



AGENDA

CITIZEN'S TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE/ SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CTAC/SSTAC)

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 -- 1:30 PM

The meeting will be held via conference call
(712) 775-7270, Access code 636565#

In light of Governor Newsom's State of Emergency declaration regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and in accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 and the Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health commissioners will participate in the meeting from individual remote locations, which is in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the meeting remotely.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- 4. APPROVAL OF 1/14/20 MEETING SUMMARY – PG. 3**
- 5. APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS FINDINGS (Action Item) – PG. 5**
- 6. UPDATE ON ADA ELIGIBILITY CONTRACT AWARD (Verbal Update)**
- 7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- 8. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS**
- 9. ADJOURN TO SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Commission meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (805) 642-1591 ext 101. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

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Item #4

MEETING SUMMARY

CITIZEN'S TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CTAC/SSTAC)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020 -- 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

County Government Center

Hall of Administration Pacific Meeting Room

800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:

Miranda Patton
Robert Corley
Chera Minkler
Scott Farenkopf
Yuri Yurovski
Marissa Rodriguez
Chad Skopp
Sandra Aldana
Bev Dransfeldt
Joseph Alexander
Jason Sagar

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA - None

4. APPROVAL OF 9/10/19 MEETING SUMMARY – PG. 3

Chaise Rasheed made a motion to approve the summary. The motion was seconded by Scott Farrenkopf and passed unanimously.

5. PARATRANSIT DISCUSSION (UPDATE ON ADA ELIGIBILITY RFP)

This item was requested by Chera Minkler due to the higher cost of trips from western Ventura County to Camarillo and a shorter ACCESS pickup window. Martin Erickson also updated the group on the ADA certification contract that is out for bid and that he would update the committee after the Commission approves the new contract.

6. TRANSIT OUTREACH PRESENTATION

Martin Erickson gave a presentation on VCTC's outreach efforts. It included items such as getting information out during emergencies, promoting purchasing passes online, the College Ride

Program, morning Pacific Surfliner service to Santa Barbara, the Destinations campaign and other efforts.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Patton informed the group that she attended the December Commission meeting, which included a presentation about the Rice and 5th Street bridge project and recommended other committee members attend the Commission meetings as well. She also noted that she would like to hear more about the Port of Hueneme's Vision Zero project.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

9. ADJOURN TO APRIL 14, 2020 (Meeting subsequently changed to May 12, 2020)



Item #5

May 12, 2020

MEMO TO: CITIZEN'S TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE/SOCIAL SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CTAC/SSTAC)

FROM: MARTIN ERICKSON, PUBLIC TRANSIT DIRECTOR
CLAIRE GRASTY, PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) UNMET
TRANSIT NEEDS FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/2021 Unmet Transit Needs Findings and staff recommendation

DISCUSSION:

As part of the annually required Unmet Transit Needs Findings, the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee/Social Service Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC/SSTAC) is required to review and comment on the recommendations which are proposed to be presented to the Commission.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 203, the cities of Santa Paula, Fillmore, Moorpark, and Camarillo are subject to the Unmet Needs process. Additionally, on June 11, 2018, legislation allowed Thousand Oaks to spend TDA fund on streets and roads and they therefore now participate in the process as well. VCTC Intercity service does not utilize Article 8 funds for non-transit purposes; however, service requests for the regional service it provides are included in the process. The Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD), City of Ojai and the City of Simi Valley do not utilize or claim TDA Article 8 funds for non-transit purposes and their service is not subject to the Unmet Transit Needs process.

Adopted Criteria

In order for a request to be considered an Unmet Transit Need, it must meet either of the two following definitions and must receive at least 15 requests for general public service or 10 requests for disabled service:

- Public transit services not currently provided to reach employment, medical assistance, shop for food or clothing, to obtain social services such as health care, county welfare programs and education programs. Service must be needed by and benefit the general public.
- Service expansions including new routes, significant modifications to existing routes, and major increases in service hours and frequency

If they fulfill the above criteria, the need must also be determined to be reasonable to meet.

Public Input Process

VCTC held a noticed Unmet Transit Needs public hearing at its Commission meeting on February 7, 2020 and held five community meetings. VCTC collected public input online, over the phone and in person, with the majority of the comments received through the online survey and community meetings. About 500 comments were received this year, significantly more than in previous years. About 140 of those comments were for a particular bus stop.

Analysis

Staff screened each comment received based on the criteria; two requests met the 15-comment threshold:

- Service to Santa Clarita
- Service between Fillmore and Moorpark.

