



Meeting of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

MEETING LOCATION

Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

Or join via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81452772680?pwd=RKAffvc2bdf0Ia9kbm9ONcLDcl6iZZ.1>

Meeting ID: 814 5277 2680

Passcode: 456602

Call in: +1 408 638 0968

DATE

February 4, 2025

TIME

12:00 PM

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Frank Simonis, Chair	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
Nancy Ramirez	Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Monty Cox	Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Bertha Vega, Vice Chair	Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Vincent Parker	Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Mattie Mendez	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Franklina Bogan	Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Lynda Schafhauser	Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Cynthia Ortegon	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND ADA

MCTC has adopted a Reasonable Accommodations Policy that provides a procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation to participate in this meeting (see <https://www.maderactc.org/administration/page/reasonable-accommodations-policy>). If you need assistance in order to attend the meeting, or if you require auxiliary aids or services, e.g., listening devices or signing services to make a presentation, MCTC is happy to assist you. Please contact MCTC offices at (559) 675-0721 so such aids or services can be arranged. Requests may also be made by email to sandy@maderactc.org, or mailed to 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA 93637. Accommodations should be requested as early as possible as additional time may be required in order to provide the requested accommodation; 72 hours in advance is suggested.

AGENDA

At least 72 hours prior to each regular MCTC Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the [MCTC website](#) or at the MCTC office, 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, California 93637. All public records relating to an open session item and copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to items of business referred to on the agenda are on file at MCTC. Persons with questions concerning agenda items may call MCTC at (559) 675-0721 to make an inquiry regarding the nature of items described on the agenda.

INTERPRETING SERVICES

Interpreting services are not provided at MCTC's public meetings unless requested at least three (3) business days in advance. Please contact MCTC at (559) 675-0721 during regular business hours to request interpreting services.

Servicios de interprete no son ofrecidos en las juntas públicas de MCTC al menos de que se soliciten con tres (3) días de anticipación. Para solicitar estos servicios por favor contacte a Evelyn Espinosa at (559) 675-0721 x 5 durante horas de oficina.

MEETING CONDUCT

If this meeting is willfully interrupted or disrupted by one or more persons rendering orderly conduct of the meeting unfeasible, the Chair may order the removal of individuals who are willfully disrupting the meeting. Such individuals may be arrested. If order cannot be restored by such removal, the members of the SSTAC may direct that the meeting room be cleared (except for representatives of the press or other news media not participating in the disturbance), and the session may continue.

RECORD OF THE MEETING

SSTAC meetings are recorded. Copies of recordings are available upon request, or recordings may be listened to at the MCTC offices by appointment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

If you are participating remotely and wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item during the meeting, please use the “Raise Hand” feature in Zoom and you will be called on by the chair during the meeting. You can also submit your comments via email to publiccomment@maderactc.org. Comments will be shared with the SSTAC and placed into the record at the meeting. Every effort will be made to read comments received during the meeting into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

Regarding any disruption that prevents the SSTAC from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public, then (1) if public access can be restored quickly, the meeting will resume in five (5) minutes to allow the re-connection of all members of the SSTAC, staff, and members of the public; or (2) if service cannot be restored quickly, the meeting shall stop, no further action shall be taken on the remaining agenda items, and notice of the continued meeting will be provided.

Agenda

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action
1.	Roll Call		
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <p>This time is made available for comments from the public on matters within the Council’s jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes. Attention is called to the fact that the Council is prohibited by law from taking any substantive action on matters discussed that are not on the agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Council does not respond to the public comment at this time. It is requested that no comments be made during this period on items that are on today’s agenda. Members of the public may comment on any item that is on today’s agenda when the item is called and should notify the Chair of their desire to address the Council when that agenda item is called.</p>		
3.	Approve Minutes of November 5, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting	Yes	Action
4.	<p>Local Transit Agency Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Madera – Madera Metro • City of Chowchilla – CATX • County of Madera - MCC 	No	Information
5.	<p>Unmet Transit Needs FY 2025 - 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madera County “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet” Definitions 	Yes	Information
6.	Announcements		
7.	Adjourn		



