 5:30 PM IN THE CITY OF MADERA

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet

Discussion: Many events, including public meetings, begin at the end of the business day. Providing public transit service later in the evenings would provide transit dependent persons with increased mobility options. However, when the City surveyed residents as part of its recent needs assessment, later service was not an issue. The need for later service would need to be established by further analysis and demonstrated possibly by a pilot study.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
Unknown	Unknown – There was only one comment regarding this need	Yes	Unknown	Yes

- PROVIDE SERVICE TO ALL THE CAMARENA CLINICS

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need

Discussion: All but two of the Camarena clinics are being served by the current route system in the city. In most cases, the riders are dropped off right at the clinic.

- ABILITY FOR USERS TO SAVE THE TRANSIT SCHEDULES

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need

Discussion: There are many ways for Madera Metro transit users to access and save the schedules. They are available in hardcopy or for download on the agency's website.

The potential unmet transit needs that have been evaluated and the recommendations made by the SSTAC for the City of Chowchilla are as follows:

- PROVIDE SERVICE UNTIL 5PM AND ADD WEEKEND SERVICE IN CHOWCHILLA

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet

Discussion: Several years ago, the City approved a pilot program with extended hours until 5 pm. For two years it was underutilized, so the service was discontinued. The City will continue to monitor community needs to determine if there should be an

extension of service hours based on information collected during outreach efforts and ridership data.

Reasonable to Meet Requirements

Feasibility	Community Acceptance	Benefit to Population	Cost Effective	Consistency with Existing Service and Plans
Unknown - it is unclear how many residents of Chowchilla would utilize the service in the evenings and on weekends	Unknown – There was only one comment regarding this need	Unknown	Unknown	Yes

The rest of the comments received were determined to be either operational or non-transit issues. Direction was given to forward these comments to the appropriate agencies to be addressed.

Monty Cox made a motion to recommend for Madera County:

There are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

For the City of Madera: There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

For the City of Chowchilla: There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

Seconded by Chair Frank Simonis

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Frank Simonis, Olga Saucedo-Garcia, Franklina Bogan, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Sabrina Garibay, Rosalind Esqueda, Bertha Vega

Noes: None

Abstain: Vincent Parker

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Appoint SSTAC Representative to attend MCTC Policy Board Meeting on May 29, 2024

Monty Cox nominated Frank Simonis to represent the SSTAC at the MCTC Policy Board meeting on May 29, 2024.

Seconded by Linda Schafhauser.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Frank Simonis, Olga Saucedo-Garcia, Franklina Bogan, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Sabrina Garibay, Rosalind Esqueda, Bertha Vega

Noes: None

Abstain: Vincent Parker

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Discuss Future Meetings

The SSTAC agreed upon the following dates for upcoming quarterly meetings: August 6, 2024, November 5, 2024, February 5, 2025, and April 29, 2025. Meetings will continue to be held at noon at the MCTC office.

7. Announcements

SSTAC member, Olga Saucedo-Garcia, announced that Madera County Behavioral Health has partnered with the City of Madera Parks and Community Services to host a Wellness Walk at Town and Country Park on Friday, May 3, 2024, from 9:30am – 11:30am for older adults and persons with disabilities. Breakfast is included. SSTAC chair, Frank Simonis, announced that the annual Smokey the Bear Run-Walk at Bass Lake will be on September 28, 2024. The proceeds benefit the Madera County Sheriff Volunteer Program and the Cal Fire Prevention Program. This year celebrates the 80th anniversary of Smokey the Bear. The roads around Bass Lake will be closed for the event. SSTAC member, Olga Saucedo-Garcia announced that the City of Madera is hosting a Mother's Day luncheon for older adults at the Pan-Am Senior Center at 11:30am on Friday, May 10, 2024. SSTAC member, Monty Cox, introduced the new Madera County Public Works Analyst, Liliana Zapien. MCTC staff, Natalia Austin, mentioned that MCTC will be advertising to fill vacancies on the SSTAC for Representatives of a Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities and Seniors. SSTAC members were asked to forward contact information for anyone with those qualifications.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Frank Simonis at 2:00 PM.



