



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of February 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 6-C

PREPARED BY: Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) Meetings Update

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

SSTAC Meeting – August 6, 2024

Eight out of ten SSTAC members were present, with one appearing via Zoom for just cause under AB 2449.

Eric Ramirez and Rey Leon from the Latino Equity Advocacy & Policy (LEAP) Institute presented on Green Raiteros, an electric vehicle ride-sharing service. Currently, LEAP provides approximately 500 rides per month, with 80% serving healthcare appointments, 10% for social services, and 10% for transportation to educational facilities. Green Raiteros offers subsidized rides through partnerships with employment training centers, government agencies, and tribal organizations. The LEAP Institute is applying for a grant to expand service to 15 additional locations and is seeking letters of support from agencies in Madera County. They are also looking to establish connections with the Veterans Affairs office and Eastern Madera County. Following the presentation, a Q&A session was held, and the presenters shared their contact information.

SSTAC Meeting – November 5, 2024

Eight out of ten SSTAC members were present, with two appearing via Zoom for just cause under AB 2449.

SSTAC Member and Madera County Transit Manager, Monty Cox, presented the findings of the Madera County Microtransit Study. The presentation covered the fundamentals of microtransit, an overview of existing transit services in the region, recommended service options, potential funding sources, and the next steps for implementation. A question-and-answer discussion followed, addressing topics such as the flexibility of the vans proposed for the service, the specific needs of communities like La Vina and Fairmead, security

considerations for older adults and individuals with disabilities, and alternative ways to reserve microtransit rides without using the app. It was emphasized that existing transit services will not be reduced—microtransit will be introduced as an additional service to enhance mobility options.

MCTC staff gave an update on the results of the unmet transit needs process for FY 2024-2025. The Council was reminded 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.

SSTAC Meeting – February 4, 2025

Seven out of ten SSTAC members were present, with one appearing via Zoom for just cause under AB 2449.

The City of Madera recently provided an update on the Madera Metro transit service. Following the streamlining of all routes, new signage has been installed at every stop, now featuring stop identification numbers and solar-powered lights on poles. Efforts to update bus shelters are ongoing, with shelters being relocated from deactivated stops to active ones. Additionally, the City has issued an RFP for a microtransit feasibility study, due at the end of February. With the MV Transit contract set to expire on June 30, 2025, an RFP has also been released for a new transit operator. The FTA Triennial Review has been completed, and the City continues to enhance its social media presence to inform the public about schedule changes.

For FY 2024-25, the Unmet Transit Needs finding for Madera County identified the need for additional lighting and schedule information at bus stops. In response, Madera County Connection has been installing new shelters with lighting across the county, including in Oakhurst and along Avenue 12. Poles with schedules and solar lights have also been placed in areas such as Eastin Arcola, Casa De La Viña, and the La Viña Market. The County is expanding its fleet, with three new gas-powered buses arriving in March and three electric buses scheduled for July, along with a new ten-passenger van in March. A construction project at the Almond Yard is also going out to bid, aiming to install 16 electric charging stations, a solar canopy, and a bus wash. Since launching its new operations contract with MV Transit in July 2024, the County has been handling bus maintenance in-house.

The City of Chowchilla (Chowchilla Area Transit Express) is working to meet the growing demand for student ridership on its transit system and is seeking a part-time driver.

MCTC staff announced the initiation of the Unmet Transit Needs process for FY 2025-26 and provided information about the upcoming workshops and the public hearing on April 23, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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