STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of February 21, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 4-D

PREPARED BY: Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Initiate FY 2024-25 Unmet Transit Needs Process

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

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 streets 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 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.

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 public transit service needs within Madera County. The request for comments letter, included in the agenda package, will be mailed later this month.

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. A public notice will be printed in the local newspaper and flyers will be distributed throughout the community publicizing the hearing. A Spanish language

interpreter will be available at the hearing for those who wish to provide public comments in Spanish.

MCTC's Unmet Transit Needs public hearing is scheduled as follows:
PUBLIC HEARING – Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

This public hearing will be in person and via Zoom using the April MCTC Board Meeting link.

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 the workshops. However, it is easy to participate in the Unmet Transit Needs process throughout the year in many convenient ways. Options include submitting a comment by phone, mail, email, or by filling out an online survey.

The Unmet Transit Needs webpage on MCTC's website is a good resource for interested residents seeking information regarding the Unmet Transit Needs process, to submit a comment, or view past years' Unmet Transit Needs reports.

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 Friday, March 1 at 6:00 PM	Casas De La Vina 23784 Avenue 9 Madera, CA 93637	Yes	No
Workshop Wednesday, March 6 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM	Chowchilla Library 300 Kings Avenue Chowchilla, CA 93610	Yes	No
Workshop Thursday, March 7 at 10:00 AM	Frank Bergon Senior Center 238 South D Street Madera, CA 93638	Yes	No
Workshop Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 PM	Webinar ID: 831 9180 8232 Passcode: 921346 Click here to join!	No	Yes
Workshop Saturday, March 16 at 1:00 PM	North Fork Library 32908 Road 222 North Fork, CA 93643	Yes	No
Workshop Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 PM	Madera Main Library 121 North G Street Madera, CA 93637	Yes	No
Public Hearing Wednesday, April 17 at 3:00 PM	MCTC Policy Board Meeting 2001 Howard Road, Suite. 201 Madera, CA 93637 See MCTC website for Zoom information	Yes	Yes

For more information, please contact Natalia Austin at: naustin@maderactc.org, 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA 93637, or call (559) 675 0721 ext. 6

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2023-24 Overall Work Program and Budget.