Meeting of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

MEETING LOCATION

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

Or join via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87124247849?pwd=q1VdEzfsy2beVz39kC4lvUVkb7c7hg.1>

Meeting ID: 871 2424 7849

Passcode: 314722

Call in: +1 408 638 0968

DATE

November 5, 2024

TIME

12:00 PM

SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Frank Simonis, Chair	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
Nancy Ramirez	Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Monty Cox	Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Bertha Vega, Vice Chair	Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Vincent Parker	Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Mattie Mendez	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Franklina Bogan	Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Lynda Schafhauser	Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Cynthia Ortegon	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND ADA

MCTC has adopted a Reasonable Accommodations Policy that provides a procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation to participate in this meeting (see <https://www.maderactc.org/administration/page/reasonable-accommodations-policy>). If you need assistance in order to attend the meeting, or if you require auxiliary aids or services, e.g., listening devices or signing services to make a presentation, MCTC is happy to assist you. Please contact MCTC offices at (559) 675-0721 so such aids or services can be arranged. Requests may also be made by email to sandy@maderactc.org, or mailed to 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA 93637. Accommodations should be requested as early as possible as additional time may be required in order to provide the requested accommodation; 72 hours in advance is suggested.

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RECORD OF THE MEETING

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PUBLIC COMMENT

If you are participating remotely and wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item during the meeting, please use the “Raise Hand” feature in Zoom and you will be called on by the chair during the meeting. You can also submit your comments via email to publiccomment@maderactc.org. Comments will be shared with the SSTAC 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.

Regarding any disruption that prevents the SSTAC from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public, then (1) if public access can be restored quickly, the meeting will resume in five (5) minutes to allow the re-connection of all members of the SSTAC, staff, and members of the public; or (2) if service cannot be restored quickly, the meeting shall stop, no further action shall be taken on the remaining agenda items, and notice of the continued meeting will be provided.

Agenda

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action
1.	Roll Call		
2.	Public Comment This time is made available for comments from the public on matters within the Council's jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes. Attention is called to the fact that the Council is prohibited by law from taking any substantive action on matters discussed that are not on the agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Council does not respond to the public comment at this time. It is requested that no comments be made during this period on items that are on today's agenda. Members of the public may comment on any item that is on today's agenda when the item is called and should notify the Chair of their desire to address the Council when that agenda item is called.		
3.	Approve Minutes of the August 6, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting	Yes	Action
4.	Presentation Monty Cox, Transit Manager for Madera County, will present the results of the Madera County Microtransit Study	No	Presentation
5.	Results of the Unmet Transit Needs Process for FY 2024-2025 Resolution 24-05 Caltrans Unmet Transit Needs Documentation Letter Unmet Transit Needs and Reasonable to Meet Definitions Unmet Transit Needs Bilingual Flyer	Yes	Information
6.	Announcements		
7.	Adjourn		



ITEM 3

SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

DATE

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council was held Tuesday, August 6, 2024, and was called to order by Chair Frank Simonis, at 12:05 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Simonis, Chair, Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability – appeared via Zoom
Bertha Vega, Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Lynda Schafhauser, Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Monty Cox, Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Sabrina Garibay, Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Mattie Mendez, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Cynthia Ortegón, Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vincent Parker, Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Franklina Bogan, Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older

MCTC STAFF PRESENT:

Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner
Evelyn Espinosa, Senior Regional Planner
Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner

VISITORS PRESENT:

Rey Leon, LEAP Institute
Eric Ramirez, LEAP Institute
Xochitl Villasenor, City of Madera, Transit Program Manager

*appeared after roll call

1. Roll Call

At 12:05 pm, Chair Frank Simonis called the meeting to order and instructed that the roll call for attendance be taken. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Introduce New Members

All the members present introduced themselves. Sabrina Garibay mentioned that she will no longer be employed at the Madera County Department of Social Services, but that a replacement from the agency would fill her position.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approve Minutes - Approve Minutes of the April 30, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

SSTAC member, Cynthia Ortegon, requested an edit to the minutes to show that she attended the meeting as a representative of the City of Madera ADA Advisory Council and not as a resident of the city of Madera as indicated.

Monty Cox moved to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting with the requested change.

Seconded by Cynthia Ortegon

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Frank Simonis, Olga Saucedo-Garcia, Sabrina Garibay, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Mattie Mendez, Bertha Vega, Cynthia Ortegon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Election of Officers - Appoint Chair and Vice Chair of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Mattie Mendez nominated Chair Frank Simonis to serve another term as Chair.

