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/86718700772?pwd=4AxaVnLTZLaXM6Wzg24scbVf6g0HLM.1

Meeting ID: 867 1870 0772
Passcode: 467015
Call in: +1 408 638 0968

DATE
March 10, 2026

TIME
12:00 PM

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Frank Simonis, Chair	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
Raeanne Jain	Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Monty Cox	Social Service Transportation Provider for Older Adults
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 Older Adults
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 Garcia	Local Social Service Provider for Older Adults
Cynthia Ortegon	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability

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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.

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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.	**Public Comment** 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 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.		
3.	**Approve Minutes of December 9, 2025, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting**	**Yes**	**Action**
4.	**Micro Transit Feasibility Study Update and General Informational Report on the Madera Metro Transit System** Presentation given by Xochitl Villaseñor, Transit Program Manager from the City of Madera (Madera Metro)	**No**	**Presentation**
5.	**Announcements**	**No**	**Discussion**
6.	**Adjourn**		

ITEM 3

SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES

DATE
Tuesday, December 9, 2025

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council was held Tuesday, December 9, 2025, and was called to order by Chair Frank Simonis, at 12:02 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Frank Simonis, Chair, Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability – appeared via Zoom
Bertha Vega, Vice Chair, 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 Older Adults
Raeanne Jain, 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
Olga Garcia, Social Service Provider for Older Adults
Vincent Parker, Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities

MEMBERS ABSENT
Mattie Mendez, Social Service Provider for Older Adults

MCTC STAFF PRESENT:
Evelyn Espinosa, Senior Regional Planner
Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner
Troy McNeil, Deputy Director and Fiscal Supervisor
Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

VISITORS PRESENT:
Andrea Uribe, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Policy Advocate
Lorena Mendibles, Senior Transportation Planner, Transit Specialist, Caltrans District 6
David Huff, Associate Transportation Planner, System Planning, Caltrans District 6
Julius LaRosa, Operations Manager, MV Transit
Ed Valdez, Community Resident

*Appeared after roll call

1. **Roll Call**

   At 12:02 pm, Chair Frank Simonis called the meeting to order and instructed that roll call for attendance be taken. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. **Public Comment**

   Members of the Council noticed that David Huff from Caltrans District 6 was present online at the meeting and extended greetings.

3. **Approve Minutes of September 9, 2025, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting**

   Olga Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting.
   Seconded by Monty Cox.
   Roll Call Vote:
   Ayes: Frank Simonis, Raeanne Jain, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Cynthia Ortegon, Franklina Bogan, Olga Garcia, Vincent Parker
   Noes: None
   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Unmet Transit Needs Comment Analysis and Recommendation**

   The SSTAC reviewed eight comments that were received during the period between April 25, 2025, through November 14, 2025. Six of the comments were identified as potential unmet transit needs and were evaluated using the "unmet transit need" and "reasonable to meet" definitions.

   The potential unmet transit needs that have been evaluated and the recommendations made by the SSTAC for Madera County (MCC) are as follows:

   - PROVIDE FIXED ROUTE SERVICE FROM OAKHURST TO FRESNO AND/OR CLOVIS

   SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need.

   Discussion: Service from Oakhurst to Fresno is available; however, the trip is lengthy and requires a transfer in Madera. Take the Eastern Madera County route into Madera. Transfer at the Intermodal Transportation Center and connect to the College/Children's Hospital route. The College/Children's Hospital route offers a connection from Madera to Fresno Area Express. The County also provides Medical Escort Service from Eastern Madera County to Fresno for medical appointments.

   - EXPAND SERVICE IN OAKHURST, TO INCLUDE MORE ACCESS TO DOCTOR'S OFFICES, SHOPPING, ETC.

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need.