ITEM 3

SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

DATE

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council was held Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and was called to order by Chair Frank Simonis, at 12:06 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Simonis, Chair, Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability – appeared via Zoom
Bertha Vega, Vice Chair, Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Lynda Schafhauser, Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Monty Cox, Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Nancy Ramirez, Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Cynthia Ortegon, Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
Franklina Bogan, Potential Transit User Who is 60 Years of Age or Older
Mattie Mendez, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors* - appeared via Zoom

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vincent Parker, Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors

MCTC STAFF PRESENT:

Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner
Evelyn Espinosa, Senior Regional Planner
Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner
Troy McNeil, Deputy Director/Fiscal Supervisor

VISITORS PRESENT:

Deborah Martinez, Director of Social Services for Madera County, Public Guardian
Xochitl Villasenor, City of Madera, Transit Program Manager
Marcela Zuniga, City of Madera, City Grants Administrator
Liliana Zapien, County of Madera, Transit Administrative Analyst

*appeared after roll call

1. Roll Call

At 12:06 pm, Chair Frank Simonis called the meeting to order and instructed that the roll call for attendance be taken. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

Deborah Martinez, Director of Social Services and Public Guardian, commented that they are in the process of completing a Madera County Local Aging and Disability Action Plan. Four hundred and seven surveys were collected, including information about how constituents feel about transportation that is provided in Madera County. She wanted to make the group aware because the results of the survey may coincide with the unmet transit needs process. Many respondents of the survey indicated that they did not have walkable options to access public transit. The final report will be completed in March 2025. Deborah will make the survey available to MCTC before the final report is completed.

Approve Minutes - Approve Minutes of the August 6, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

Frank Simonis moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2024, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting.

Seconded by Lynda Schafhauser

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Frank Simonis, Nancy Ramirez, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Mattie Mendez, Bertha Vega, Cynthia Ortegón, Franklina Bogan

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Presentation – Madera County Microtransit Study

SSTAC Member and Madera County Transit Manager, Monty Cox, presented the results of the Madera County Microtransit Study. He presented information on the background of microtransit, existing transit services in the area, recommended microtransit service options, possible funding sources for the services, and next steps. A question-and-answer discussion followed. Comments were made about the flexibility of the vans that would be used for the service, the needs of the communities of La Vina and Fairmead, security for older adults and people with disabilities, and other ways to reserve microtransit service without the app. Existing transit service will not be reduced. Microtransit service would be provided in addition to existing service.

4. Results of the Unmet Transit Needs Process for FY 2024-2025

Natalia Austin, MCTC Senior Regional Planner, gave an update on the results of the unmet transit needs process for FY 2024-2025. On May 29, 2024, the MCTC Policy Board

adopted Resolution Number 24-05, approving the unmet transit need finding for FY 2024-2025:

“The Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the County of Madera.

- 1. Testimony was received regarding the need for more lighting at bus stops and to provide schedules with lighting at the bus stops that show if the bus is running on time, particularly in La Vina. These were found to be unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. The Transit App (by Swiftly) provides the location of the bus in real-time. The schedules are also accessible on the app. The County has plans to install new schedule holders that have a solar light at bus stops throughout the county, including in the community of La Vina. Together with the app and the lighted schedule holders, this unmet transit need will be met.*
- 2. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Chowchilla.*
- 3. That the Madera County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in FY 2024/25 within the jurisdiction of the City of Madera.”*

Natalia Austin reminded the Council that the latest unmet transit needs finding and assessment for Madera County, can be found on the website here: [Unmet Transit Needs Final Analysis and Recommendations Report for FY 2024-2025](#). The required unmet transit needs documentation for FY 2024-2025 has been submitted to the California Department of Transportation and has been approved. The unmet transit needs process for FY 2025-2026 will begin in February 2025.

5. Announcements

Evelyn Espinosa, MCTC Senior Regional Planner, provided a link to the 2026 Sustainable Communities Strategy Survey and asked the Council to share it.

Survey link: [MCTC 2026 Sustainable Communities Strategy Survey](#)

Natalia Austin, MCTC Senior Regional Planner, introduced the newest member of the Council, Nancy Ramirez, from the Department of Social Services for Madera County. She is representing a local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Frank Simonis at 1:22 PM.