Seconded by Cynthia Ortegon

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Frank Simonis, Olga Saucedo-Garcia, Sabrina Garibay, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Mattie Mendez, Bertha Vega, Cynthia Ortegon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mattie Mendez nominated Bertha Vega to serve as Vice Chair.

Seconded by Cynthia Ortegon

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Frank Simonis, Olga Saucedo-Garcia, Sabrina Garibay, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty

Cox, Mattie Mendez, Bertha Vega, Cynthia Ortegon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Green Raiteros Presentation

Eric Ramirez and Rey Leon of the Latino Equity Advocacy & Policy Institute LEAP Institute presented information about the Green Raiteros, electric vehicle ride-sharing service. Currently, LEAP provides roughly 500 rides per month, 80% of these rides are for healthcare appointments, 10% for social services, and 10% for rides to educational facilities. Green Raiteros offers riders a subsidized ride through established partnerships with employment training centers, government entities and tribal partners. The LEAP Institute is applying for a grant to expand service in 15 locations and would appreciate a letter of support from agencies in Madera County. They are also seeking to identify contacts within the Veterans Affairs office and with Eastern Madera County. A question-and-answer discussion followed, and the presenters provided their contact information.

7. Announcements

MCTC Staff, Natalia Austin, requested that members pay attention to their emails as that is the primary source of communication between MCTC and the SSTAC members.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Frank Simonis at 1:11 PM.



STAFF REPORT
Social Services Transportation Advisory
Council Meeting
November 5, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 5

PREPARED BY: Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Results of the Unmet Transit Needs Process for FY 2024-2025

Enclosure: Yes

Action: For information and discussion

SUMMARY:

MCTC is the administrator of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for Madera County and is responsible for performing the annual “unmet transit needs” process. The purpose of this process is to ensure that all “unmet transit needs” that are “reasonable to meet” are met before any TDA funds are expended for non-transit uses, such as street and roads.

The TDA also requires that MCTC establish a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). The Public Utilities Code (PUC) defines the required membership of the SSTAC. The SSTAC solicits public input regarding transit service needs for the transit-dependent and transportation-disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and low-income persons. Annually, the SSTAC makes a recommendation to the MCTC Policy Board that:

- There are no unmet transit needs, or
- There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet, or
- There are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

Typically, the annual unmet transit needs public hearing is held in the spring, prior to the end of each fiscal year. However, Madera County residents can participate in the unmet transit needs process all year long in a way that is convenient for them. Options include submitting a comment by phone, mail, email, or by filling out an online survey. In addition, the unmet transit needs webpage on the MCTC website makes information regarding the unmet transit needs process, submitting a comment, or looking at past years’ unmet transit needs reports readily accessible.

MCTC Unmet Transit Needs webpage: [Click here](#)

Unmet Transit Needs Bilingual Survey link: [Click here](#)

Unmet Transit Needs English and Spanish Comment Form: [Click here](#)

On May 29, 2024, the MCTC Policy Board adopted Resolution Number 24-05, approving the unmet transit need finding for FY 2024-2025:

“The Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the County of Madera.

- 1. Testimony was received regarding the need for more lighting at bus stops and to provide schedules with lighting at the bus stops that show if the bus is running on time, particularly in La Vina. These were found to be unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. The Transit App (by Swiftly) provides the location of the bus in real-time. The schedules are also accessible on the app. The County has plans to install new schedule holders that have a solar light at bus stops throughout the county, including in the community of La Vina. Together with the app and the lighted schedule holders, this unmet transit need will be met.*
- 2. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Chowchilla.*
- 3. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Madera.”*

For the latest unmet transit needs finding and assessment for Madera County, please see the [Unmet Transit Needs Final Analysis and Recommendations Report for FY 2024-2025](#).

The required unmet transit needs documentation for FY 2024-2025 has been submitted to the California Department of Transportation and has been approved.

For more information, please contact Natalia Austin at naustin@maderactc.org or 559-675-0721 ext. 6.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved FY 2024-25 Overall Work Program and Budget.