Service to Santa Clarita

Service to Santa Clarita was requested 36 times, most of the comments requesting service from Fillmore to Santa Clarita, and some requesting the service start in Santa Paula, Ventura or Piru. This service also met the 15-comment threshold last year but was not considered reasonable to meet because the service could not be provided with the existing fleet, due to the long distance of the route. Also, since the service request occurs outside of Ventura County, it is technically not an "Unmet Need" within the jurisdiction of VCTC as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Ventura County. However, VCTC staff has endeavored to plan for a scenario to bring the service forward as a potential partnership with the Santa Clarita. Since the conclusion of the Unmet Transit Needs process last year, VCTC has:

- Reviewed fleet capacity and conducted capital needs assessment
- Planned and costed out a potential route that would extend the VCTC Intercity *Highway 126* service into Santa Clarita
- Met with Santa Clarita Transit to discuss proposed route configuration(s) and partnership opportunities
- Submitted Capital and Operating Budget assumptions to SCAG through FTIP process which projected potential use of grants for service operation.

Additionally, VCTC plans to hold follow up meetings with Santa Clarita Transit, as well as the cities of Fillmore and Santa Paula, the County of Ventura and Gold Coast Transit District. The goals of the meetings include:(1) build consensus on the route path, (which will determine demonstration costs) and (2) develop the long-term funding plan. Historically, VCTC demonstrations that connect multiple cities, and which require additional fleet vehicles, utilize outside grant funding (initially) to purchase necessary buses and support operations during the demonstration period. As this service is a regional need that will serve more than Fillmore and Santa Paula and will cost more their LTF funds not being spent on transit, planning for this route has highlighted a structural issue with TDA law and the Unmet Needs process. The Unmet Needs process is intended to make sure necessary transit service is operated before municipalities spend LTF dollars on spent on streets and roads. However, this request, like the majority of requests received through the Unmet Needs process, is for regional connecting service, rather than municipal services. Because of this, planning includes multiple jurisdictions, and multiple potential funding entities in the short-term and long-term. VCTC is exploring State and Federal grant opportunities for the initial timeframe but will work with local LTF recipients to establish ongoing funding.

Service Between Fillmore and Moorpark

This year, service between Fillmore and Moorpark was requested 25 times, reaching the threshold for consideration. Seven additional requests were received for service between the Heritage Valley and East County (though not meeting the threshold, this service has been a common request the last couple years). As the service between Fillmore and Moorpark is a regional service within Ventura County, involving multiple jurisdictions, it will require planning with the cities of Fillmore and Moorpark, as well as the County of Ventura. Additional vehicles will also be needed to implement this service (and the vehicles will likely need to be smaller, cutaway style, transit vehicles due to the terrain of the route). At the conclusion of the Unmet Needs process, VCTC will begin the planning process in coordination with local agencies, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Moorpark and the County, with the goal of future implementation of this

service. Areas for consideration/determination include the designated operator for the service, route orientation, vehicle type and identification of available funding sources.

CARES Act and COVID-19 Effect

Due to the significant projected loss of LTF revenue and fare revenue as a result of COVID-19, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act made funds available to transit operators to help fund continue operation of transit service. The CARES Act funds will likely provide relief for one to two years for county transit operators but LTF revenues will likely be needed to continue to fund existing service and forestall reducing service levels further once the funding has been expended. Increases in service such as the requested route between Fillmore and Moorpark would lead to the loss of other services, and therefore would not be equitable. It is for this reason that implementing service at this time is not found to be “reasonable to meet.” Nevertheless, VCTC will begin planning for the feasibility and potential implementation with the goal to implementing service once revenues have stabilized and are available.

Other Requests

Additionally, VCTC received over 140 requests for a bus stop at Central and Del Norte in Camarillo from employees of SAGE Services. SAGE Services employees or supports over 600 people and hosts activities 4-5 times a week. Their current office is located near the Pacific View Mall and is well served by transit and they will be moving to Del Norte Road in Camarillo in the Summer of 2020. However, as this location is currently served by Camarillo Area Transit (CAT)'s general purpose dial-a-ride and adding bus stops to a route is not considered an Unmet Need under the definitions, this request is not considered an Unmet Need. However, because this was so highly requested, VCTC and CAT staff will monitor the need for this stop after SAGE Services relocates.

VCTC and the local operators value all comments and public input as they are essential to improving public transit in Ventura County. The transit providers receive comments about their service through this process and take all feedback received into consideration for future planning purposes.

Comments received spanned a range of service requests from increased frequency to better information. While not at a level to be defined as an Unmet Transit Need, frequently requested comments received were in the following areas:

- Direct service between Fillmore and Oxnard
- Weekend and increased Metrolink service
- Increased Highway 101 and Conejo Connection service
- Additional service on the East/West Connector (i.e. *Cross County Limited*)
- Increased service in the Heritage Valley overall

The most frequent comments that are not applicable to the Unmet Transit Needs process but are nonetheless valuable for the operators are the following:

- More frequency and extended service on the Coastal Express
- More frequency on numerous routes and services
- Later evening service
- Improved service to LA county
- Bus stop additions or improvements

RECOMMENDATION

At this time, staff is recommending that there are no Unmet Transit Needs that are reasonable to meet. As noted above, staff will continue to examine the feasibility of the highly requested routes while ridership demand and revenues rematerialize. Staff will present the recommendation to the Commission in June for approval and determination that Transportation Development Act funds can be allocated for streets and roads purposes in cities fewer than 100,000 persons and Thousand Oaks.