



AGENDA ITEM: 4-C

PREPARED BY: Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Appointments

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Approve the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council applications for appointment:

- a. Sabrina Garibay to represent a Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
- b. Mattie Mendez to represent a Local Social Service Provider for Older Adults
- c. Cynthia Ortegon to represent a Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
- d. Frank Simonis to represent a Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability

SUMMARY:

MCTC Staff is requesting the Policy Board's consideration and action on four applications to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). One applicant, Frank Simonis, is seeking reappointment. Three applicants are seeking to be appointed for their first term: Sabrina Garibay, Mattie Mendez, and Cynthia Ortegon. The primary purpose of the SSTAC is to oversee the Unmet Transit Needs process. Appointments to the SSTAC require action by the Policy Board.

California's Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) to establish a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) to advise MCTC on any major transit issues in the Madera County region. This includes participating in the identification of transit needs in the jurisdiction, including unmet transit needs that may exist.

The SSTAC shall consist of the following members:

1. **One** representative of a potential transit user who is 60 years of age or older.
2. **One** representative of a potential transit user who is a person with a disability.
3. **Two** representatives of the local social service providers for older adults, including one representative of a social service transportation provider, if one exists.

4. **Two** representatives of local social service providers for persons with a disability, including one representative of a social service transportation provider, if one exists.

5. **One** representative of a local social service provider for persons of limited means.

6. **Two** representatives from the local transportation service agency, including one representative from an operator, if one exists.

7. **Any additional members** appointed from a broad representation of social service and transit providers representing older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons of limited means in accordance with PUC Section 99238, subdivision B.

The term of appointment is for three years, which may be renewed for additional three-year terms.

Sabrina Garibay is an Employment and Training Worker at the Madera County Department of Social Services and functions as a liaison for the agency for various district programs working with members of the community who have disabilities. She is familiar with the challenges of vulnerable populations and regularly advocates for the accessibility of reliable public transportation in Madera County, especially for persons with disabilities. Sabrina has resided in Madera County for years and has compassion for the community. Sabrina is applying to serve one three-year term on the SSTAC representing a Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities.

Mattie Mendez is the Executive Director for the Community Action Partnership of Madera County, Inc. (CAPMC). CAPMC is a public non-profit organization committed to improving the social well-being and economic capacity of low-income residents of Madera County by providing a broad spectrum of programs and resources. Mattie has worked in Madera County for over 30 years and recognizes the transportation needs of the economically disadvantaged. She is applying to serve one three-year term on the SSTAC representing a Local Social Service Provider for Older Adults.

Cynthia Ortegon resides in the City of Madera and has a disability that requires her to utilize a mobility scooter. Despite these personal challenges, Cynthia is an advocate for persons with disabilities, having served on the Madera Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Council since 2006, and as the Chair of the Madera Transit Advisory Board for the past five years. Since she regularly uses the Madera Metro transit system, she has firsthand knowledge of the challenges that persons with disabilities face when using public transit. Cynthia is applying to serve one three-year term on the SSTAC representing a Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability.

Frank Simonis has been the SSTAC Chair for the past 3 years. He would like to apply to serve for another three-year term. As a resident of Oakhurst, Frank has been instrumental in helping the SSTAC understand the unique transportation challenges of residents who live in Eastern Madera County. Frank is also visually impaired. From his personal and professional experiences as a former firefighter, paramedic, and Search and Rescue Officer for the Madera

County Sheriff's Office, he is acutely aware of the challenges that persons with disabilities face. Frank is applying to represent a Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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