**BEFORE
THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
COUNTY OF MADERA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the matter of
**FINDINGS OF THE FY 2024-25 UNMET
TRANSIT NEEDS HEARING**

Resolution No.: **24-05**

WHEREAS, The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) is a Regional Transportation Planning Agency and a Metropolitan Planning Organization, pursuant to State and Federal designation; and

WHEREAS, The Madera County Transportation Commission 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 § 99401.5 (c).
 - Sufficient ridership potential exists for new, expanded or revisited transit services.
 - The proposed transit service will be safe and comply with local, state and federal law.
 2. **Community Acceptance**
 - The proposed 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 an 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.

WHEREAS, The Madera County Transportation Commission has given consideration to the requirements pursuant to Public Utilities Code, Section 99401.5.; and

WHEREAS, The Madera County Transportation Commission has determined that there are no public transportation or specialized transportation services that are identified in the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan which are not being implemented and/or funded; and

WHEREAS, The Madera County Transportation Commission, pursuant to Public Utilities Code, Section 99401.5 has noticed and held a public hearing on April 24, 2024, to receive testimony on unmet public transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, The Madera County Transportation Commission has considered the testimony received at said hearing and through other methods of receiving public feedback pursuant to Public Utilities Code, Section 99238.5.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Madera, there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Chowchilla, and that there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the County of Madera.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Madera County Transportation Commission staff and the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council recommend the following:

1. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the County of Madera.

- Testimony was received regarding the need for more lighting at bus stops and to provide schedules with lighting at the bus stops that show if the bus is running on time, particularly in La Vina. These were found to be unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. The Transit App (by Swiftly) provides the location of the bus in real-time. The schedules are also accessible on the app. The County has plans to install new schedule holders that have a solar light at bus stops throughout the county, including in the community of La Vina. Together with the app and the lighted schedule holders, this unmet transit need will be met.
- 2. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Chowchilla.
- 3. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Madera.
- 4. Maintain existing transit systems in Madera County: 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) while the Senior Bus Program and the Escort Service provide transportation to the Eastern Madera County Communities, Madera Metro and the Madera Dial-A-Ride provide transportation services that cover the entire City of Madera, and the Chowchilla Area Transit Express (CATX) provides transportation services that cover the entire City of Chowchilla as well as Valley State Prison.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that the existing transit system meets a continuing transit need and it is reasonable to continue the funding for the existing transit systems.

The foregoing resolution was adopted this 29th day of May 2024 by the following vote:

Commissioner Ahmed	YES
Commissioner Gallegos	YES
Commissioner Gonzalez	YES
Commissioner Poythress	YES
Commissioner Rodriguez	YES
Commissioner Wamhoff	YES



 Chair, Madera County Transportation Commission



 Executive Director, Madera County Transportation Commission

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
P.O. BOX 942873, MS-32 | SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001
PHONE (916) 654-8811 FAX (916) 654-9366 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



June 27, 2024

Ms. Patricia Taylor
Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, CA 93637

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Thank you for submitting your agency's unmet transit needs documentation for Fiscal Year 2024-25. I have reviewed your documentation, as required under Public Utilities Code Section 99401.6 of the Transportation Development Act, and find the documentation to be complete and in accordance with current statutes.

Please continue to work with Nicholas Isla, telephone number (559) 981-7373, at the local Caltrans District 6 office to help identify solutions in meeting your region's transit needs.

If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to call myself at (279) 789-2075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cayman Morgan'.

CAYMAN MORGAN, Transit Programs Oversight Chief
Office of Transit Planning

c: Nicholas Isla, Associate Transportation Planner, Planning Caltrans District 6, California
Department of Transportation
Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner, Madera County Transportation Commission



**Madera County Transportation Commission
Unmet Transit Needs and Reasonable to Meet Definitions
Policy Board Adopted by Resolution No. 22-01**

The Madera County Transportation Commission adopted the following definitions 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 § 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 an 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) and Plans
 - 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.

DOES LOCAL PUBLIC **TRANSIT** MEET YOUR TRANSPORTATION **NEEDS?**

- Are there places in Madera County you are unable to travel to by bus?
- Is transit service unavailable for you to make important trips, such as traveling to work or doctor's appointments?

TELL US ABOUT YOUR UNMET TRANSIT NEED!

An unmet transit need is an expressed or identified need that is not currently being met through existing public transportation services. It is also a need required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

We want to hear from you!

