



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 March 15, 2017

TIME

12:00 P.M

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Members

Rich Green, Chair	TJPA, The Bus
Lynn Downum-Hanzal, Vice Chair	Service Provider for the Disabled
Alexandra Pierce	Service Provider for Seniors
Margaret Buchmann-Garcia	Senior Transit Rider
Albert Perez	Service Contractor Representative
Lisa Hansen	Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Allen Norris	Disabled Transit Rider
Timothy Rivera	Transit Rider, Citizen at Large
VACANT	Social Service Transportation Provider for the Disabled
VACANT	Local 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 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.

TRANSLATION SERVICES

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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 301 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

ITEM	ACTION	STAFF
1. Introductions		
2. Oral Communication		
# 3. Approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting	Action	
4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for TDA Fiscal Year 2017-2018	Action	Rich Green
# 5. Review of Annual Unmet Transit Needs Process and Responsibilities of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council	Discussion	Natalia Austin

Next Meeting:

The next Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meeting will be held on _____ at 12:00 PM
at
MCAG Conference room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California



**Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
MINUTES**

DATE

**Wednesday, November 16,
2016**

The meeting of the SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL held Wednesday, November 16, 2016 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 12:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rich Green, Chair	TJPA, The Bus
Lynn Downum-Hanzal, Vice Chair	Service Provider for the Disabled
Margaret Buchmann-Garcia	Disabled Transit Rider
Albert Perez	Service Contractor Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lisa Hansen	Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means
Alexandra Pierce	Service Provider for Seniors
Timothy Rivera	Transit Rider, Citizen at Large
Vacant	Senior Transit Rider
Vacant	Social Service Transportation Provider for the Disabled
Vacant	Local Social Service Transportation Provider for Seniors

OTHERS PRESENT

Natalia Austin, Analyst, MCAAG

1. Introductions

Rich Green called the meeting to order and led the introductions.

2. Oral Communication

Rich Green announced the Operation Toy Drive will kick off on the 1st Saturday in December. People can drop off new unwrapped toys in barrels located at Olive Ave and G Street. All toys collected go to disadvantaged children in Merced County.

3. Minutes of the September 27, 2016 SSTAC meeting

Margaret Buchmann-Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2016 SSTAC meeting.

Seconded by Lynn Downum-Hanzal

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Reevaluation of “Unmet Transit Needs” and “Reasonable to Meet” definitions

The Council had a discussion comparing Merced County’s “unmet transit needs” and “reasonable to meet” definitions with those from other counties. It was mentioned that simpler language is preferred that is easy to understand. Margaret Buchmann- Garcia inquired about life-line service and how that could be implemented in Merced County. It was also discussed how evening service was an unmet need in the past, but now after three years, ridership is very low in the evenings so evening service needs to be cut back. The Council also agreed that the minimum requirements of Feasibility, Funding and Equity need to be met for an unmet need to be considered reasonable to meet. A draft of revised “unmet transit needs” and “reasonable to meet” definitions was created.

5. Set date and time of next meeting

Next meeting date and time to be determined

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:55 P.M.

ITEM 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 8, 2017

TO: Citizens Advisory Committee

FROM: Natalia Austin, GIS Analyst

RE: Review of Annual Unmet Transit Needs Process and Responsibilities of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

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 purpose 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 unmet transit needs that are NOT reasonable to meet; or
- There are unmet transit needs, including needs that are not reasonable to meet.

2017 PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

City of Atwater – April 4, 2017 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM
City of Merced – April 6, 2017 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM
City of Los Banos – April 10, 2017 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 unmet transit needs that are NOT 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 319 or natalia.austin@mcagov.org.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information only.

Attachments: Definitions of the Terms – Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet
Unmet Transit Needs 2017 – Public Hearings Schedule
Unmet Transit Needs 2017 - 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
2017 Unmet Transit Needs Process Schedule

Council Or Board	Meeting Purpose	Date and Time	Location
SSTAC Pre-Hearing Meeting	TDA Process Overview	Wednesday March 15, 2017 12:00 PM	MCAG 369 W 18 th Street Merced
SSTAC	Atwater Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Tuesday April 4, 2017 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM	City of Atwater City Hall Council Chambers 750 Bellevue Rd, Atwater
SSTAC	Merced Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Thursday April 6, 2017 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM	City of Merced Civic Center Council Chambers 678 W 18 th Street, Merced
SSTAC	Los Banos Public Hearing Receive Public Testimony	Monday April 10, 2017 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM	City of Los Banos Community Center 645 7 th Street, Los Banos
SSTAC Post Hearing Evaluation & Recommendation	1. Evaluate Public Testimony based on Governing Board adopted definitions of Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet 2. SSTAC to make recommendation to the GB	Monday April 17, 2017 12:00 PM	MCAG 369 W 18 th Street Merced
MCAG Governing Board Meeting	Unmet Transit Needs Determination	Thursday, May 18, 2017 3:00 PM OR Thursday, June 15, 2017 3:00 PM	May – City of Merced June – County of Merced

MERCED THE BUS UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS HEARINGS 2017

**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:

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
3:00 PM and 6:00 PM
Atwater Council Chambers
750 Bellevue Road, Atwater, CA

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
3:00 PM and 6:00 PM
Merced Council Chambers
678 W 18th Street, Merced, CA

MONDAY, APRIL 10
3:00 PM and 6:00 PM
Los Banos Community Center
645 7th Street, Los Banos, 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. 319
or email natalia.austin@mcagov.org
by April 10th.

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