

February 12, 2024

TO: Interested Individuals and Organizations

FROM: Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner on behalf of the
Social Service Transportation Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Unmet Transit Needs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), as a federally designated regional transportation planning agency (RTPA), is responsible for annually assuring that public transportation needs are being “reasonably met.”

The MCTC’s Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) was established, consistent with State Law (SB 498, 1987), to address transit issues within Madera County. It comprises a broad representation of social service agencies, transit operators and users, and is responsible for making recommendations to the MCTC Policy Board regarding transit service needs and issues.

Each year, MCTC conducts a thorough evaluation of existing and potential public and social service transit services in Madera County. The resulting recommendations align with the Regional Transportation Plan and its supporting implementation, technical, and budgeting documents.

Feedback is valued from a wide range of sources, including elected officials, administrative and technical staff, private and public sector representatives, union representatives, social service agency staff and clients, and members of the general public. Comments from any organization or individual who wishes to contribute are welcomed.

If you are aware of a specific transit need that is not currently being met by one of the existing general public, social service, or private sector operators, we request that you submit appropriately detailed documentation to assist the SSTAC in evaluating the potential for new or expanded transit service. Please include the following details in your request:

- general area where the new service will be provided.
- specific origin and destination information.
- trip times and frequency.
- estimate of potential riders who intend to use the service.

- benefit to seniors, persons with disabilities, transit-dependent, or general population.
- estimate of the potential cost of the new or expanded service.

If the proposed new or expanded service is recommended by the SSTAC to be determined an unmet transit need, then an in-depth service proposal may be developed by appropriate transit agency staff to determine if it is reasonable to meet based on the MCTC Policy Board adopted definitions of “Unmet Transit Needs” and “Reasonable to Meet”.

Following the April 17, 2024, legally noticed public hearing, the SSTAC will consider all information collected during the unmet transit needs process and make a formal recommendation regarding unmet transit needs to the MCTC Policy Board at its next scheduled meeting on May 22, 2024. The MCTC Policy Board makes the final determination and adopts a “finding of fact” for Madera County by resolution. The finding is necessary prior to the approval and allocation of State Transportation Development Act funds for transit and/or street and roads projects to transit operators and MCTC member agencies.

Please send all written comments to the address listed below:

Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner
Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

You may also submit comments via email, phone call, by mail, or in person. If you have any questions about the Unmet Transit Needs process, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 559-675-0721 ext. 6 or naustin@maderactc.org.

Thank you for your assistance and I look forward to hearing from you.