In coordination with the Madera County Transportation Commission, the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council would like to receive comments regarding unmet transit needs that may exist in the local transit services in Madera County from transit dependent persons, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons of limited means.



Fill out an online survey

If you prefer to submit your comments electronically, fill out the online survey by scanning the QR code or go to:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UTNSurvey_MCTC



Submit a comment form

Fill out a comment form to give details about the transit improvements you are suggesting.

Share your
thoughts in the
way that's
convenient for
you!



¿EL TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO LOCAL SATISFACE SUS NECESIDADES DE TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO?

- ¿Hay lugares en el condado de Madera a los que no se puede viajar en autobús?
- ¿No está el servicio de transporte público disponible para realizar viajes importantes, como ir al trabajo o acudir a citas médicas?

¡CUÉNTENOS SOBRE SU NECESIDAD DE TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO INSATISFECHA!

Una necesidad de transporte público insatisfecha es una necesidad expresada o identificada que actualmente no se satisface a través de los servicios de transporte público existentes. Una necesidad de transporte público insatisfecha también es una necesidad requerida para cumplir con la Ley de Estadounidenses con discapacidades (ADA).

¡Queremos saber de ti!

En coordinación con la Comisión de Transporte del Condado de Madera, el Consejo Asesor de Transporte Público de Servicios Sociales desea recibir comentarios sobre las necesidades de transporte no satisfechas que puedan existir en los servicios de transporte público locales en el Condado de Madera por parte de personas dependientes del transporte público, incluidos los ancianos, las personas con discapacidades y las personas de recursos limitados.



Llene una encuesta en línea

Si prefiere proveer comentarios en línea, llene la encuesta en línea escaneando el código QR o llenando a: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UTNSurvey_MCTC



Llene un formulario

Llene un formulario de comentarios para dar detalles acerca de las mejoras de transporte público que sugiere.

Comparta sus
ideas de la
forma más
conveniente
para usted!



Para más información:



Meeting of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

MEETING LOCATION

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

Or join via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81452772680?pwd=RKAffvc2bdf0la9kbm9ONcLDcl6iZZ.1>

Meeting ID: 814 5277 2680

Passcode: 456602

Call in: +1 408 638 0968

DATE

February 4, 2025

TIME

12:00 PM

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Frank Simonis, Chair	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
Nancy Ramirez	Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Monty Cox	Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Bertha Vega, Vice Chair	Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Vincent Parker	Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Mattie Mendez	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Franklina Bogan	Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Lynda Schafhauser	Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Cynthia Ortegon	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND ADA

MCTC has adopted a Reasonable Accommodations Policy that provides a procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation to participate in this meeting (see <https://www.maderactc.org/administration/page/reasonable-accommodations-policy>). If you need assistance in order to attend the meeting, or if you require auxiliary aids or services, e.g., listening devices or signing services to make a presentation, MCTC is happy to assist you. Please contact MCTC offices at (559) 675-0721 so such aids or services can be arranged. Requests may also be made by email to sandy@maderactc.org, or mailed to 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA 93637. Accommodations should be requested as early as possible as additional time may be required in order to provide the requested accommodation; 72 hours in advance is suggested.

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](#) 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 on the agenda.

INTERPRETING SERVICES

Interpreting services are not provided at MCTC's public meetings 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 estos servicios por favor contacte a Evelyn Espinosa at (559) 675-0721 x 5 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 SSTAC 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

If you are participating remotely and wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item during the meeting, please use the “Raise Hand” feature in Zoom and you will be called on by the chair during the meeting. You can also submit your comments via email to publiccomment@maderactc.org. Comments will be shared with the SSTAC 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.

Regarding any disruption that prevents the SSTAC from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public, then (1) if public access can be restored quickly, the meeting will resume in five (5) minutes to allow the re-connection of all members of the SSTAC, staff, and members of the public; or (2) if service cannot be restored quickly, the meeting shall stop, no further action shall be taken on the remaining agenda items, and notice of the continued meeting will be provided.