Discussion: At this time, MCC's fixed-route service provides stops at several key residential and commercial locations; however, not all shopping centers can safely accommodate a full-size bus for fixed-route access. The annual cost to offer an additional run to the existing service offerings in Eastern Madera County is $251,566.43. To support the current farebox rate of 10%, an additional 57 riders per day would be required. Current Eastern Route daily ridership is 74, or an average of 15 passengers per run. MCC does not have sufficient data to support the needed increase in ridership that needs to be generated. MCC is exploring the potential for microtransit in the area, which could offer more flexibility. Because microtransit uses smaller vehicles and an on-demand service model, it may provide additional options for riders and improve overall accessibility in Oakhurst.

- INCREASE FIXED ROUTE SERVICES TO INCLUDE TWO DROP OFF TIMES INTO LA VIÑA

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need.

Discussion: Following the recommendation from the SSTAC and direction from the MCTC Policy Board, on November 4, 2025, Madera County staff surveyed the residents of La Viña to make sure that any future changes are aligned with existing rider preferences. Based on the feedback of the majority of the residents, the arrival schedule will be changed to 8:00AM and 6:20PM from La Viña. The SSTAC recommends monitoring the performance of the recent service changes before making further modifications or expansions, while recognizing that microtransit could be a promising solution to provide more service in La Viña in the future.

- ADD ANOTHER SERVICE DAY DURING THE WEEK AND ADD A WEEKEND SERVICE DAY TO THE EASTIN ARCOLA – RIPPERDAN - LA VIÑA ROUTE

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need.
Discussion: Current ridership is 1.2 riders per day, which may be improved with planned service changes. The SSTAC recommends monitoring the performance of the recent service changes before making further modifications or expansions, while recognizing that microtransit could be a promising solution to provide more service in La Viña in the future.

- IMPLEMENT MICROTRANSIT IN LA VIÑA

SSTAC Recommendation: Not an unmet transit need.

Discussion: Microtransit has long been identified as a potential strategy to address service gaps and increase service frequency in the county, including areas such as La Viña; however, the SSTAC recommends Madera County move towards a clear, defined path toward implementation.

- ADD A SHELTER, LIGHT POST, AND WASTE BASKET AT THE STOP ON VIÑA STREET

SSTAC Recommendation: Unmet transit need, not reasonable to meet

Discussion: Right-of-way limitations at the Viña Street bus stop currently prevent installation of a shelter and lighting. Resolving these constraints will require additional analysis to identify feasible solutions.

There were no potential unmet transit needs that were evaluated by the SSTAC for the City of Madera (Madera Metro).

There were no potential unmet transit needs that were evaluated by the SSTAC for the City of Chowchilla (CATX).

The rest of the comments received were determined to be either operational or non-transit issues. Direction was given to forward these comments to the appropriate agencies to be addressed.

Vice Chair, Bertha Vega, made a motion, to recommend for Madera County for FY 2026-27: There are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

Additionally, the SSTAC requests the following to be addressed during the upcoming fiscal year:

- The SSTAC formally recommends that the County of Madera identify and present a defined fiscal strategy to advance the implementation of a microtransit pilot project. With the County's microtransit feasibility study already completed, the SSTAC believes that additional planning should be accompanied by a clearer path toward implementation. The SSTAC recognizes microtransit as a viable solution to address the unique transportation needs of the county's rural and mountain communities and urges the County of Madera to take concrete steps toward implementation.

For the City of Madera for FY 2026-27: There are no unmet transit needs.

For the City of Chowchilla FY 2026-27: There are no unmet transit needs.

Seconded by Vincent Parker.
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Frank Simonis, Raeanne Jain, Lynda Schafhauser, Monty Cox, Cynthia Ortegon, Bertha Vega, Franklina Bogan, Olga Garcia, Vincent Parker
Noes: None
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Appoint SSTAC representative to attend MCTC Policy Board Meeting on January 21, 2026**

   Frank Simonis volunteered to attend the Policy Board meeting on January 21, 2026. Several other Council members said they would attend to support.

6. **Announcements**

   None

7. **Adjourn**

   The meeting was adjourned by Chair Frank Simonis at 1:17 PM.