



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of March 17, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 4-C

PREPARED BY: Evelyn Espinosa, Associate Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Unmet Transit Needs Update

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The State Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires that the MCTC Policy Board determine that public transportation needs within Madera County will be reasonably met in FY 2021-22, prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for streets and roads. The MCTC's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs. 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 their public transportation needs within Madera County. The request for comments letter was mailed February 2021.

The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) normally meets prior to the Unmet Transit Needs hearing held annually by the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC). This year the Unmet Transit Needs hearing will be held on **April 21, 2021 at 3:00 pm** via GoToWebinar during MCTC's Board Meeting.

The following are important meeting dates for SSTAC:

- **SSTAC MEETING** - Wednesday, April 1, 2021, 1:30 p.m. via GoToWebinar

This meeting will: Define the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Council, discuss transit agency updates, potential transit needs, quarterly meetings for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, SSTAC member vacancies, and the SSTAC will review the current definition for "unmet transit needs" to accept or amend it.

- **PUBLIC HEARING** – Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 3:00 p.m. via GoToWebinar

Receive comments for the Unmet Transit Needs process.

- **SSTAC MEETING:** Wednesday, April 26, 2021 at 1:30 pm via GoToWebinar

This meeting will: Review and evaluate comments received by the MCTC during the annual “Unmet Needs Public Hearing”; appoint representatives to the May 19, 2021 MCTC board meeting; recommend action by the MCTC Policy Board for Madera County which finds by resolution, that (A) there are no unmet transit needs, (B) there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet, or (C) there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet; advise the MCTC on any other major transit issues; appoint new members to the SSTAC committee, if applications are received; and make a recommendation about the definition of a unmet transit needs if needed.

The SSTAC will make their recommendations to the MCTC Policy Board at its May 19, 2021 policy board meeting. The MCTC Policy Board will adopt by resolution a finding for Madera County.

MCTC staff strongly encourages the public to submit their unmet transit needs comments via unmet transit needs survey, email, mail, or by phone. MCTC staff will present each comment to the Board of Commissioners during the April public hearing so that all comments are heard during this process. The link to the unmet transit needs survey can be found on our website, social media pages, the public hearing notice, and fliers.

A Spanish language interpreter will also be available for those who wish to testify in Spanish. A public notice will be printed in the local newspapers, and fliers will be distributed via social media, buses, and throughout the community publicizing the hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2020-21 Overall Work Program and Budget.