

**Regular Meeting of the  
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council**

**LOCATION**

MCAG Conference Room  
369 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
(209) 723-3153

**DATE**

Thursday, January 17, 2019

**TIME**

12:00 P.M.

**SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Artis Smith, Chair	Local Representative of a Transit Service Agency
Lynn Downum-Hanzal, Vice Chair	Social Service Provider for the Disabled
Gayle Miller	Senior Transit Rider
Allen Norris	Disabled Transit Rider
Katherine Molthen	Local Representative of a Transit Service Operator
Christine Bobbitt	Social Service Provider for Seniors
Norma Cordona	Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Linda Dash	Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Diane Mejia	Person of Limited Means
Carrie Pitcock-Quirarte	Social Service Transportation Provider for the Disabled
Vacant	Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors

# Welcome to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting!

## AGENDA

At least 72 hours prior to each regular MCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the MCAG website at [www.mcagov.org](http://www.mcagov.org) or at the MCAG office, 369 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA 95340. 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 MCAG. Persons with questions concerning agenda items may call MCAG to make an inquiry regarding the nature of items described on the agenda.

## INTERPRETING SERVICES

Interpreting Services are not provided at MCAG's public meeting unless requested at least three (3) business days in advance. Please contact Eva Garibay at (209) 723-3153 x 108 during regular business hours to request interpreting services.

Servicios de intérprete no son ofrecidos en las juntas públicas de MCAG al menos de que se soliciten tres (3) días de negociación en anticipación. Para solicitar estos servicios por favor contacte a Eva Garibay al (209) 723-3153 x 108 durante horas de oficina.

## INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact MCAG at (209)723-3153 at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting to request auxiliary aids or other accommodations necessary to participate in the public meeting.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public wishing to address agenda items or comment on any item not on the agenda may do so during agenda item 2 – Public Comment. Persons may also address any item on the agenda during consideration of that item. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person. Please state your name and city or community of residence for the record. For items not on the agenda, no action will be taken. If it requires action, the item will be referred to staff and/or placed on the next agenda.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Merced County Association of Governments	(209)723-3153	<a href="http://www.mcagov.org">www.mcagov.org</a>
Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County	(209)723-3100	<a href="http://www.mercedthebus.com">www.mercedthebus.com</a>
Merced County Regional Waste Authority	(209)723-4481	<a href="http://www.mcrwma.org">www.mcrwma.org</a>
Merced Data Special Services	(209)723-3153	<a href="http://www.mcaggis.com">www.mcaggis.com</a>

ITEM		ACTION	STAFF	Pg. #
1.	<b>Introductions</b>			
2.	<b>Public Comment</b>			
+	<b>3. Minutes of the February 21, 2018 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting</b>	Action		Pg. 4
4.	<b>Recognition of Service – Margaret Buchmann-Garcia</b>	Presentation		
+	<b>5. Unmet Transit Needs 2018 – Public Hearing Process and Schedule</b>	Info	Natalia Austin	Pg. 6



## **Social Service Transportation Advisory Council MINUTES**

### **DATE**

**February 21, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council held Monday, February 21, 2018, at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room located at 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Vice Chair Lynn Downum-Hanzal at 12:15 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dariana Lua for Artis Smith, Local Representative of a Transit Service Agency  
Lynn Downum-Hanzal, Social Service Provider for the Disabled, Vice Chair  
Margaret Buchmann-Garcia, Senior Transit Rider  
Christine Bobbitt, Social Service Provider for Seniors  
Diane Mejia, Transit Rider  
Anthony Alves, Local Representative of a Transit Service Operator

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Allen Norris, Disabled Transit Rider  
Norma Cardona, Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means  
Vacant, Social Service Transportation Provider for the Disabled  
Vacant, Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Natalia Austin, MCAAG Analyst

**1. Introductions**

So noted.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Minutes of the January 24, 2018 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting**

Margaret Buchmann-Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2018, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

Seconded by Christine Bobbitt.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Unmet Transit Needs FY 2018-2019**

Members discussed and analyzed all public comments received at the unmet transit needs hearings. Three of the comments received as part of the unmet transit needs hearing process were found to be potential unmet transit needs. After the application of the MCAG Governing Board's adopted definitions of "unmet transit needs" and "reasonable to meet", it was determined by the SSTAC that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Margaret Buchmann-Garcia moved to recommend the MCAG Governing Board adopt by resolution a finding of fact for Fiscal Year 2018-2019: "There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet".

