

**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**

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

**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
Margaret Buchmann-Garcia	Senior Transit Rider
Allen Norris	Disabled Transit Rider
Boyd Reid	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
Vacant	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>

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ITEM		ACTION	STAFF	Pg. #
1.	<b>Introductions</b>			
2.	<b>Public Comment</b>			
#	3. <b>Minutes of the April 17, 2017 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting</b>	Action		Pg. 4
#	4. <b>Unmet Transit Needs 2018 – Public Hearing Process and Schedule</b>	Info	Natalia Austin	Pg.5



## Social Service Transportation Advisory Council MINUTES

### DATE

**Monday, April 17, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council held Monday, April 17, 2017, at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room located at 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Chair Rich Green at 12:29 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rich Green, Local Representative of a Transit Service Agency, Chair  
Lynn Downum-Hanzal, Social Service Provider for the Disabled, Vice Chair  
Margaret Buchmann-Garcia, Senior Transit Rider  
Alexandra Pierce, Social Service Provider for Seniors  
Allen Norris, Disabled Transit Rider

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Albert Perez, Local Representative of a Transit Service Operator  
Lisa Hansen, 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  
Cindy Kelly, YARTS Analyst

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**1. Introductions**

Chair Rich Green called the meeting to order.

**2. Public Comment**

none.

**3. Minutes of the March 15, 2017 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting**

Margaret Buchmann-Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2017, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

Seconded by Lynn Downum-Hanzal.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Unmet Transit Needs FY 2017-2018**

Members discussed and analyzed all public comments received at the unmet transit needs hearings. Six 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 unmet transit needs, including those that are reasonable to meet for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Providing Braille schedules for visually-impaired riders and implementing a means for hearing-impaired riders to communicate with the transit office through texting were found to be unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

Margaret Buchmann-Garcia moved to recommend the MCAG Governing Board adopt by resolution a finding of fact for Fiscal Year 2017-2018: There are unmet transit needs, including transit needs that are reasonable to meet".

Seconded by Alexandra Pierce.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:45 P.M.**

**ITEM 4**

**MEMORANDUM**

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DATE: January 10, 2018

TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

FROM: Natalia Austin, GIS Analyst

RE: Unmet Transit Needs 2018 – 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.

**2018 PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The SSTAC will hold six public hearings to gather public testimony:

City of Los Banos - January 29, 2018 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM

City of Atwater - January 30, 2018 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM

City of Merced - February 1, 2018 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM

## **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.
- Make an annual 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.
- 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).

## **REQUESTED ACTION**

For information only.

Attachments: Merced County Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet Definitions  
Unmet Transit Needs 2018 - Public Hearings Schedule  
Unmet Transit Needs 2018 - 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**  
**2018 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	TDA Process Overview	Wednesday January 24, 2018 12:00 PM	MCAG 369 W 18 <sup>th</sup> Street Merced
SSTAC	Los Banos Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Monday January 29, 2018 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM	City of Los Banos Community Center 645 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos
SSTAC	Atwater Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Tuesday January 30, 2018 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM	City of Atwater Council Chambers 750 Bellevue Rd, Atwater
SSTAC	Merced Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Thursday February 1, 2018 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM	City of Merced Civic Center Council Chambers 678 W 18 <sup>th</sup> Street, Merced
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>	Wednesday February 21, 2018 12:00 PM	MCAG 369 W 18 <sup>th</sup> Street Merced
MCAG Governing Board Meeting	Unmet Transit Needs Determination	Thursday, March 22, 2018 3:00 PM OR Thursday, April 19, 2018 3:00 PM	March – City of Los Banos  April – County of Merced

# MERCED THE BUS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS HEARINGS 2018

**Do you or someone you know have a transit need that is not being met?**

Merced County Association of Government's (MCAG) Social Services Transportation Advisory Council would like to hear from you!

If you would like to provide comments on public transit needs in Merced County, please attend one of 6 public hearings closest to your residence.

Bus service is available to and from the public hearings at no cost!  
ADA passengers may reserve a ride at (209) 384-3111.

## HEARING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29**  
**3:00 PM and 6:00 PM**  
**Los Banos Community Center**  
**645 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos, CA**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30**  
**3:00 PM and 6:00 PM**  
**Atwater Council Chambers**  
**750 Bellevue Road, Atwater, CA**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1**  
**3:00 PM and 6:00 PM**  
**Merced Council Chambers**  
**678 W 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA**



If you are unable to attend a hearing, but would like to provide your comments, please contact: Natalia Austin at 209.723.3153 ext. 127 or email [natalia.austin@mcagov.org](mailto:natalia.austin@mcagov.org) by February 1.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## What is the purpose of the unmet transit needs hearings?

The **purpose of the unmet transit needs process** is to ensure that all “unmet transit needs” that are “reasonable to meet” are met on transit service in Merced County before any Transportation Development Act funds are spent on non-transit uses, such as streets and roads.

## What is the purpose of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)?

The **purpose of the SSTAC** is to receive public comment regarding transit service needs for transit-dependent persons

## What is an “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

## Who are “transit dependent”?

The “**transit dependent**” are those who rely on public transit because they do not operate a vehicle because of youth, advanced age, mental or physical impairment or low income.

**The new, expanded or revised service needs to be cost effective, efficient, safe, and benefit either the general public or transit – dependent persons.**

## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE??

**Introduce yourself to the Council**

**You have 3 minutes to speak**

**Give as much detail as possible within 3 minutes to clearly describe the need you would like to have met**

**Stay after the hearing is over to have questions regarding operational transit issues answered**