

February 18, 2021

**TO:** Interested Individuals and Organizations

**FROM:** Evelyn Espinosa, Associate Regional Planner  
Social Service Transportation Advisory Council

**SUBJECT:** Unmet Public Transportation Needs

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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 forwarding recommendations to the MCTC Policy Board regarding transit service deficiencies and issues.

Each year the MCTC conducts an extensive process to plan, program, analyze, and evaluate existing and potential general public and social service transit services within Madera County. The results are to be consistent with the adopted Regional Transportation Plan and its supporting implementation, technical, and budgeting documents.

Despite thorough involvement from elected officials, administrative staff, technical staff, private and public sector representatives, union representatives, social service agency staff and clients, and general public representatives, we encourage organizations and individuals such as you to contribute comments.

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 staff in evaluating the potential for additional transit service. Our initial evaluation criteria include:

- service area boundary;
- specific origin and destination information;
- trip times and frequency;
- estimate of potential patrons or clients who intend to utilize the service on an infrequent, regular, and/or consistent basis;
- special needs of ambulatory and/or disabled passengers;
- ability, source of funding, and potential constraints in paying required share of transit expenditures and/or subsidized fares.

If adherence to minimum urban/rural performance standards (passenger per hour, passengers per mile, cost per passenger, cost per hour, cost per mile and farebox recovery) is possible, then an in-depth service proposal may be developed by staff for further consideration.

Following the April 21, 2021 legally noticed Public Hearing, the SSTAC will consider all information collected during the process and make a determination and recommendation regarding “unmet transit needs” to the MCTC Policy Board at its next scheduled meeting on May 19, 2021. An assurance, or 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.

If you have any specific written comments, please forward them to me, with the aforementioned supporting information.

Evelyn Espinosa, Associate Regional Planner  
Madera County Transportation Commission  
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201  
Madera, California 93637

You may also submit comments via email, phone call, or by mail. MCTC offices are closed in response to COVID-19 and we will not receive in person comments. If you have any questions about the Unmet Transit Needs process, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 559-675-0721 ext. 15 or [evelyn@maderactc.org](mailto:evelyn@maderactc.org)

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