Regular Meeting of the
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

LOCATION
MCAG Conference Room
369 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-3153

DATE
Wednesday, September 25, 2019

TIME
12:00 P.M.

SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vacant  Local Representative of a Transit Service Agency
Lynn Downum-Hanzal  Social Service Provider for Persons with a Disability
Gayle Miller  Senior Transit Rider
Allen Norris  Transit Rider with a Disability
Katherine Molthen  Local Representative of a Transit Service Operator
Christine Bobbitt  Social Service Provider for Seniors
Norma Cordonal  Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Linda Dash  Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Diane Mejia  Transit Rider – Person of Limited Means
Marty Christman  Transit Rider – Person of Limited Means
Carrie Pitcock-Quirarte  Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with a Disability
Chante Dobbins  Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
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 or at the MCAG office, 369 W. 18th 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 interpreté no son ofrecidos en las juntas públicas de MCAG al menos de que se soliciten tres (3) días de negoción en anticipación. Para solicitas 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 www.mcagov.org
Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (209)723-3100 www.mercedthebus.com
Merced County Regional Waste Authority (209)723-4481 www.mcrwma.org
Merced Data Special Services (209)723-3153 www.mcaggis.com
Measure V (209)723-3153 www.measurev-mcag.com
# Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

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<td>Unmet Transit Needs 2020 – Public Hearing Process and Schedule</td>
<td>Info</td>
<td>Natalia Austin</td>
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+ Attachment
The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council held Thursday, February 28, 2019, at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room located at 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Chair Artis Smith at 12:06 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT
Linda Dash, Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means

OTHERS PRESENT
Natalia Austin, GIS Analyst
Mauricio Torres, Assistant Planner
Maria Bautista, National Express
Dariana Lua, Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County
1. **Introductions**

   So noted.

2. **Public Comment**

   None.

3. **Minutes of the January 17, 2019 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting**

   Lynn Downum-Hanzal moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2019, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting. 
   Seconded by Diana Mejia. 
   **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**


   Members discussed and analyzed all public comments received at the unmet transit needs hearings. Twenty-four 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”, the SSTAC concluded that there are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet.

   Diana Mejia moved to recommend the MCAG Governing Board adopt by resolution a finding of fact for Fiscal Year 2019-2020: **“There are unmet transit needs, including needs that are reasonable to meet”.**

   Seconded by Norma Cordona. 
   **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

   **THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:45 P.M.**
MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 5, 2019

TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

FROM: Natalia Austin, GIS Analyst

RE: Unmet Transit Needs 2020-2021

SUMMARY

Public hearings will be held in October 2019 to receive public input regarding transit service needs for the transit-dependent and transportation disadvantaged persons in Merced County.

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 transportation-disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, persons with disabilities 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

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:

- Merced Civic Center – October 2, 2019 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM
- Gustine Council Chambers – October 3, 2019 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 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 an online survey. In addition, the dedicated unmet transit needs webpage on the MCAG website 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.

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

PAST ACTION TAKEN

05/16/2019: The MCAG Governing Board adopted by resolution a finding of fact that there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

The unmet transit needs that were considered to be reasonable to meet for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 are extending evening service hours to accommodate students attending night classes and persons discharged from the hospital, adding accessibility options to the Bus Live app, and providing audible announcements on paratransit buses.

UPDATES

Traditionally, the unmet transit needs process has been scheduled to begin in the spring. However, staff believes it will better inform annual budget planning if the unmet transit needs process is completed earlier. Therefore, for fiscal year 2020-2021 we will start the unmet transit needs process in the fall to be completed before January of 2020. In the future, the entire process will be scheduled on an annual basis to begin in the fall.

If you have any questions about this agenda item, please contact Natalia Austin at (209)723-3153 x 127 or 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 2020 – Public Hearings Schedule
Unmet Transit Needs Flyer 2020
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
#### 2020 Unmet Transit Needs Process Schedule

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<th>Date and Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>SSTAC Pre-Hearing Meeting</td>
<td>Unmet Transit Needs Process Overview</td>
<td>Wednesday September 25, 2019 12:00 PM</td>
<td>MCAG 369 W 18th Street Merced, CA 95340</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSTAC</td>
<td>Merced Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony</td>
<td>Wednesday October 2, 2019 3:00 PM &amp; 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Merced Civic Center Sam Pipes Room 678 W. 18th Street Merced, CA 95340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSTAC</td>
<td>Gustine Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony</td>
<td>Thursday October 3, 2019 3:00 PM &amp; 6:00 PM</td>
<td>City of Gustine Council Chambers 352 Fifth Street Gustine, CA 95322</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSTAC Post Hearing Evaluation &amp; Recommendation</td>
<td>1. Evaluate Public Testimony based on Governing Board adopted definitions of Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet</td>
<td>Thursday October 17, 2019 12:00 PM</td>
<td>MCAG 369 W 18th Street Merced, CA 95340</td>
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<td>2. SSTAC makes formal recommendation to the GB</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCAG Governing Board Meeting</td>
<td>Unmet Transit Needs Determination</td>
<td>Thursday December 19, 2019 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Merced County Board of Supervisors Chambers 2222 M Street Merced, CA 95340</td>
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MERCED COUNTY
UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS HEARINGS
2020

HOW CAN I SUBMIT A COMMENT?

In Person
Attend a hearing in person and provide a comment at one of the locations nearest you. See bottom of flyer for available locations!

By Phone
Submit a comment by phone simply by calling 209-723-3153 ext 127.

By Mail
Mail a comment to:
Merced County Association of Governments
c/o Natalia Austin
369 W. 18th St.
Merced, Ca. 95340

By E-Mail
E-Mail a comment to:
natalia.austin@mcagov.org

Online Survey
Submit a comment through our online survey:

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.

NEED TRANSPORTATION?
Bus Service is available to and from the hearings at NO COST! ADA Passengers may reserve a ride by phone.
209-384-3111

HEARING LOCATIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND
Merced Civic Center - Sam Pipes Room
678 W. 18th St. Merced, CA. 95340
Time: 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
Gustine Council Chambers
352 Fifth St. Gustine, CA. 95322
Time: 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm

**Comments accepted until October 3rd**
CONDADO DE MERCED
NECESIDADES INSATISFECHAS DE TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO
2020

ELIGA LA OPCIÓN QUE PREFIERA:

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

Por Teléfono
Comente por teléfono llamando al: 209-723-3153 ext 127.

Por Correo
Envíe un comentario por correo a:
Merced County Association of Governments
c/o Natalia Austin
369 W. 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340

Por Correo Electrónico
Comentario por correo electrónico: natalia.austin@mcagov.org

Por Internet
Llene nuestra encuesta por internet:

¿CUÁL ES EL PROPÓSITO?
Para asegurar que las “necesidades insatisfechas públicas” que son “razonables para cumplir” se cumplan en el servicio de tránsito del Condado de Merced antes de que cualquier fondo de desarrollo de transit 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.

** Comentarios aceptados hasta el 3 de octubre **

¿NECESITA TRANSPORTE?
¡Servicio de autobuses disponible a las juntas sin costo! Pasajeros de ADA pueden reservar un viaje al 209-384-3111.

LOCALIDAD DE JUNTAS

MIÉRCOLES 2 DE OCTUBRE
Merced Civic Center - Sam Pipes Room
678 W. 18th St. Merced, CA 95340
3:00 pm and 6:00 pm

JUEVES, 3 DE OCTUBRE
Gustine Council Chambers
352 Fifth St. Gustine, CA 95322
3:00 pm and 6:00 pm