Seconded by Christine Bobbitt.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:40 P.M.**

**ITEM 5**

**MEMORANDUM**

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DATE: December 13, 2018

TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

FROM: Natalia Austin, GIS Analyst

RE: Unmet Transit Needs 2019 – Public Hearing Process and Schedule

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**BACKGROUND**

As the administrator of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for Merced County, Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) 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 on transit service before any TDA funds are expended for non-transit uses, such as streets and roads.

The TDA specifically requires that MCAG administer and establish a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). The Public Utilities Code (PUC) defines the required membership of the SSTAC.

One role of the SSTAC is to solicit public input regarding transit service needs for the transit-dependent and transit-disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, disabled and low-income persons.

Annually, the SSTAC makes a recommendation to the MCAG Governing Board which finds by resolution 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.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE**

There are many convenient ways to participate in the unmet transit needs process in Merced County. Residents can attend a public hearing in person and provide a comment at one of the locations listed below:

- Los Banos – January 31, 2019 at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM
- Atwater – February 5, 2019 at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM
- Merced – February 7, 2019 at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM
- Planada – February 11, 2019 at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM

However, residents do not need to attend a hearing to participate. Other options include submitting a comment by phone, mail, email, or by filling out our new online survey. In addition, staff has augmented the MCAG website by including a dedicated unmet transit needs webpage. This makes information regarding the unmet transit needs process in Merced County, submitting a comment, or looking at past years' unmet transit needs reports readily accessible.

New MCAG Unmet Transit Needs webpage: <https://www.mcagov.org/311/Unmet-Transit-Needs>

Online survey link in English: <https://www.mcagov.org/312/Unmet-Transit-Needs-Survey>

Online survey link in Spanish: <https://www.mcagov.org/313/Unmet-Transit-Needs-Survey-Spanish>

## **RESPONSIBILITIES / GOALS**

The goals of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council are:

- Conduct the annual TDA unmet transit needs public process as required, including: identify any “unmet transit needs” that are “reasonable to meet” that may exist in Merced County; and make a recommendation to the MCAG Governing Board.
- Offer input to the MCAG Governing Board on transit service issues.
- Review other possible sources of transit funding to meet the transportation needs of transit dependent persons.
- Serve as the Performance Review Committee to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and overall productivity of the services that Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County – The Bus provides in relationship to its cost effectiveness, service levels and coordination with other transit services.

If you have any questions about this agenda item, please contact Natalia Austin at (209)723-3153 x 127 or [natalia.austin@mcagov.org](mailto:natalia.austin@mcagov.org).

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

## **REQUESTED ACTION**

For information only.

Attachments: Merced County Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet Definitions  
Unmet Transit Needs 2019 – Public Hearings Schedule  
Unmet Transit Needs 2019 - Public Hearings Flyer

## MERCED COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEED AND REASONABLE TO MEET DEFINITIONS

### Unmet Transit Need:

An **unmet transit need** is an inadequacy in the existing public transit services for persons recognized as transit-dependent in Merced County.

### Reasonable to Meet:

An unmet transit need that meets the definition above and meets **all** the following criteria shall be considered reasonable to meet:

### Minimum requirements:

1. **Feasibility** - The proposed transit service can be achieved safely and will not violate local, state, and federal law.
2. **Funding** - The proposed transit service will not cause the transit operator to incur expenses greater than the maximum allocation of Transportation Development Act Local Transportation Funds.
3. **Equity** - The proposed transit service will benefit the general public, with particular consideration for those who rely on public transportation, seniors, and disabled persons, within the meaning of Title VI or other similar assessments.

### Other areas for consideration:

4. **Community Acceptance** - There needs to be demonstrated interest of citizens in the proposed transit service such as multiple comments or petitions.
5. **Potential Ridership** – The proposed transit service will not reduce the existing level of transit service and will comply with safety, security and maintenance requirements. The proposed transit service will meet “new service” ridership performance standards established for the transit operator in its agency planning documents. Measurement of ridership performance may include assessing passengers per hour and passengers per mile.
6. **Cost Effectiveness** – Unless the proposed transit service is eligible for a two-year exemption period, it must not reduce the ability of the overall transit system service to meet minimum fare box return requirements as stated in the Transportation Development Act statutes or established by Merced County Association of Governments.