Agenda

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action
1.	Roll Call		
2.	Public Comment This time is made available for comments from the public on matters within the Council's jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes. Attention is called to the fact that the Council is prohibited by law from taking any substantive action on matters discussed that are not on the agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Council does not respond to the public comment at this time. It is requested that no comments be made during this period on items that are on today's agenda. Members of the public may comment on any item that is on today's agenda when the item is called and should notify the Chair of their desire to address the Council when that agenda item is called.		
3.	Approve Minutes of November 5, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting	Yes	Action
4.	Local Transit Agency Updates • City of Madera – Madera Metro • City of Chowchilla – CATX • County of Madera - MCC	No	Information
5.	Unmet Transit Needs FY 2025 - 2026 • Madera County "Unmet Transit Need" and "Reasonable to Meet" Definitions	Yes	Information
6.	Announcements		
7.	Adjourn		



ITEM 3

SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

DATE

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council was held Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and was called to order by Chair Frank Simonis, at 12:06 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Simonis, Chair, Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability – appeared via Zoom
Bertha Vega, Vice Chair, Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Lynda Schafhauser, Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Monty Cox, Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Nancy Ramirez, Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Cynthia Ortegon, Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
Franklina Bogan, Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Mattie Mendez, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors* - appeared via Zoom

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vincent Parker, Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors

MCTC STAFF PRESENT:

Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner
Evelyn Espinosa, Senior Regional Planner
Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner
Troy McNeil, Deputy Director/Fiscal Supervisor

VISITORS PRESENT:

Deborah Martinez, Director of Social Services for Madera County, Public Guardian
Xochitl Villasenor, City of Madera, Transit Program Manager
Marcela Zuniga, City of Madera, City Grants Administrator
Liliana Zapien, County of Madera, Transit Administrative Analyst

*appeared after roll call

1. Roll Call

At 12:06 pm, Chair Frank Simonis called the meeting to order and instructed that the roll call for attendance be taken. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

Deborah Martinez, Director of Social Services and Public Guardian, commented that they are in the process of completing a Madera County Local Aging and Disability Action Plan. Four hundred and seven surveys were collected, including information about how constituents feel about transportation that is provided in Madera County. She wanted to make the group aware because the results of the survey may coincide with the unmet transit needs process. Many respondents of the survey indicated that they did not have walkable options to access public transit. The final report will be completed in March 2025. Deborah will make the survey available to MCTC before the final report is completed.

Approve Minutes - Approve Minutes of the August 6, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

Frank Simonis moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting.

Seconded by Lynda Schafhauser

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Frank Simonis, Nancy Ramirez, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Mattie Mendez, Bertha Vega, Cynthia Ortegon, Franklina Bogan

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Presentation – Madera County Microtransit Study

SSTAC Member and Madera County Transit Manager, Monty Cox, presented the results of the Madera County Microtransit Study. He presented information on the background of microtransit, existing transit services in the area, recommended microtransit service options, possible funding sources for the services, and next steps. A question-and-answer discussion followed. Comments were made about the flexibility of the vans that would be used for the service, the needs of the communities of La Vina and Fairmead, security for older adults and people with disabilities, and other ways to reserve microtransit service without the app. Existing transit service will not be reduced. Microtransit service would be provided in addition to existing service.

4. Results of the Unmet Transit Needs Process for FY 2024-2025

Natalia Austin, MCTC Senior Regional Planner, gave an update on the results of the unmet transit needs process for FY 2024-2025. On May 29, 2024, the MCTC Policy Board

adopted Resolution Number 24-05, approving the unmet transit need finding for FY 2024-2025:

“The Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the County of Madera.

- 1. Testimony was received regarding the need for more lighting at bus stops and to provide schedules with lighting at the bus stops that show if the bus is running on time, particularly in La Vina. These were found to be unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. The Transit App (by Swiftly) provides the location of the bus in real-time. The schedules are also accessible on the app. The County has plans to install new schedule holders that have a solar light at bus stops throughout the county, including in the community of La Vina. Together with the app and the lighted schedule holders, this unmet transit need will be met.*
- 2. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Chowchilla.*
- 3. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Madera.”*

Natalia Austin reminded the Council that the latest unmet transit needs finding and assessment for Madera County, can be found on the website here: [Unmet Transit Needs Final Analysis and Recommendations Report for FY 2024-2025](#). The required unmet transit needs documentation for FY 2024-2025 has been submitted to the California Department of Transportation and has been approved. The unmet transit needs process for FY 2025-2026 will begin in February 2025.

