



## 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/89073566436?pwd=bFpZUXluK2xkUDRMd2N3c2w4VkVvQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 890 7356 6436

**Passcode:** 046542

**Call in:** +1 408 638 0968

### **DATE**

February 6, 2024

### **TIME**

12:00 PM

### **SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Frank Simonis, Chair	Potential Transit User Who Has a Disability
Alycia Falley, Vice Chair	Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Rosalind Esqueda	Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Monty Cox	Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors
Bertha Vega	Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Vincent Parker	Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities
Michelle Hernandez	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

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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		
3.	Approve Minutes of the November 16, 2023, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting	Yes	Action
4.	Local Transit Agency Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County of Madera - MCC</li> <li>• City of Madera – Madera Metro</li> <li>• City of Chowchilla – CATX</li> </ul>	No	Information
5.	Unmet Transit Needs FY 2024 - 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Madera County “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet” Definitions</li> <li>• Unmet Transit Needs Flyer</li> </ul>	Yes	Information
6.	Announcements		
7.	Adjourn		



## **SOCIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DATE**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council was held Tuesday, November 16, 2023, and was called to order by Chair Frank Simonis, at 12:04 pm.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Frank Simonis, Chair, Potential Transit User Who Is Disabled – appeared via Zoom for Just Cause under AB 2449  
Bertha Vega, Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means  
Michelle Hernandez, Local Social Service Provider for Seniors  
Olga Olivia Saucedo-Garcia, 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  
Rosalind Esqueda, Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors  
Amber Parkinson (substitute for Monty Cox), Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors  
Vincent Parker, Social Service Transportation Provider for Persons with Disabilities – appeared via Zoom

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Alycia Falley, Vice Chair, Local Social Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities

#### **MCTC STAFF PRESENT:**

Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner  
Evelyn Espinosa, Senior Regional Planner  
Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner

#### **VISITORS PRESENT:**

Nicholas Isla, Caltrans  
Keyomi Jones, Caltrans  
Lorena Mendibles, Caltrans

**1. Roll Call**

At 12:04 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**

Franklina Bogan had a question regarding fees for volunteers who ride the bus. Rosalind Esqueda answered her question with information about city and county fares. Frank Simonis advised that if the SSTAC members have concerns then they can bring them to council, but the SSTAC is not an enforcing committee, but instead are advisors.

**3. Introduce new SSTAC members**

All members introduced themselves, as well as Caltrans staff who were in attendance.

**4. Approve Minutes of the May 1, 2023, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting**

Chair Frank Simonis moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting.  
Seconded by Olga Saucedo

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Frank Simonis, Rosalind Esqueda, Amber Parkinson, Bertha Vega, Michelle Hernandez, Olga Saucedo**

**Noes: None**

**Abstain: Vincent Parker, Franklina Bogan, Lynda Schafhauser**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Local Transit Agency Updates**

Amber Parkinson updated the group regarding new electric charging stations for new electric buses. Frank Simonis inquired if the bus vendor also has maintenance or repair capabilities. Amber Parkinson nor Rosalind Esqueda was aware if the vendor had those capabilities. Lorena Mendibles, Caltrans, commented that Tulare was in a similar situation looking for vendors with maintenance capabilities for electric buses. Amber Parkinson shared that County staff are getting prepared to repair locally. Madera Metro is planning to roll out the new route to the Amtrak Station in the first or second week of December.

**6. Overview of SSTAC and Unmet Transit Needs Process**

Natalia Austin, MCTC, gave a presentation overview of the role of the SSTAC and the Unmet Transit Needs process. The MCTC Policy Board Adopted Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet Definitions were explained.

## **7. UTN Comment Analysis (July 1-Nov 2)**

Two public comments that were received during July 1, 2023 – November 2 via the online survey were considered. One was regarding transit services to St. Agnes Community Hospital in Fresno by Madera Metro Dial-a-ride. It was determined by the SSTAC members that there is a need for residents of Madera County to access healthcare in Fresno since there are no hospitals in Madera. Further analysis will be made at a future meeting to make a final determination if this is an unmet transit need and if it is reasonable to meet. The other comment was regarding the ability of users to save the Madera Metro transit schedules. It was determined that there are many ways for Madera Metro transit users to access and save the schedules, so this comment did not rise to the level of an unmet transit need. Further discussion was made regarding the opportunities for residents to submit questions and get information regarding unmet transit needs. MCTC outreach events and MCTC Policy Board meetings were mentioned as options. It was also recommended to reach out to the Board of Supervisor's Town Hall meetings, adding information to utility bills, libraries, and senior centers to get the word out.

## **8. Announcements**

Announcements were made regarding the upcoming storm and resources for assistance. There were also announcements regarding various community events, such as the Pan-Am Senior Dinner, Rotary Club Senior Thanksgiving Center. Chair Frank Simonis shared dial-a-ride information and Natalia Austin, MCTC, shared information about the SB 125 Transit Program.

## **9. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Frank Simonis at 1:19 pm



**AGENDA ITEM:** 5

**PREPARED BY:** Natalia Austin, Senior Regional Planner

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**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 2024-2025.