**Merced County**  
**Social Services Transportation Advisory Council**  
**2019 Unmet Transit Needs Process Schedule**

<b>Council Or Board</b>	<b>Meeting Purpose</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
SSTAC Pre-Hearing Meeting	Unmet Transit Needs Process Overview	Thursday January 17, 2019 12:00 PM	MCAG 369 W 18 <sup>th</sup> Street Merced
SSTAC	Los Banos Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Thursday January 31, 2019 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM	City of Los Banos Community Center 645 7 <sup>th</sup> Street Los Banos
SSTAC	Atwater Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Tuesday February 5, 2019 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM	City of Atwater Council Chambers 750 Bellevue Rd Atwater
SSTAC	Merced Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Thursday February 7, 2019 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM	City of Merced Civic Center Council Chambers 678 W 18 <sup>th</sup> Street Merced
SSTAC	Planada Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Monday February 11, 2019 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM	Planada Community Center 9167 Stanford Ave Planada
SSTAC Post Hearing Evaluation & Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate Public Testimony based on Governing Board adopted definitions of Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet</li> <li>2. SSTAC makes formal recommendation to the GB</li> </ol>	Thursday February 21, 2019 12:00 PM	MCAG 369 W 18 <sup>th</sup> Street Merced
MCAG Governing Board Meeting	Unmet Transit Needs Determination	Thursday April 18, 2019 3:00 PM	Exact location to be determined

# MERCED COUNTY UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS HEARINGS 2019

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

To ensure that all “unmet transit needs” that are “reasonable to meet” are met before Transportation Development Act funds are spent on non-transit uses, such as streets and roads.

## WHAT IS AN UNMET TRANSIT NEED?

An inadequacy in the existing public transit services for those who rely on public transit because they do not operate a vehicle because of youth, advanced age, mental or physical impairment in Merced County.

## HEARING LOCATIONS

### Thursday, January 31

4:00 PM and 7:00 PM  
Los Banos Community Center  
645 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos, CA

### Tuesday, February 5

4:00 PM and 7:00 PM  
Atwater Council Chambers  
750 Bellevue Road, Atwater, CA

### Thursday, February 7

4:00 PM and 7:00 PM  
Merced Council Chambers  
678 W 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA

### Monday, February 11

4:00 PM and 7:00 PM  
Planada Community Center  
9167 Stanford Avenue, Planada, CA

Comments  
accepted until  
February 12

## PARTICIPATING IS EASY!

Choose the option you prefer:



Attend a hearing **in person** and provide a comment at one of the locations nearest you.



Submit a comment **by phone** by calling 209.723.3153 EXT 127



**Mail** a comment to:  
Merced County Association of Governments  
c/o Natalia Austin  
369 W 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



**Email** a comment to:  
[natalia.austin@mcagov.org](mailto:natalia.austin@mcagov.org)



Submit a comment through our **online survey** here:

<https://www.mcagov.org/312/Unmet-Transit-Needs-Survey>



# Necesidades Insatisfechas de Transporte Público del Condado de Merced 2019

## ¿CUÁL ES EL PROPÓSITO?

Para asegurar que las “necesidades insatisfechas publicas” que son "razonables para cumplir" se cumplan en el servicio de tránsito del Condado de Merced antes de que cualquier fondos de desarrollo de tránsito se usen para otros proyectos afuera de tránsito, por ejemplo: calles y carreteras.

## ¿QUE ES UNA NECESIDAD INSATISFECHA DE TRANSITO?

Una **insuficiencia en los servicios de tránsito público existentes** para aquellos que dependen del transporte público porque no operan un vehículo debido a su juventud, edad avanzada, discapacidad mental o física en el Condado de Merced.

## LOCALIDAD DE JUNTAS

### Jueves 31 de enero

4:00 PM y 7:00 PM  
Los Banos Community Center  
645 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos, CA

### Martes 5 de febrero

4:00 PM y 7:00 PM  
Atwater Council Chambers  
750 Bellevue Road, Atwater, CA

### Jueves 7 de febrero

4:00 PM y 7:00 PM  
Merced Council Chambers  
678 W 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA

### Lunes 11 de febrero

4:00 PM y 7:00 PM  
Planada Community Center  
9167 Stanford Avenue, Planada, CA

## ¡PARTICIPAR ES FÁCIL!

### Eliga la opción que prefiera:



Asista a una junta **en persona** y haga un comentario en uno de los lugares más cercanos a usted.



Comente por **teléfono** llamando al 209.723.3153 EXT 127



Envíe un comentario a:  
Merced County Association of Governments  
c/o Natalia Austin  
369 W 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Comentario por **correo electrónico** a:  
[natalia.austin@mcagov.org](mailto:natalia.austin@mcagov.org)



Llene nuestra encuesta en línea:  
<https://www.mcagov.org/313/Unmet-Transit-Needs-Survey-Spanish>

Comentarios  
aceptados hasta el  
12 de febrero.