AGENDA ITEM: 5

PREPARED BY: Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Several workshops and a public hearing are scheduled during the next few months to receive comments regarding unmet transit needs in Madera County for FY 2025-2026.

Enclosure: Yes

Action: For information and discussion

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 street 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 older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income. 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.

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 on April 23, 2025. 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 workshops and the public hearing. However, it is easy to participate in the unmet transit needs process all year long in many convenient ways. Options include submitting a comment by phone, mail, email, or by filling out an online survey. Also, the unmet transit needs webpage on the MCTC

website makes information regarding the unmet transit needs process, submitting a comment, or looking at past years' unmet transit needs reports readily accessible.

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 Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00 PM	Casas De La Vina 23784 Avenue 9 Madera, CA 93637	Yes	No
Workshop Wednesday, March 12 at 6:00 PM	Madera Ranchos Library 37398 Berkshire Drive Madera, CA 93636	Yes	No
Workshop Thursday, March 13 at 5:00 PM	Oakhurst Library 49044 Civic Circle Drive Oakhurst, CA 93644	Yes	No
Workshop Tuesday, March 18 at 6:00 PM	Fairmead Elementary School 19421 Avenue 22 ¾ Chowchilla, CA 93610	Yes	No
Workshop - Zoom Webinar Thursday, March 20 at 6:00 PM	Webinar ID: 882 7273 5705 Passcode: 554773 Click here to join!	No	Yes
Public Hearing Wednesday, April 23 at 3:00 PM	MCTC Policy Board Meeting 2001 Howard Road, Ste. 201 Madera, CA 93637 See MCTC website for Zoom information	Yes	Yes

For details regarding last year's unmet transit needs finding and an assessment of the size and location of groups likely to be transit-dependent in Madera County, please see the [Unmet Transit Needs Final Analysis and Recommendations Report for FY 2024-2025](#).

In addition to participating in the unmet transit needs process, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on the 2026 Sustainable Communities Strategy at the in-person workshops. Find out more on MCTC's website here:

<https://www.maderactc.org/transportation/page/2026-madera-county-regional-transportation-plan-and-sustainable-communities>

For more information, please contact Natalia Austin at naustin@maderactc.org or 559-675-0721 ext. 6.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2024-25 Overall Work Program and Budget.



**Madera County Transportation Commission
Unmet Transit Needs and Reasonable to Meet Definitions
Policy Board Adopted by Resolution No. 22-01**

The Madera County Transportation Commission adopted the following definitions for its Unmet Transit Needs process:

- A. **UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS**: An unmet transit need is an expressed or identified need that is not currently being met through existing public transportation services. An unmet transit need also is a need required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- B. **REASONABLE TO MEET**: The term “reasonable to meet” shall apply to public or specialized transportation services that meet the following minimum criteria:
1. **Feasibility**
 - The proposed service can be provided with available Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding and/or other funding sources (per State law, the lack of available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet per PUC § 99401.5 (c)).
 - Sufficient ridership potential exists for new, expanded, or revised transit services.
 - The proposed transit service will be safe and comply with local, State and federal law.
 2. **Community Acceptance**
 - The proposed transit service has community support from the general public, community groups, and/or community leaders.
 3. **Benefit to Population**
 - The proposed transit service serves a significant number of residents where it is needed and would benefit the general public and/or senior and disabled persons as a whole.
 4. **Cost-Effective**
 - The proposed transit service will not affect the ability of the overall system of the implementing agency or agencies to meet applicable transit system performance objectives or the State TDA farebox ratio requirement after any exemption(s) period(s) if the service is eligible for an exemption(s) per CCR 6633.2.
 - The proposed transit service, if implemented or funded, would not cause the responsible operator to incur expenditures in excess of the maximum amount of LTF, STA, FTA funds, and fare revenues and local support.
 5. **Consistent with Intent of Existing Transit Service(s) and Plans**
 - Once established, the proposed transit service will not abuse or obscure the intent of existing transit service(s).



- The proposed transit need should be in conformance with the goals included in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and consistent with the intent of the goals of the adopted Short Range Transit Plan.