**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 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 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 17, 2024. 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
<b>Spanish Language Workshop</b> Friday, March 1 at 6:00 PM	Casas De La Vina 23784 Avenue 9 Madera, CA 93637	Yes	No
<b>Workshop</b> Wednesday, March 6 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM	Chowchilla Library 300 Kings Avenue Chowchilla, CA 93610	Yes	No
<b>Workshop</b> Thursday, March 7 at 10:00 AM	Frank Bergon Senior Center 238 S D St Madera, CA 93638	Yes	No
<b>Workshop</b> Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 PM	Webinar ID: 831 9180 8232 Passcode: 921346 Click <a href="#">here</a> to join!	No	Yes
<b>Workshop</b> Saturday, March 16 at 1:00 PM	North Fork Library 32908 Rd 222 North Fork, CA 93643	Yes	No
<b>Workshop</b> Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 PM	Madera Main Library 121 N G Street Madera, CA 93637	Yes	No
<b>Public Hearing</b> Wednesday, April 17 at 3:00 PM	MCTC Policy Board Meeting 2001 Howard Road, Ste. 201 Madera, CA 93637  See MCTC <a href="#">website</a> 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 2023-2024](#).

For more information, please contact Natalia Austin at [naustin@maderactc.org](mailto:naustin@maderactc.org) or 559-675-0721 ext. 6.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact to the approved 2023-24 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.

# DOES LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSIT MEET YOUR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS?

- Are there places in Madera County you are unable to travel to by bus?
- Is transit service unavailable for you to make important trips, such as traveling to work or doctor's appointments?



## TELL US ABOUT YOUR UNMET TRANSIT NEED!



An unmet transit need is an expressed or identified need that is not currently being met through existing public transportation services. It is also a need required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## Attend one of our workshops and share your thoughts...

**Casas De La Vina (in Spanish)**  
 Friday, March 1 at 6:00 PM  
 23784 Avenue 9, Madera

**Chowchilla Library**  
 Wednesday, March 6 at 3:00 PM  
 AND 6:00 PM  
 300 Kings Avenue, Chowchilla

**Frank Bergon Senior Center**  
 Thursday, March 7 at 10:00 AM  
 238 S D Street, Madera

**Virtual Workshop**  
 Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 PM  
 Webinar ID: 831 9180 8232  
 Passcode: 921346

**North Fork Library**  
 Saturday, March 16 at 1:00 PM  
 32908 Road 222, North Fork

**Madera Main Library**  
 Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 PM  
 121 N G Street, Madera



### Fill out an online survey

If you prefer to provide your comments electronically, fill out the online survey by scanning the QR code or go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UTN2024MCTC>



**Participate in the way that's convenient for you!**



### Comment at the public hearing

Attend the public hearing to tell us about your transit needs:

**MCTC Board Meeting**  
 Wednesday, April 17 at 3:00 PM  
 2001 Howard Road, Suite. 201  
 Madera



# ¿EL TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO LOCAL SATISFACE SUS NECESIDADES DE TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO?

- ¿Hay lugares en el condado de Madera a los que no se puede viajar en autobús?
- ¿No está el servicio de transporte público disponible para realizar viajes importantes, como ir al trabajo o acudir a citas médicas?



## ¿CUÉNTENOS SOBRE SU NECESIDAD DE TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO INSATISFECHA!

Una necesidad de transporte público insatisfecha es una necesidad expresada o identificada que actualmente no se satisface a través de los servicios de transporte público existentes. Una necesidad de transporte público insatisfecha también es una necesidad requerida para cumplir con al Ley de Estadounidenses con discapacidades (ADA).

## Ven a uno de nuestros talleres y déjanos saber lo que piensas...

**Casas De La Vina (en español)**  
Viernes, Marzo 1, 6:00 PM  
23784 Avenue 9, Madera

**Chowchilla Library**  
Miércoles, Marzo 6, 3:00 PM  
Y a las 6:00 PM  
300 Kings Avenue, Chowchilla

**Frank Bergon Senior Center**  
Jueves, Marzo 7, 10:00 AM  
238 S D Street, Madera

**Talleres Virtuales**  
Martes, Marzo 12, 6:00 PM  
Webinar ID: 831 9180 8232  
Passcode: 921346

**North Fork Library**  
Sábado, Marzo 16, 1:00 PM  
32908 Road 222, North Fork

**Madera Main Library**  
Martes, Marzo 19, 6:00 PM  
121 N G Street, Madera

### **Llene una encuesta en línea**

Si prefiere proveer comentarios en línea, llene la encuesta en línea escaneando el código QR o llendo a: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UTN2024MCTC>



### **Comentar en la audiencia pública**

Atienda a la audiencia pública para contarnos sobre sus necesidades de transporte público:

**MCTC Junta Directiva**  
Miércoles, Abril 17 a las 3:00 PM  
2001 Howard Road, Suite. 201  
Madera

**Comparta sus ideas de la forma más conveniente para usted!**

Para más información:

 (559) 675-0721

 [evelyn@maderactc.org](mailto:evelyn@maderactc.org)