



Item XX

April 11, 2023

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

FROM: DOLORES LOPEZ, TRANSIT PLANNER
AUBREY SMITH, REGIONAL TRANSIT PLANNING PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023/24 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA)
UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS (UTN) FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Unmet Transit Needs Findings

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 proposed to be presented to the Commission. The Unmet Transit Needs Assessment is attached.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 203, the cities of Santa Paula, Fillmore, Moorpark, and Camarillo are subject to the Unmet Transit 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 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

The public comment period for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Unmet Transit Needs process was held between December 12, 2022 and February 4, 2023 with comments received throughout the year, but outside of the public comment period included in the analysis.

Each year, VCTC uses a variety of channels to promote and solicit public comment for the Unmet Transit Needs process including an online survey, social media advertising, eblasts, community meetings, and the GOVCbus app. Public notices were also printed in the Ventura County Star and VIDA News.

This year, 34 surveys were received by VCTC which were lower than past years but other means of communication received higher responses. VCTC hosted two county-wide virtual community meetings and a virtual public hearing where over forty comments were received. Additional comments were received via email, phone calls, social media and through the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Overall, 124 respondents provided 194 comments.

Analysis

Staff screened each comment received based on the criteria; no requests met the 15-comment threshold for fixed route or the 10-comment threshold for dial-a-ride service and therefore were not further screened to determine if the need was reasonable to meet.

Public feedback garnered through the current years analysis for transit services showed a high level of interest in service between Fillmore to Moorpark, Fillmore to Santa Clarita, and restored service to Woodland Hills. Although these requests fell short of the required 15 comments to be considered as Unmet Transit Needs, they indicate significant public demand. VCTC staff is exploring the possibility of a potential partnership with Santa Clarita Transit for service from Fillmore. Fleet capacity, route costs, labor, and configuration need to be addressed for service to both Santa Clarita and Woodland Hills. VCTC has received a grant to plan for service between Fillmore and Moorpark, which is a high-demand corridor area, and the proposed route will save passengers significant travel time and need for multiple transfers.

The most common comments that are not considered Unmet Transit Needs this year are related to expanded service to various Los Angeles County locations, VCTC Intercity service improvements, and Gold Coast Transit District service improvements. All comments received are essential for future planning in Ventura County and Comments that have decent support and have been brought up over the years are taken into consideration for future planning purposes

RECOMMENDATION

At this time, staff is recommending that there are no Unmet Transit Needs that are reasonable to meet. Staff will present the recommendation to the Commission in May 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.