5. Announcements

Evelyn Espinosa, MCTC Senior Regional Planner, provided a link to the 2026 Sustainable Communities Strategy Survey and asked the Council to share it.

Survey link: [MCTC 2026 Sustainable Communities Strategy Survey](#)

Natalia Austin, MCTC Senior Regional Planner, introduced the newest member of the Council, Nancy Ramirez, from the Department of Social Services for Madera County. She is representing a local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Frank Simonis at 1:22 PM.



STAFF REPORT
Social Services Transportation Advisory
Council Meeting
February 4, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 5

PREPARED BY: Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Several workshops and a public hearing are scheduled during the next few months to receive comments regarding unmet transit needs in Madera County for FY 2025-2026.

Enclosure: Yes

Action: For information and discussion

SUMMARY:

MCTC is the administrator of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for Madera County and is responsible for performing the annual “unmet transit needs” process. The purpose of this process is to ensure that all “unmet transit needs” that are “reasonable to meet” are met before any TDA funds are expended for non-transit uses, such as street and roads.

The TDA also requires that MCTC establish a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). The Public Utilities Code (PUC) defines the required membership of the SSTAC. The SSTAC solicits public input regarding transit service needs for transit-dependent and transportation-disadvantaged persons, including older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income. Annually, the SSTAC makes a recommendation to the MCTC Policy Board that:

- There are no unmet transit needs, or
- There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet, or
- There are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

There are several opportunities for Madera County residents to give their input on transit service needs. As required by law, a public hearing will be held at the regular MCTC Policy Board meeting on April 23, 2025. In addition, in-person and virtual workshops will be held in various locations throughout the county for residents to learn about the unmet transit needs process and provide comments. Interpreting services will be available at all workshops and the public hearing. However, it is easy to participate in the unmet transit needs process all year long in many convenient ways. Options include submitting a comment by phone, mail, email, or by filling out an online survey. Also, the unmet transit needs webpage on the MCTC

website makes information regarding the unmet transit needs process, submitting a comment, or looking at past years' unmet transit needs reports readily accessible.

MCTC Unmet Transit Needs webpage: [Click here](#)

Unmet Transit Needs Bilingual Survey link: [Click here](#)

Unmet Transit Needs English and Spanish Comment Form: [Click here](#)

When	Where	In-Person	Virtual
Spanish Language Workshop Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00 PM	Casas De La Vina 23784 Avenue 9 Madera, CA 93637	Yes	No
Workshop Wednesday, March 12 at 6:00 PM	Madera Ranchos Library 37398 Berkshire Drive Madera, CA 93636	Yes	No
Workshop Thursday, March 13 at 5:00 PM	Oakhurst Library 49044 Civic Circle Drive Oakhurst, CA 93644	Yes	No
Workshop Tuesday, March 18 at 6:00 PM	Fairmead Elementary School 19421 Avenue 22 ¾ Chowchilla, CA 93610	Yes	No
Workshop - Zoom Webinar Thursday, March 20 at 6:00 PM	Webinar ID: 882 7273 5705 Passcode: 554773 Click here to join!	No	Yes
Public Hearing Wednesday, April 23 at 3:00 PM	MCTC Policy Board Meeting 2001 Howard Road, Ste. 201 Madera, CA 93637 See MCTC website for Zoom information	Yes	Yes

For details regarding last year's unmet transit needs finding and an assessment of the size and location of groups likely to be transit-dependent in Madera County, please see the [Unmet Transit Needs Final Analysis and Recommendations Report for FY 2024-2025](#).

In addition to participating in the unmet transit needs process, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on the 2026 Sustainable Communities Strategy at the in-person workshops. Find out more on MCTC's website here:

<https://www.maderactc.org/transportation/page/2026-madera-county-regional-transportation-plan-and-sustainable-communities>

For more information, please contact Natalia Austin at naustin@maderactc.org or 559-675-0721 ext. 6.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2024-25 Overall Work Program and Budget.



Madera County Transportation Commission
Unmet Transit Needs and Reasonable to Meet Definitions
Policy Board Adopted by Resolution No. 22-01

The Madera County Transportation Commission adopted the following definitions 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 § 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 an 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) and Plans
 - 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.